

9th Delivers Punch to NVA Paunch

3rd Mar Div Story

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE—Third Marine Division's 9th Marines, under an umbrella of marine artillery and air support, are hitting the enemy where it hurts most, in the breadbasket.

Using leap-frog tactics reminiscent of World War II's island-hopping campaigns, the 9th Marines launched Operation Dewey Canyon north of the Ashau Valley Jan. 22, long the heart of the enemy's logistical area, with swift helicopter assaults atop the steep ridge lines.

"According to the reports, the area we are in now is the headquarters for the enemy's 7th front," said Maj. Gen. Raymond G. Davis, 3rd Marine Division commander.

"A heavy increase of vehicular traffic entering Vietnam from Laos, a significant swell in anti-aircraft fire in the area, observation and contact with the

enemy by reconnaissance teams and agent reports were all deciding factors in entering the area," said Davis.

Reflecting a high degree of maneuverability in the jungled hills the past seven months, the "9th" reopened fire support bases (FSB) Henderson, Tun Tavern and Shiloh two days prior to the operation. Under cover of Marine jets and artillery the Marines were heli-lifted into landing zones (LZ) Tarawa,

Leyette, Pusan, Flintlock and Puff.

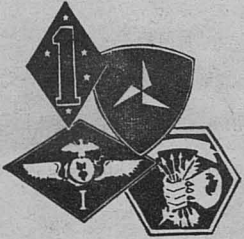
Sporadic contact was made with enemy elements early in the operation. Contacts averaged five to six a day with enemy elements hiding in way-station huts and hidden bunkers.

On the fourth day of Dewey Canyon, two battalions of the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division's 2nd Regiment landed to the east and began a sweep of the area. Operating far west and south

of Hue, the ancient capitol of Vietnam, Marines opened three new fire bases, Razor, Cunningham and Erskine to provide artillery support as the Leathernecks advance farther into an area in which Allied forces have never before operated.

The South Vietnamese battalions are supported by artillery from their own fire support base Lightning.

Through the third week of the operation, the Marines were (Continued on Page 12)



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ROUGH GOING—Pfc. R.L. Sandy, a rifleman with 2nd Bn., 26th Marines, finds going down a hill can be just as rough as climbing it. Sandy is participating in a multi-battalion cordon-and-sweep to reduce a VC and VCI hold in an area south of Chu Lai. (Photo by Cpl. D. Kramer)

'Charlie' Flushed From An Hoa Sanctuary in Taylor Common

By SSgt. Bob Jordan

AN HOA — Though Operation Taylor Common is still far from over, it has already been dubbed a success by the 3rd Marines operating in the rugged mountains west of here.

"If the NVA (North Viet-

namese Army) had caused III MAF headquarters to be disrupted, displaced, and disorganized; if a major logistics were destroyed; if the enemy killed over 1,700 Marines in two months in the Da Nang area and kept the forces in the field so

disorganized that no unit larger than seven men could operate effectively... I'm sure we'd have to admit they were successful," said Maj. Ernest E. Evans (Carlsbad, Calif.), operations officer for the 3rd Marines.

"We've done the equivalent of that to the Quang Nam headquarters of the enemy's Military Region 5 base area."

When the Leathernecks kicked off the operation on Dec. 11, they caught the enemy unaware. The area had traditionally been considered a safe base of operations and access route for enemy troops and supplies infiltrating into the Da Nang area. The Marines caught the enemy soldiers walking down jungle trails arm-in-arm, rifles slung over their shoulders or singing happily.

The communists no longer feel their former sanctuary is safe for them as evidenced by the extensive employment of booby traps and mines since the beginning of January.

Now the Leathernecks are opposed by "special squads" employing ambush techniques, as the enemy fights a delaying action in an attempt to buy time for their commanders to escape the allied trap.

The enemy has increased his anti-aircraft fire on the Marine helicopters that support the infantrymen and artillerymen on their isolated mountain fire bases. The Leathernecks retaliate with mortar fire and aerial strikes on the communist positions.

"We captured an average of nearly 1,000 individual and 75 crew-served weapons as of Feb. 13," reported Maj. Evans.

The weapons are varied and include Luger and Mauser pistols; AK-47, M-16, AK-50 Soviet K-14 rifles; 60mm and 82mm mortars; 57mm and 75mm recoilless rifles; 140mm rockets and RPG rocket launchers, along with ammunition.

Over 600 pounds of enemy documents fell into Marine and (Continued on Back Page)

Hill 55 Renamed Camp Jos E Muir

By Sgt. Gary Clark

DA NANG—Hill 55, home of the 7th Marines was formally named Camp Joseph E. Muir today in honor of a Marine lieutenant colonel who died on its dusty slopes over three years ago while leading his men against the Viet Cong.

Lt. Col. Muir was the commanding officer of the 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division when he was killed on Sept. 11, 1965, by a land mine on the hill, 9½ miles southwest of Da Nang. He was the first Marine battalion commander to die in Vietnam.

Attending the dedication ceremony was Maj. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson, commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, parent organization of the 7th Marines, who now hold Camp Muir.

In his remarks General Simpson said, "Many people consider August 7, 1942, the day Marines landed on Guadalcanal as one of the most important dates in Marine Corps history, but I think March 8, 1965, will also rank high in history. It was on that day the first Marine ground combat troops, members of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Force, landed on the island of Iwo Jima." (Continued on Back Page)

Intruders Replace Skyhawk Squadron

Townsend's 'Raiders' Span Pacific

By GySgt. Dan Grady

DA NANG—An eight-day, island-hopping journey from California across the Pacific Ocean ended Feb. 5, as the first A-6 Intruder jets of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 225 landed at Da Nang Air Base.

Four-plane flights of the powerful, two-seater, all weather jets led the way to the squadron's new station, with Marine support aircraft following, carrying ground crews and equipment.

The squadron replaces a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing A-4 Skyhawk squadron recently rotated out of Vietnam. Thus the arrival of VMA (AW)-225 does not result in a personnel or aircraft increase in the 1st MAF.

Lt. Col. Ronald L. Townsend (Barker, N.Y.) who piloted the squadron's first Intruder into Da Nang, commands VMA (AW)-225. The Grumman built aircraft will bring a significant increase to the bomb-carrying

capability of the 1st MAF. The all weather jets are able to carry more bombs than any other Marine aircraft, and prior to the November 1968 bombing halt, Intruders of other 1st MAF squadrons blasted targets above the Demilitarized Zone.

Formerly assigned to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C., the squadron flew cross-country to Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., before starting its trans-Pacific flight.

The arrival of the Intruder

jets was the culmination of precise planning, timing and coordination with Marine Transport-Refueler Squadron (VMG-R) 352, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which provided two air-to-air refuelings high above the Pacific.

Huge KC-130 tankers of VMG-R-352 headed west from El Toro, long before the speedier jets, to be "on station" ready to refuel the Intruders and to radio weather information.

The "gas stations" in the sky were ready. In each flight, bomb (Continued on Page 12)

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Editorial

That Late, Great State of Taxes

Refund or payment, that is the question concerning most citizens, military and non-military, as the deadline draws near for filing our 1968 income tax returns.

Whether you will be among those receiving a refund or having to make up the difference between what was taken out of your pay and what is due Uncle Sam, the result is inevitable—the sooner you get it in the mail, the sooner you can quit worrying about it.

Military personnel in Vietnam on the April 15 filing date are allowed 180 days after leaving Vietnam to file; but let's face it, the reckoning comes sooner or later.

It stands to reason the sooner you receive the money, in the case of those receiving refunds, the greater amount of time you will have for it to draw interest. Therefore, it can mean a few more dollars in your child's educational fund, the family Christmas fund or that retirement nest egg that you have been building up over the years.

For those who will have to face the inevitable, that of paying their share, the earlier you get your returns off the more you'll reduce the possibility of making a costly

mistake during a last minute rush.

The moment of truth has arrived—it's time to get busy and compile those figures and compute those exemptions and deductions. And although we have a highly complex tax system, the government has made every attempt to make it as simple as possible.

When you compute your tax, remember this — the government does not want you to pay more than your fair share of taxes. So if you are in doubt about a deduction, consult your legal officer or a tax expert, don't ignore it with the idea that "they wouldn't accept it anyway." If you are legally entitled to a deduction, no matter how insignificant, take it.

On the other hand, don't try to "slick" the government out of their just due. The Internal Revenue Service takes a dim view of anyone trying to pull a fast one, and will take vigorous action against those individuals who attempt to shirk their responsibility. It isn't fair to try and shift your part of the country's tax burden to the conscientious taxpayer.

Your annual federal income tax is one of the responsibilities that comes with the rights of citizenship. All it takes for you to meet this responsibility is to be honest and accurate when you file your 1968 income tax. (AFPS)

Yarn Strings Them Along

By LCpl. G.G. Gunn

DA NANG—A 21-year-old Marine has been stringing people along while keeping them in stitches at Force Logistic Support Group Alpha (FLSG-A) near Da Nang.

LCpl. Jimmy D. Yarn (Georgetown, Miss.) runs the fabric shop at FLSG-A. In military jargon he is a quartermaster, now one of the smallest and rarest occupational fields in the Marine Corps.

Making tents, seat covers and tops for vehicles, and repairing other textile articles for the command keeps Yarn tied up most of the day.

When Yarn opens up his fabric shop, he hopes for a quiet, uneventful day. However, chances are something unusual occurs before the day ends. Things just seem to happen to him.

Late one evening, he plugged in a new sewing machine. Sparks erupted from the outlet, lights started going on and off, then off to stay. He recalls just sitting there in the dark, thoroughly shocked and holding

a charred electrical cord in one hand while the other firmly clasped his chair.

Even Yarn's transfer from Phu Bai was a series of comical events.

Due to a typographical error on his orders, he reported into the wrong unit. After a few days the unit he was supposed to be with began to get concerned and started tracking him down.

"I had a feeling I wasn't supposed to be there," he said. "Especially when no one knew where I was supposed to work."

His suspicions were correct but now he had to be sent all the way back to Phu Bai to have his orders corrected. A few days later, on his return trip to Da Nang, he had two escorts with him and a vehicle waiting at planeside.

Now safely with Engineer Co. (FLSG-A), because his normal billeting assignment General Supply Maintenance Co. hasn't been formed yet, he cheerfully patches things up working for a third unit, Motor Transport Maintenance Co.

How did Yarn get started in his needlework? By patching up torn clothing for his seven brothers and two sisters. "You might say I sort of mended their ways," he chuckled.

Sea Tiger

Mail Bag

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(Continued on Page 11)

Watch for Chieu Hois

SAIGON (MACV)—All servicemen should be aware of the possibility of an increased number of "ralliers" under the Chieu Hoi program during the Tet holidays, according to a spokesman for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS).

Because Tet is a period of personal reconciliation, many VC during past Tet holidays have returned under the Open Arms program to begin a new life under the legitimate government of South Vietnam.

American servicemen who have the opportunity to receive Hoi Chanh (ralliers) during the Tet period should be aware of the proper method of doing so. The method is as follows:

Give voluntary defectors courteous Chieu Hoi (not PW) treatment.

Segregate Hoi Chanh from PWs.

Treat the returnee with respect.

Give him a receipt for all weapons he brings in.

Deliver him safely to the unit intelligence officer for prompt debriefing.



WAITING FOR DOC—Concern shows on the face of a Vietnamese youngster as he waits his turn for medical treatment. The child is being cared for by a Medical Civic Action Team from 5th Communication Bn., FLC, near Da Nang. (Photo by LCpl. Gary Gunn)

Couldn't Win For Losing

Just In Time; Grab a Hole

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG — "But I'm just trying to get to my outfit," said the 21 year-old machinegunner as he ran off a helicopter during a night assault.

LCpl. Bruce P. Hill (1213 Mountain St., Ogden, Utah), a member of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines ended up on a night assault with "D" Co., 1st Bn., 1st Marines through a slight error on his own part.

As Hill described it, "I was visiting some school buddies at the Marble Mountain Air Facility and had checked to see if I could get a lift back to 2/3 at

An Hoa. The officer of the day told me there was an outfit going my way and that I should join up with them."

It didn't phase the traveling Leatherneck that the group of Marines he joined was laden with combat gear. "I didn't start wondering about it until we were airborne and coming in for the assault," said Hill. "What could I do at that point? I just got off and headed for cover!"

In the morning, after manning Delta's lines all night, he brought his problem to the "D" Co. commander. It was arrang-

ed that he would leave the area on a routine medical evacuation helicopter, which was coming in for a Marine with a sprained ankle.

Insult was added to injury, however, when the word began to pass among his buddies that the helicopter Hill should have been aboard had been loaded with USO girls.

He was a little dazed to think that he could have chosen Marines and a night assault over a ride with the USO girls. "What Marine would be so lucky?" asked the disgruntled Hill.



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Unarmed 'Huey' Turns MedEvac, Saves 11

By Cpl. John Lawrence

DONG HA — The words crackled through the headphones of two Marine UH-1E (Huey) helicopter pilots flying a visual reconnaissance mission near Con Thien: "We have three emergency and two priority medevacs."

The pilots of the unarmed Hueys, 1st Lts. John Shavce (South Plainfield, N.J.) and John R. Voneida (Columbus, Ohio), both from Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 167, realized they were the only aircraft in the area and prepared to answer the call.

"I turned to my passenger, Gen. Garretson (Brig. Gen. Frank E. Garretson, commanding general, Task Force Hotel), and asked him if he would mind getting off at Con Thien to make more room," recalled Shavce.

"The general told me, 'Put me down and go get them!'"

While Shavce flew into Con Thien, Voneida headed straight for the location of the wounded Leathernecks.

The Marines were injured when they tripped an enemy booby trapped artillery shell.

"We don't usually run medevacs with our unarmed Hueys," said Voneida, "but this was a case of saving lives and we were two of the three choppers flying in all of northern Quang Tri Province at the time."

The armed transport helicopters usually utilized for emergency missions were grounded at Quang Tri because of bad weather and poor visibility.

Voneida flew fast and low over the rolling terrain. He was right on course and soon spotted the smoke grenade set off by the waiting ground unit.

The crew chief finished folding away the seats and making room for the wounded as the

Huey touched down in the landing zone, hardly more than a stone's throw from the Demilitarized Zone.

The two most serious cases were quickly loaded aboard and the chopper roared off toward Quang Tri.

A few minutes later, the craft piloted by Shavce picked up the remaining three medevacs.

Within 15 minutes of the radio message, the wounded Leathernecks were receiving treatment at the 3rd Medical Bn. hospital at Quang Tri.

Later that day, Shavce and Voneida were asked to fly into the jungle covered mountains near the Laotian border and

pick up six more Marines in need of emergency medical treatment.

And before nightfall, the already hard-pressed pilots received another unusual mission. They were called on to fly emergency resupply missions to Marine units "socked in" by bad weather. They carried net-loads of field rations to almost inaccessible hilltop landing zones northeast of Khe Sanh. The two Hueys ferried more than a half ton of cargo each. It was the first time the small unarmed helicopters had been used for external cargo missions in the 3rd Marine Division's area for over a year.

Hot LZ Scene Of 6-Hr Battle

By LCpl. Ray Wolf

DONG HA—A six-hour battle resulted when a Marine seven-man reconnaissance team was told, "Make contact with the enemy and determine their strength."

The seven Leathernecks from "C" Co., 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. landed right in the middle of a suspected enemy infiltration route. They expected action.

As soon as the two helicopters that landed them lifted out of the area, the Marines heard movement around their position.

The patrol leader, Cpl. Leslie E. Gordon Jr., (Mendota, Ill.), immediately requested an aerial observer (AO) as the team maneuvered into a full defensive position.

With the AO circling overhead, the team heard the click of enemy rifle safeties being snapped into the firing position in the dense elephant grass. The AO quickly spotted 15-20 enemy soldiers moving toward the Marines.

Only 15 minutes after the Leathernecks were on the ground, a Communist grenade landed within 10 feet of them, but failed to explode.

Small arms and automatic weapons fire suddenly broke out from all around the team and they knew they had a fight on their hands.

The AO directed Marine jets, helicopter gunships and artillery to form a protective circle of fire around the surrounded Marines.

"We traded small arms fire with the enemy force. The jets made pass after pass on different enemy positions that were firing at both us and the aircraft," recalled Gordon. Another member of the team remarked, "It was the best view I've ever had of jets in action."

After nearly six hours of fighting, it was decided to get the team out. Twelve helicopters from Marine Aircraft Group 39 circled overhead as the team marked its new positions, only 75 yards from its initial landing zone.

A Marine transport helicopter, escorted by four helicopter gunships, swooped down to pick up the team.

"The four gunships and the gunners on the transport chopper were all firing as we made a mad dash for the helicopter," the 22-year old team leader related. "With all that lead flying around, I don't think the enemy even fired a shot until we had lifted off."

With the team safely aboard the helicopter, additional air strikes and artillery missions were called in on the already battered enemy force.

Rescues Buddy; Decorated

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG — Vietnam's heroes are not all baptized under fire.

The Navy and Marine Corps Medal, highest that can be presented for bravery not involving combat, was recently awarded to a young Leatherneck from the 2nd Bn., 1st Marines.

Pfc. Jimmy R. Cooper (108 Dunn Rd., Fayetteville, N.C.), won the medal as a result of his actions on Sept. 18, 1968.

While his company was taking a break along the beach south of here, Pfc. Cooper observed a buddy being drawn out to sea by a strong undercurrent. As his citation stated in part, "Disregarding his own safety, Private First Class Cooper swam to the side of the panic stricken Marine and, speaking words of encouragement, grasped his body and towed him through 300 feet of deep, turbulent water to shore. . . ."

Because of Cooper's actions, a combat veteran Marine's 11 months in Vietnam did not end tragically that day. The Marine has since returned home.

LtCol. John E. Poindexter (1152 Greengate Rd., Fredericksburg, Va.), commanding officer of 2nd Bn., presented Pfc. Cooper with the medal in a formal ceremony.

During 1968

DA NANG — Trucks of the Marine Force Logistic Command, operating throughout I Corps, Vietnam's northernmost tactical zone, hauled more than 1,600,000 tons of combat supplies during 1968.



SCRAMBLING—LCpl. T. J. Gledhill dashes from position to position, passing out ammunition to his men during an enemy attack at Fire Support Base Russell. Gledhill is a squad leader in the 1st Bn., 4th Marines. (Photo by Cpl. J.G. McCullough)

Truck Co, Water-on-the-Spot

By Pfc. J. R. Doyle

DA NANG — Two thousand years ago, Confucius said, "With coarse rice to eat, with water to drink, and my bended arm for a pillow, I have still joy in the midst of these things."

For Marines fighting in Vietnam, these three needs are just as meaningful. But what do they do when there's no water for drinking?

In the Da Nang area of Vietnam, the answer is provided by Truck Co., Force Logistic Command (FLC).

Six trucks, with tanks holding 1,000 gallons of water each,

make daily resupply runs to every military unit in the Da Nang area that does not have an independent water supply. Four trucks travel during the day and one at night. The sixth truck is used as a standby.

"We supply 15,000 gallons of water each day to roughly 25 to 30 military units within our area of responsibility," says SSgt. Danny L. Hughes (2455 Madison St., Baker, Ore.). "These are not just Marine units, but all allied forces that need water."

Many of these deliveries are the only source of water for the servicemen, while for others they are necessary supplements. The water trucks serve other

purposes, too. One of the most important is to assist in fire-fighting.

"Our tankers are dispatched to fires that occur at Camp Books, the headquarters area for FLC. They resupply the firetrucks at the scene of the blaze," Hughes continues.

The water trucks are constantly on the move. During severe water shortages all six are moving night and day.

There are many things that can be taken for granted. A water supply in Vietnam is not one of them. The Marines of FLC's Truck Co. make sure that troops in the Da Nang area don't go thirsty.

BGen Hoffman's Departing Words

Mobility Put Marines On Offense

By MGySgt. C.F.X. Houts

DA NANG — "The highly mobile tactics being employed against Communist forces in I Corps are defeating every enemy effort toward a large-scale build-up in the northern provinces of South Vietnam," Marine BGen. Carl W. Hoffman, a combat veteran of some of the most fierce fighting of three wars, said as he prepared to leave his post as Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) of the III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam, Feb. 14.

Gen. Hoffman will assume command of the huge Marine Corps Base at Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Since last August, Gen. Hoffman has headed the III Marine Amphibious Force staff section charged with the development of techniques and tactics and planning offensive operations for the more than 250,000 friendly troops strategically deployed throughout I Corps.

As Assistant Commander of the 3rd Marine Division from January to August of 1968, Gen. Hoffman also led Task Force Hotel, a military force of various arms especially tailored to project the offensive against the enemy.

"One of the highlights of my Vietnam tour," Gen. Hoffman said, "was at Khe Sanh after our redeployment from that location and, as Commanding General of Task Force Hotel, I had the opportunity to command an almost division-size organiza-

tion in pressing the offensive against the North Vietnamese divisions still there in northwestern I Corps.

"After several months of being kept on the defensive by the North Vietnamese divisions, we finally had the strength, the troops, the mobility, and the firepower to break out and chase the enemy and destroy him. We did go after those NVA divisions and we either destroyed them in country or drove them off into Laos and into North Vietnam. Task Force Hotel was tailored to meet the sort of day-to-day combat we faced.

"At one point, for example, I had a Marine regiment, a U.S. Army brigade, plus supporting Marine artillery and helicopters. For another task, I had two Marine regiments and, again, the support of Marine artillery, helicopters and supporting weapons," the general pointed out. "So you could say it was an organization that was very fluid in its makeup, changing from week to week as the demands of combat would indicate."

Another significant change during his 13 months in Vietnam, Gen. Hoffman said, was a trend to get away from fixed bases.

"At the time of my arrival," he explained, "we were concerned about the defense of places like Dong Ha, Con Thien, Gio Linh, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh and so on. Now we come and go from these bases and to these

places when it suits our purposes.

"In other words," Gen. Hoffman explained, "the enemy does not have the opportunity of deciding where he will fight us. We are virtually everywhere in the north, and in the Da Nang area again, we have our forces projected out, chasing the enemy down wherever he is. That's our advantage — the capability to move out in a completely mobile mode to seek out and destroy the enemy."

These tactics, according to Gen. Hoffman, have forced the enemy to change his tactics, particularly in the northern two provinces of I Corps—Quang Tri and Thua Thien—where a year ago, through the spring of 1968, U.S. forces were confronted with large enemy formations, fighting under their officers, in uniforms, supplied by a fairly sophisticated logistical system and with supporting weapons that enabled them to take to the field pretty much like one of our Marine or Army divisions.

"No longer can these large formations roam through those areas up there," Gen. Hoffman said. "The pressure of United States, South Vietnamese, and other Free World forces on those large tactical units has forced them to take refuge in smaller groupments. So now we encounter them in forces much smaller in size."

In the area of the southern three provinces of I Corps the

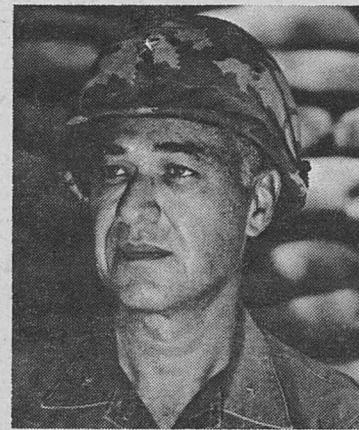
change has been less dramatic. The general explained that this was because "here our friendly troop density is not as great and the enemy has been able to maintain his strength and his integrity in fairly large size forces. We are now endeavoring to find those forces and destroy them with all the means at our disposal."

The general also observed that the enemy is "a little bit more careless" than he was a year ago in the matter of locating and protecting his supplies, ammunition, weapons and so forth. Almost daily significant finds of enemy weapons, ammunition, rice, medical supplies and documents are made.

"Realizing that these have to be carried into South Vietnam from North Vietnam and Laos is an indication of the tremendous difficulty the enemy faces in getting his supplies into position," Gen. Hoffman concluded. "When we can find these caches and make them our own, we are moving along the path to victory in Vietnam."

Asked how he felt about his new command, Gen. Hoffman said he was overjoyed. "As a matter of fact," he grinned, "if someone had asked me—and nobody did—where in all the world I'd like to go for my next duty assignment, I would have said Twentynine Palms, California. So you can imagine my tremendous pleasure at receiving word from the Commandant of the Marine Corps that that was precisely where I am going. I couldn't be happier as I look forward to serving in that wonderful location."

Commissioned in March 1942, Gen. Hoffman saw action on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian during World War II.



BGen. Carl W. Hoffman

He served in the Korean campaign.

"You know," Gen. Hoffman said looking back on his more than a quarter of a century of Marine Corps service, "I've had a good opportunity over the years to observe Marines in various combat situations, from the platoon level to the company level, battalion, regiment and division, and I have had the opportunity to compare their attitudes, their combat effectiveness, their total ability as Marines; and I must say that we have never had a finer quality of U.S. Marines than we have serving in the Corps today."

"These young men are truly dedicated to the cause, they believe in what they are doing, they're proud of the Corps, they're proud to be Americans, and they certainly epitomize everything that we hope to see in a young man today, and many of these men, and I call them 'men' because they are 'men,' are teenagers."



MOVE ON LINE—Leathernecks of the 26th Marines move in for an inch-by-inch search of an area suspected to harbor Viet Cong. (Photo by Cpl. Mike Detherage)

Captured Guns, That Is

VC Guns In Top-notch Shape

By Sgt. R.R. Keene

CHU LAI — Cleaning your own weapon is one of the necessities of war. However, to have to clean someone else's, especially when that someone is "Victor Charlie" usually raises a few eyebrows.

Such is the job of SSgt. Winfield S. Poole, (329 West Main St., St. Albans, W. Va.), who, in his eight years in the Corps, never suspected he'd be poking a cleaning rod down the barrel of an AK-47 assault weapon or cleaning a commu-

nist light machinegun.

Poole has the assignment of cleaning, weekly, captured enemy weapons. In addition to the weapons, he cleans such items as VC gas masks, ammunition pouches and other communist equipment which is now used for instructional and display purposes at Marine Aircraft Group-12, Chu Lai.

The weapons, collected over the past three years from operations near the Chu Lai area, may not have been clean when acquired but they are now Marine Corps property and

everyone knows that in the Corps, "All weapons will be cleaned regularly." Poole shows no partiality to the enemy weapons and gives them the same treatment he gives his .45 caliber pistol.

Poole, whose regular job is in administration, has found that he rather enjoys cleaning the enemy weapons and has learned a lot about them. It might be interesting to be able to see the expression on his children's faces when Poole answers their question, "What did you do in the war Daddy?"

Civilians, Marines

Corpsmen Kept Busy

By Capt. D. Menely

PHU BAI—For the three Navy medical corpsmen serving with Marine Supply Co., Force Logistic Command (FLC), Phu Bai, each day is a long day, a very long day. The trio—Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shelby Bell (Clarenton, Texas), and Hospital Corpsmen 3rd Class John Krehling (Webster, N.Y.) and James Monroe (Long Beach, Calif.)—treat 50 or more Vietnamese patients daily in addition to their normal work with the Marines.

"We average roughly 4,500 patients monthly. On occasion, our monthly total exceeds 5,000 with the nature and complication of the illnesses running the gamut from bullet to shrapnel wounds to skin and venereal disease," said Bell.

"Many of the Marines who provide us with security in the villages and hamlets have learned the rudiments of our work and work right along with us treating the Vietnamese," Bell continued.

In each village, a Vietnamese girl has been trained as a nurse to help the corpsmen. The civic action team hopes that when they leave, these women will be able to continue the work.

The corpsmen have also been forced to become dentists.

"We didn't know a thing about dentistry when we started, but since there isn't a dentist in the

area and many of these people have never seen one, we felt we had to do something," Bell stated.

With a few books and some scrounged dental tools, the new dentists started pulling teeth, averaging about 25 each month.

The corpsmen also work at the Chieu Hoi Center in Hue. Approximately 350 former Viet Cong are treated each week. These former enemy troops, called Hoi Chanh, voluntarily surrendered themselves to the government of South Vietnam. They live at the Chieu Hoi Center and the civic action team treats many for old wounds.

Each month, the corpsmen can expect to use approximately 48,000 aspirin, 10 gallons of cough medicine and 600 feet of tape for bandages.

In the near future, Army medics and civil affairs personnel will take over from the Navy "docs" and their Marine helpers.

"The Marines started civil affairs programs in the Hue-Phu Bai area almost three years ago," Bell explained. "It has grown tremendously and most of us in the team have worked with these people for at least six months. I think we're all a little sad at leaving. But we all feel like we have contributed something to the American effort here."

Squad Leader's Task Never-ending

By
CPL. JOHN G. McCULLOUGH

DONG HA—Grabbing his helmet as he ran, LCpl. T. W. Gledhill (Waltham, Mass.) raced to each of the positions where his men sought cover from enemy artillery fire. At each fighting hole he tossed ammunition to his men, shouting instructions and encouragement.

At 21, Gledhill is a young man. But as a Marine infantry squad leader he has more responsibility right now than many a man has in a lifetime.

In a war where small units—usually a 14-man rifle squad or less—operate in remote areas constantly seeking out the enemy in northern Quang Tri province, a squad leader is the man on whose shoulders rest the mantle of leader and the responsibility for the lives of at least 13 other men.

He must be a supply sergeant, a communications expert, something of a psychologist, a tactician and above all, a calm and cool man in the face of danger and death.

On his actions and decisions rest the morale, fighting ability and, at times, the very lives of the other 12 Marines and a Navy hospital corpsman in his squad.

Gledhill's squad of Marines, assigned as a security force for a remote artillery support base near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) labored to fortify their positions. Trees were cut to clear fire lanes, barbed wire

was strung and bunkers and fox holes were dug for defense positions.

The sun had reached high noon when Gledhill passed the word for his men to break for noon chow. They had just started a meal of C-rations, when sounds of enemy mortars leaving the tube echoed from the valley below.

The cry of "Incoming!" was all that was needed to roust the Marines, and they headed for the protection of their fighting holes.

Suspected enemy positions were plotted, and Marine artillery counter-fire called in.

Gledhill thought of the possibility of an enemy ground attack and raced from position to position with additional ammunition—and apparent concern for his own safety.

"If I keep my men alive, they'll keep me alive," he later commented.

Situations like this are repeated daily in Vietnam.

There are some 300 squad leaders like him in the 3rd Marine Division. All young men with responsibility. They're charged with the task of molding their men into smooth and effective fighting units.

But not every squad leader makes contact with the enemy every day. At times Marine infantrymen make repeated patrols through the jungle and return to their base camps without seeing or even hearing the enemy. Many times their tasks and assignments are routine.

For Gledhill and his squad in

a company of the 1st Bn., Fourth Marines, there are many days that are routine.

A normal day for Gledhill begins at 5 a.m., when he rousts himself from sleep and wakes half of his squad. The others are still up; they have been on perimeter watch during the night.

Then there's time for a quick shave and breakfast with his fire team leaders, when he passes the word on what the squad can expect to be doing that day.

Gledhill has been assigned

to take his squad down the valley to search for the enemy mortar positions that has been harassing the hilltop fire support base.

Weapons and ammunition are double checked and the squad is ready to move out. Gledhill checks with his platoon sergeant for last minute instructions and then briefs his squad on the patrol's mission. Then they are on their way.

They move quietly down the steep hillside, spreading out and yet keeping in visual contact with each other.

Halfway down the slope a noise is heard to the left in the heavy jungle undergrowth. The squad freezes, weapons at the ready.

More noise!

The underbrush rustles and an odd looking figure scurries from limb to limb overhead—a rock ape.

A sigh of relief, and the patrol continues downhill.

They reach the base of the slope and the going gets easier, although it is still treacherous. By the time they reach a small stream, the Marine's jungle utilities are soaked with sweat and there has been no sign of the enemy.

They move on. Two hundred yards further down, Gledhill spots a small clearing and signs of recent enemy activity. He deploys his men and begins a careful search.

The Marines soon unearth a supply of enemy mortar rounds. But the enemy is gone. Gledhill radios his position to the base camp and requests permission to destroy the enemy ammunition.

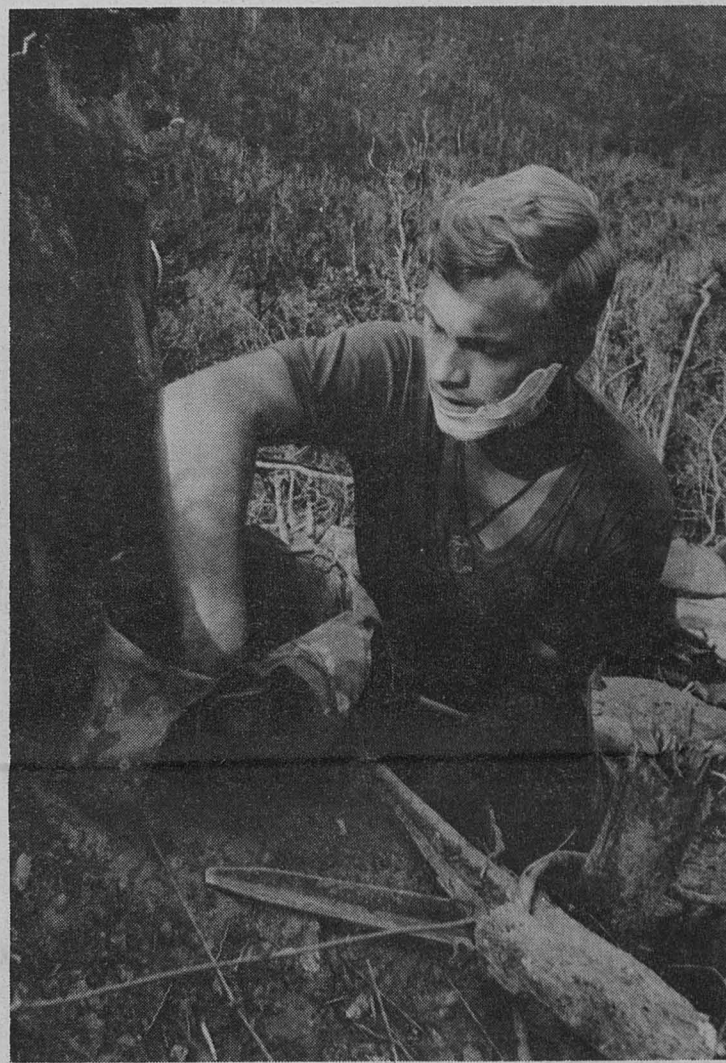
"Permission granted. Blow ammo in place and return to base camp," comes the reply over the radio.

Demolition charges are set and fuse readied. Gledhill moves his men a safe distance away, lights the fuse and then hurries to safety. A resounding boom echoes through the valley. Its mission complete, the squad heads back up the hill.

Two hours later they reach the summit. Gledhill makes his report to his platoon commander, picks up mail for his squad and returns to his men.

It has been a hard climb down and back up the hill, but the day is not over yet. Weapons have to be cleaned and equipment checked, night perimeter watches assigned and defensive positions checked. Then, some well-deserved rest.

The next day Gledhill and his squad, as will other squad leaders in the 3rd Marine Division, will spend another day. A day filled with patrols, ambushes, observation and listening posts—and possibly a firefight with the enemy. A day filled with responsibilities.



ANOTHER DAY—LCpl. T.W. Gledhill begins his day as a squad leader with a shave.

(Photo by Cpl. J.G. McCullough)

Graves Mark Spot To Wait for Enemy

By Cpl. Herb Sharbel

DA NANG — A platoon from "B" Co., 1stBn., 26th Marines, ambushed an undetermined number of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops in a valley 15 miles north of here, killing five and wounding several others.

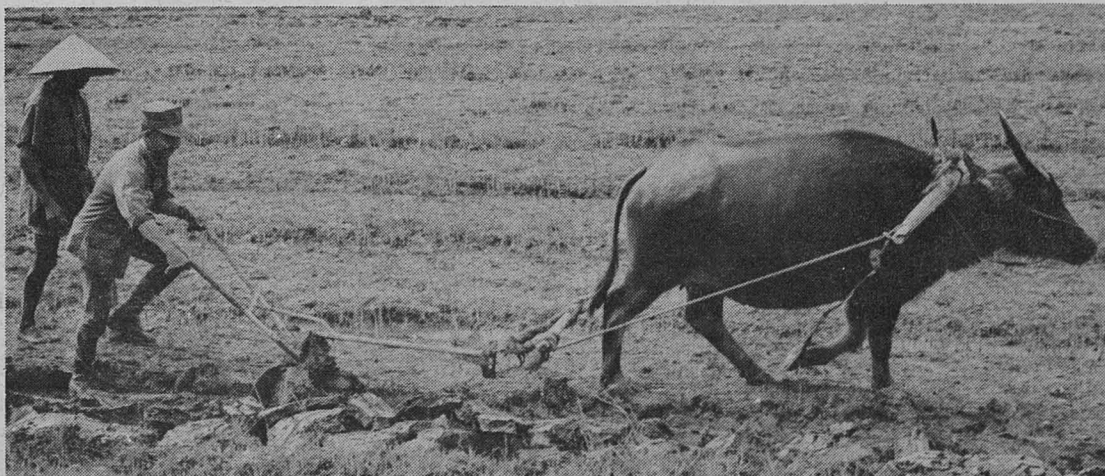
Less than two hours before the enemy force was spotted, the Leathernecks had uncovered seven NVA bodies buried in shallow graves beside a well traveled path. The patrol decided to set an ambush in the immediate vicinity of the graves with hopes of detecting further movement.

About 3:30 p.m., the Marines spotted a five-man enemy point element advancing down the trail and opened fire when the

NVA troops spotted them. The entire point element was wiped out within a few seconds and several of the main force were wounded before the enemy scattered carrying their injured with them.

Not knowing the size of the NVA force, the Marines elected not to pursue their foe but called in artillery fire on the fleeing NVA.

The Marines made a quick, thorough, search of the bodies and discovered that the dead NVA were wearing brand new khaki uniforms, apparently, were newly arrived in the area. They were armed with Chicom hand grenades but were otherwise poorly equipped, though each man had a large ration of rice.



CLOD-HOPPER—A Marine gives a Vietnamese farmer a little help with the plowing in An Ngai Tay hamlet, where farmers have volunteered for an experimental farm project.

Weathermen 'Fair'-ly Accurate

By SSgt. P. L. Stacy
QUANG TRI — Anyone can forecast today's weather; just walk outside and take a look. But, what about tomorrow's weather?

Forecasting tomorrow's weather today is Marine Aircraft

Group 39's weather station at the Quang Tri Air Base.

Operating the only Marine ground meteorological detector (GMD) equipment to forecast weather, the 18-man station provides weather information for all aircraft operations north of Phu Bai, while also providing the information to ground units for the planning of infantry operations.

The GMD unit is a complicated assembly of electronic equipment which provides temperature, dew point, pressure and wind speed at different altitudes up to 50,000 feet.

The operation, which takes three hours to complete, begins when a balloon, with radio transmitter attached is sent into the air. A radio tracking antenna locks onto the balloon and automatically follows its ascent.

Information picked up by the balloon's payload is transmitted to various instruments. These instruments feed the data out on a diagram chart.

"Then it's a matter of using different computations to turn

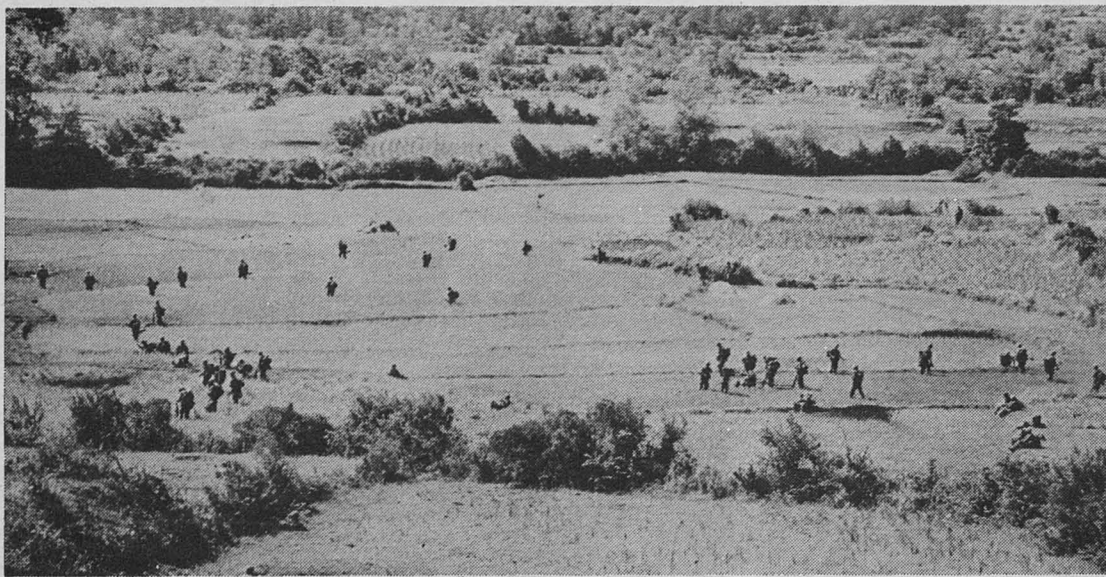
the raw data into useable information," explained Chief Warrant Officer William L. Dowdle, (2557 W. 14th, Yuma, Ariz.) officer-in-charge of the weather station.

According to Dowdle, the station has been extremely accurate in forecasting weather although they lack some of the necessary forecast equipment.

"A lot of our forecasting depends on our observer's ability to look at the cloud formations and other prevalent conditions and come up with a fairly accurate forecast," Dowdle explained.

In addition to using their GMD equipment to forecast weather, the unit has a three-man observation team located at Vandergift Combat Base. A team was also located at Khe Sanh during its operation to provide weather information for that area.

Cloudy or bright, CWO Dowdle's weather station will continue to supply Marines in northern I Corps with weather information necessary for vital air support.



2/26 Marines prepare to assault on Batangan Peninsula south of Chu Lai.

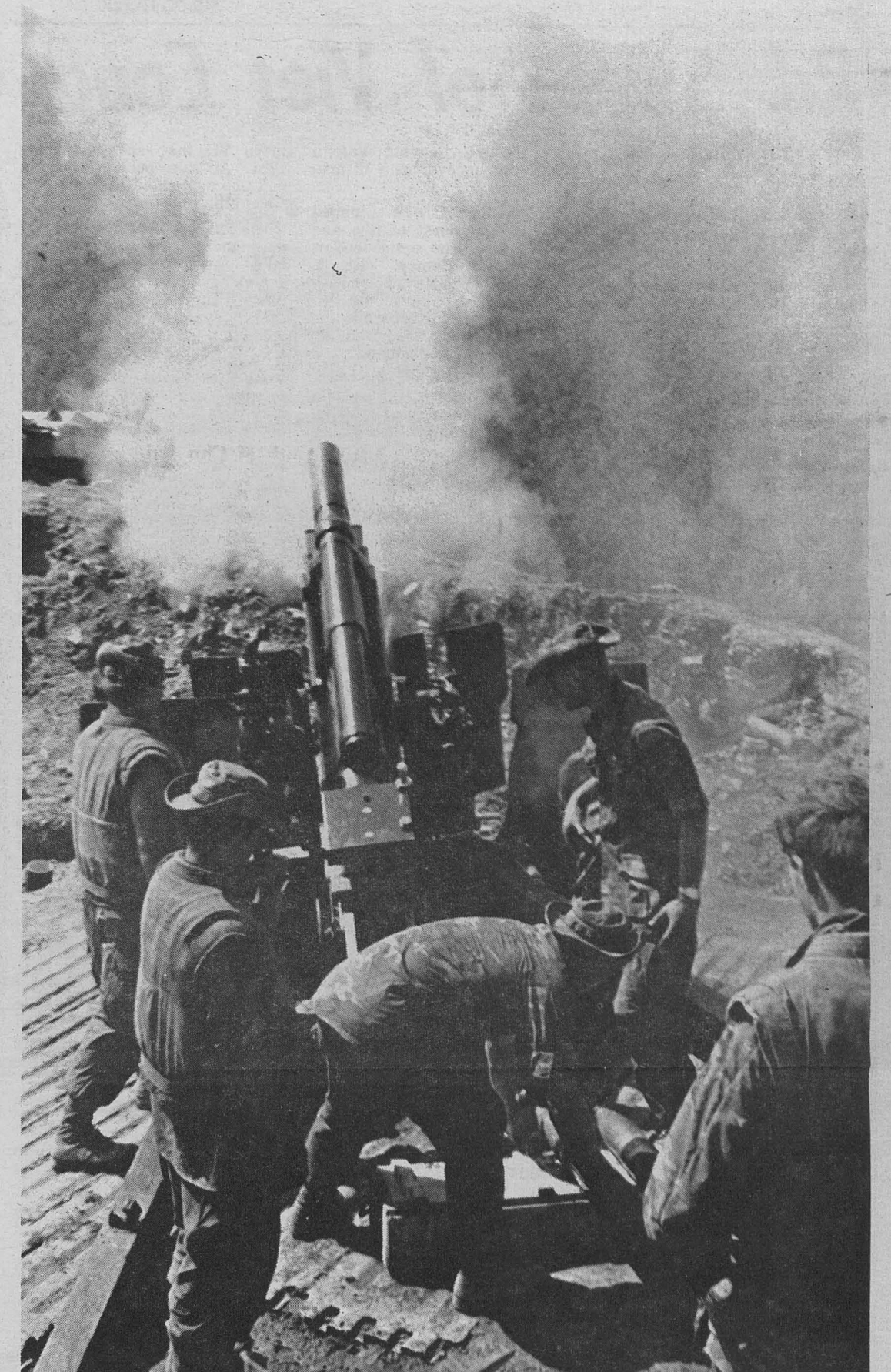


3rd Marine machinegunner opens up on enemy position on Op. Taylor Common.

Cleaning House In I Corps Leathernecks Keep Charlie on The Run



MAG-36 choppers deploy 3rd Marine Division troops in the hills near Khe Sanh during a recent operation.



Artillery battery from 11th Marines supports units in Op. Taylor Common.

***Photos by
USMC
Combat
Photogs***



Leathernecks move Batangan villagers out of the reach of enemy hands during Operation Bold Mariner. The Marines were to uproot and destroy the VC political underground.



A 3.5 man from 5th Marines sends rocket on its way to enemy bunker complex near An Hoa.

Rd. Swept of Viet Cong

By PFC R. L. Evankavitch

DA NANG — A recent road sweep by Marines of "K" Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Marines paid off when the Marines killed two Viet Cong (VC), captured one carbine rifle with two magazines, a mine, a hand grenade and a field dressing kit.

Nine Leathernecks from the 7th Engineer Bn., attached to "K" Co., and four other men were sweeping the road southwest of here for mines. Suddenly LCpl. R. J. Valenti, (27 Charter Rd., Rockville, Conn.), spotted wires leading to the road. Valenti shouted a warning to the other Marines and cut the wires, preventing detonation of the mine planted in the road.

As Valenti shouted the warning, two VC sprung up from positions about 40 yards from the road and fled toward the nearby hills. The Marines pur-

sued the VC, leaving Valenti behind to uncover and disarm the mine.

One fleeing VC was wounded in the initial burst of fire and tried to hide. The squad leader, Cpl. W. D. Gentry, (Rt. 2, Sparta, Tenn.), moved forward in an effort to flush the VC from his hiding place, while the rest of the team fired into the suspected enemy position.

As Gentry searched the area, another VC opened up on him from about three yards away, slightly wounding him. Lance Cpl. F. J. Cooke, 19 (76 Mandeville, Rd., Pequannock, N.J.), moved up to Gentry and both Marines opened up on the VC, killing him.

Lance Cpl. D. Brown, (1119 9th St., Marysville, Wash.), a security man with the unit saw a second VC and fired at him with his M-16, wounding him.

The unit then pursued five

more VC they spotted fleeing west. At this point the team had one confirmed and one possible kill.

The Marines pursued the VC until they disappeared near a lake. The Leathernecks began searching possible hiding places. They were joined in the search by an Amtrac.

Lance Cpl. B. Mayes Jr. (Rt. 2, Box 156, Desputanta, Va.), went back to the road in order to guide a reaction squad that had been sent to the area to continue the search. As the sweep team moved back to the road they discovered another VC, who had been hit earlier and had apparently died of wounds.

The team continued the road sweep without further incident and the reaction squad had negative results, although they detained several suspects who were held for interrogation.



RECORD SET—Congratulations are offered to squadron commander LtCol. A.K. Frain (821 Cortez St., Costa Mesa, Calif.) after he flew Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242's record breaking 10,000th combat mission, by Col. Robert D. Slay (1938 Windsor Rd., Petersburg, Va.), commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 11. The 10,000th mission is the record for any Marine or Navy unit flying the A-6 Intruder jet in Vietnam.

(Photo by GySgt. Dan Grady)

Vietnamese Finds New Trade

By Sgt. J.D. Perdue

DA NANG — The 9th Engineer Battalion, located at Chu Lai, is one of the busiest and most successful engineering units in Vietnam.

Not only is it responsible for one of the longest, roughest sections of Highway 1 in Vietnam but it also does most of the construction work for the largest Army division in Vietnam and the other Free World Forces located in the area.

Despite all this, members of the command are working with the Vietnamese workers in their command post to help make dreams of success come true.

One of the best examples is a small, slender Vietnamese who works in the machine shop of Service Company.

Bui Can began working on the cantonment almost three years ago with a job specialty of a

mason. The pay wasn't much and he was at the bottom of the ladder, so to speak.

Now, thanks to a young Marine Lance Cpl. from Louisville, Ky., he has a new job title, a raise in pay and a chance to turn his everyday job into a successful business.

Pat McNally, 26, (3831 Elmwood Ave., Louisville) was the start of the success.

McNally and Bui Can liked each other from the first. Their friendship began more than eight months ago when McNally arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the battalion.

"At first he just swept out the area and kind of cleaned up in the shop along about closing time," recalled McNally. "But he kept showing an interest in tools and the jobs so I started showing him how to operate some of the tools."

But Bui Can showed an ability to use the tools and improved so that he could handle most of the small jobs that came in. Mc-

Nally went to his commanding officer and told him of his work with the young Vietnamese and of Can's ability to handle the tools.

Now, due to the efforts of a young Marine, Bui Can has received a raise and the new job title of 'machinist.'

"He saves us a lot of time now because he can do most of the small jobs that come in while the rest of the machinists and I can keep working on the larger, more important jobs," said McNally.

McNally, who has served a four-year apprenticeship for the Louisville and Nashville railroad, needs six more months to receive his journeyman papers as a machinist.

"Helping Bui Can was a very different experience from what I had expected over here," states McNally. "I didn't really expect to be able to help people like him and I guess we are both kind of proud of each other."

Beautiful Sound?

Music Wakes 4/13

By Sgt. Russ Cavender

AN HOA — "Man, that cat blows a mean horn!"

That's how the Marines of "K" Battery, 4th Bn., 13th Marines speak of their bugler, Cpl. Charles C. Dunnick (Kittitas, Wash.).

For months the battery's Marines have had to depend on each other to wake up for the 6 a.m. reveille.

The problem was solved last week when the battery's commanding officer, Capt. Roger Peterson (Great Falls, Mont.), assigned a 19-year-old radio technician to blow reveille and taps each day.

An accomplished musician on seven other instruments, Dunnick started his musical career with a clarinet in sixth grade

in elementary school. Since then, he has learned to play the French horn, trombone, saxophone, baritone, tuba, trumpet, guitar and finally the bugle.

"I had only played it (the bugle) once before coming to this battery," said Dunnick. "That was when I was in infantry training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The troop handler asked for a volunteer there, too. After a preliminary music recital I was given the job."

This week the young musician picked up his horn again for the first time in over a year.

"It's not as easy as it looks," he laughs. "You never know when some sleepy Marine may throw a boot at you at six in the morning."

Civic Action Has Role in Security

By LCpl. T. J. Hansen

DA NANG — At "C" Co., 1st Military Police Bn., civic action and security go hand in hand.

And to "Charlie" Company's SSgt. Clarence W. Kelly, individual understanding is the key stone to an effective civic action program.

"Understanding," states the 16-year veteran, "is something that can't be bought."

In short, Kelly (1200 So. Court House Rd., Arlington, Va.) is a staunch believer in person-to-person contact with the Vietnamese people to win what is often referred to as "the other war."

As senior enlisted man with Charlie Company, Kelly helps provide security for the III MAF Bridge. The bridge is a strategic link between Da Nang, Vietnam's second largest city, and numerous military installations to the east and southeast of the Han River. Two units of the army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the 106th and 103rd Regional Forces Companies, share the job of bridge security with the Marines.

Up river from the bridge are vast fields of reeds, head-high grass and rice paddies where infiltration attempts have been made by North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong units. Along the eastern bank of the Han are two villages, An Thuong and An Vinh, both critical positions in the bridge security system. It is here that civic action and personal contact plays a significant role in the bridge's security.

"Regardless of whether we're providing joint security for the bridge or helping on civic action projects in the villages, we're constantly in direct contact with the Vietnamese people," stated Kelly. "This is why our individual actions are so important."

To tackle both his jobs, Kelly has brought to Vietnam some highly respectable credentials. Currently on his second tour in Vietnam, Kelly took part in the initial landing at Da Nang in 1965 and served with the 3rd Bn., 9th Marine. As a former instructor of advanced infantry

training and counter-guerilla warfare at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Kelly packs the knowledge of a seasoned infantryman. Some of his advanced training include air support and artillery adjustment school at Coronado, Calif., and a 47-week Vietnamese language course at the Defense Language Institute. He also has several humanities courses at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., to his credit.

"With our joint security system at the bridge our men have excellent chance to cultivate an understanding with the Vietnamese soldiers," noted the military policeman. "Language is the main barrier, but by working together we are making considerable gains."

"Because we're all military men it is easier to understand each other and establish relations on a common ground."

Daily combined reconnaissance patrols of ARVN's and Marines give the men an understanding of fighting for a common cause. With the local villagers, this closeness must

spring from other sources.

In his civic action programs, SSgt. Kelly stresses the difference between a helping hand and a handout.

"The villagers know what we can do for them in the way of agricultural gains, medical assistance and bettering their general living conditions," said Kelly. "What we have to make them understand is that we want to help them."

At present, the Marines of Charlie Co., are helping the villagers of An Thong remodel an old school house. A new roof, painted walls, electric lighting, blackboards and CARE school kits will be a noticeable improvement over the leaky roof and drab, cracked plaster walls of the old building.

Before the remodeling was started, the project was discussed with the villagers and their chief and an understanding reached. The village would provide the teacher. The Marines would supply the building materials. Both parties would

work on the school, side by side.

Besides building projects, Kelly and his fellow Marines help the villagers discover new ways to grow crops, raise animals and improve their personal health standards. The villagers are eager to adopt new methods when they can see the results.

At least twice a month, Kelly conducts classes for his own men on the customs and religions of the Vietnamese people.

"Harmony is a key factor in the life of the Vietnamese," he said. "By understanding their way of life, we are less apt to disrupt this harmony and alienate ourselves from them."

The results of this form of civic action bear witness to its success. Viet Cong activity in the two villages are almost nil. The people have set up their own security force to help defend themselves. The civic action projects, increased prosperity and physical health have alienated the people from the Viet Cong.

Sorry, No Rice

Enemy Fed Lead

By LCpl. R. L. Evankavitch

DA NANG — A group of hungry North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers went looking for rice but found Marines instead.

Marines of "K" Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, were on a patrol east of Hill 41, eight miles southwest of here, when they sighted 30 to 40 NVA walking out of a banana grove.

LCpl. Jack Weekly (922 Sherman Ave., Springfield, Ohio) said, "I saw the NVA coming out of the banana grove walking very fast, one right behind the other. I waited until the last one came out, and was about 10 feet in the open, when I opened up with my M-16."

The other Marines opened up with machinegun and small arms fire while Weekly called in artillery and mortars.

The Marines swept the area after the battle and found three dead NVA. One NVA hiding behind a rice paddy ditch surrendered to the searching Marines.

The next morning another NVA probing the Marine position was wounded by LCpl. M. R. Ryder (755 Diablo Road, Danville, Calif.).

A search team was sent out to check the area where Ryder had fired. They found the wounded NVA who had crawled behind a rice paddy dike to put on a battle dressing.

The search team also found a number of battle dressings and blood trails indicating that some of the enemy who got away the day before were wounded.

The two detainees were taken to the company area for interrogation. One of the prisoners was found to have been an NVA officer and he turned over several documents to the Marines.

The other revealed that they had been getting only two bowls of rice a day.

VC Die Mining Highway

By LCpl. Art Kibat

AN HOA—The Viet Cong will probably think twice before they try again to mine Liberty Road, the main supply route between Da Nang and here. Recently twenty Viet Cong tried it and thirteen of them died.

The six miles of winding graded dirt road from An Hoa to the Liberty Bridge check point, has been the cause of almost daily skirmishes between the enemy who wants to destroy it and the Fifth Marines who hold it.

"K" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Marines, moved from their home base farther north to assist the 5th Marines, in guarding the road while the majority of the 5th Regt., troops are farther west.

One evening as the sun was setting, "K" company, set up in a defensive position a few hundred meters from the road, spotted 20 enemy slither onto the road and begin to plant several land mines.

A combination of small arms, 81mm mortar and 105 howitzer fire suddenly had the enemy trapped and helpless.

The oncoming darkness helped seven of the enemy to escape, but thirteen of the Viet Cong never made it off the road.



TEAMWORK—Leathernecks of 1st Bn., 4th Marines work to fortify their position south of the Demilitarized Zone. (Photo by Cpl. J.G. McCullough)

Drivers Ford River To Deliver Fuel

By LCpl. Gary G. Gunn

DONG HA — Some people have the impression that the Refueler Platoon of Marine Force Logistic Support Group Bravo (FLSG-B) at Dong Ha is a unique military unit. They're right.

The platoon, part of Truck Co. here, supplies fuel for almost all the vehicles and aircraft operating throughout the Dong Ha, Con Thien and Vandegrift Combat Base areas. It is the only Marine unit of its kind in this northernmost part of South Vietnam.

"What we have here are 35 men who are trained to do a special job, sometimes under extreme pressures," says Sgt. William Bingham (1332 S. 33rd St., Philadelphia, Pa.), the platoon leader.

The biggest responsibility of the platoon is to Vandegrift Combat Base in northwestern I Corps. Recently the unit worked around the clock for days to resupply the remote base with fuel.

"That month we trucked in about 100,000 gallons of aviation fuel to Vandegrift," says Bingham. "There were a number of large operations taking place and they used up the fuel almost as fast as we could sup-

ply it."

While one of the convoys was making an emergency run to Vandegrift, heavy rains washed out a bridge. Fuel was needed for helicopters making medevac (medical evacuation) and resupply runs.

"There was no doubt about it, we had to get through," says Bingham. "Navy Seabees worked for hours trying to put up a temporary bridge. The force of the water kept washing it away."

"The drivers got together and decided to ford the river," Bingham recalls. "The first truck moved out into the river and the force of the water started moving it down stream. Finally the driver got it across and the rest of the drivers followed, with little damage and no loss of lives."

The proud Marines of the Refueler Platoon realize the importance of completing the mission assigned to them. These missions are stated in words but the mere words don't express the courage and hard work required of every Marine to complete the job. They maintain their reputation of being the best Refueler Platoon of any service in northern I Corps.



VIET CONG TUNNEL—LCpl. Robert A. Bishop (Cincinnati, Ohio) explores a Viet Cong tunnel complex found by Leathernecks of the 2nd Bn., 26th Marines during Operation Bold Mariner. (Photo by Cpl. D.E. Kramer)

Flying 'Docs' Give Aid During Medevacs

Cpl. Jim DeWitt

QUANG TRI — The Navy Medical Corpsman — tales of his courage and compassion, his slogging into battle next to Marine infantrymen, have been told time and again. But, there's a new kind of corpsman — same breed of man — who can be found in the skies over

I Corps in South Vietnam.

Every medical evacuation (medevac) helicopter originating from Quang Tri Air Base, home of Marine Aircraft Group 39 (MAG-39), is accompanied by a corpsman from the group sickbay.

"This is a flying billet," stated Chief Hospital Corpsman

Thomas G. Fowler (Jacksonville, Fla.), medical administrative chief. "In the last six months of 1968, the corpsmen here logged more than 2500 missions — all medevacs!"

Everyone of the 15 "doc's" fly, and everyone of them are volunteers.

"Most of the men here are on the last half of their tour and have requested to serve with MAG-39," said Chief Fowler. "Nobody makes them fly though — and we have 100 percent participation."

The sickbay facility maintains a daily flight schedule with three corpsmen. Two are assigned the 12-hour shifts with the regular medevac helo while one man is with the standby aircraft, a 24-hour position utilized in case of emergency.

With each corpsman averaging 30-50 flight hours per month, it is inevitable that not

everyone will make it through his tour unscratched.

"We've been real lucky so far," said Fowler, "but there have been a few Purple Hearts passed out."

"At least a half-dozen of the guys here have been shot down out in the boonies and a lot of us have had our birds shot up but been able to make it back for repairs."

Hospitalman Second Class Daniel D. Miller, 21, (Ithaca, N. Y.), serving an extension of his regular tour, has logged more than 720 missions and 300 flight hours.

"I think my most 'memorable' mission was at Con Thien," he said with a smile. "We'd gone in for the casualties and were still loading them on when mortars started dropping all over the place. Got everyone out OK, but there were six or

eight holes in the bird."

Hospitalman First Class Loren D. La Blante, 31, (White Horse, S. D.), a 420-mission veteran, has vivid memories of an emergency medevac mission near the Cua Viet River. His helicopter received 34 enemy rounds but managed to limp back to Dong Ha with the wounded Marines.

The corpsman's basic job during a medevac mission is to give supportive treatment to the casualty. Sometimes it's just keeping him warm in the helicopter or continuing the treatment initiated by the corpsman on the ground. At other times, he must diagnose and give immediate aid to sustain the casualty during the brief, fast flight to a medical facility.

The infantryman wounded in the field is only minutes away from a sophisticated medical facility, but, often the presence of the MAG-39 corpsmen is the difference between life and death.



IT'S ONLY FLAT ON ONE SIDE—When tires this size blow out, movement of combat essential gear comes to a standstill. Heavy duty forklifts are used throughout I Corps, the five northernmost provinces of South Vietnam, because of rough terrain. Here, Marine LCpl. Douglas L. Parnham (1340 E. Washington, E. Peoria, Ill.) of Force Logistic Support Group Bravo changes a flat on his rig at 2 a.m. (Photo by LCpl. Roger K. Nystrom)

Not New To Us

Still Hitting Beach

By LCpl. G. G. Gunn

DA NANG—A Marine 5-ton repair van makes a crazy beach buggy, but when you have a couple of tuned-in Marines and a leader whose bag is to complete every mission, that's what the "big green machine" becomes—a groovy, wayout, sand surfing, beach buggy.

Due to enemy activity in the area, a trio of Marines from General Supply Co., Maintenance Bn., Force Logistics Command near Da Nang, was halted a few miles away from their destination, the command post of the 3rd Amphibian Tractor Bn., just south of Da Nang. They were headed to the beachside command post to repair office machines.

There was an alternate road leading to the battalion compound and SSgt. William Breyette (Lot 8, 53 Main Mill St., Plattsburgh, N.Y.), who was in charge of the FLC mission, headed for this route and, unknowingly, another detour.

"We weren't too upset by the main road being closed," he said. "But when the only other road was also blocked off for repairs, things started to look pretty bad."

While parked along the side of the road contemplating their next move, one of the Marines noticed the beach only a few hundred yards away.

"When he said we could make it to the compound by taking the van down the beach, I thought he had been out in the sun too long," said Breyette. "When he said he used to go out on the beach in a beach buggy, and never had gotten stuck, I decided to chance it."

So in traditional Marine Corps fashion the determined Marines hit the beach. Only this time it was from the opposite direction, through sand and water, as the FLC Marines wheeled their way to the AmTrac compound while killdeer birds and other beach life watched the "big green beach buggy" in amazement.

For Da Nang's Office Equipment

Trav'lin Cure for Ill Machines

By LCpl. G. G. Gunn

DA NANG — Two Marine Corps office repair vans are touring military installations throughout the Da Nang area repairing everything from unreliable calculators to typewriters with defective space-bars.

The primary mission of the contact teams, from Maintenance Bn., Force Logistic Command (FLC), is to provide fast, efficient office machine repair service to units in the outlying Da Nang area. This eliminates transporting machines back to Maintenance Bn., headquarters, and excessive movement, which is the biggest enemy of a delicate piece of office equipment.

Equipped to repair almost any office machine on the spot, the two five-ton vans service over 50 different commands. However, the list is steadily growing.

"We used to indiscriminately pick units to service," said SSgt. William Breyette (Lot 8, 53 Main Hill St., Plattsburgh, N.Y.), noncommissioned officer in charge of one of the contact teams. "But now we have a roster which is revised each time a new unit needs our services."

Early each morning the vans, staffed with three Marines each, leave the Maintenance Bn., compound on a route of predetermined stops. Organization like this is a big time saver for the busy contact teams.

"Due to the number of machines in the larger units, we service them at least twice a week," said Breyette. "The smaller units, in the outlying areas are generally given priority, but are serviced at least once a week."

The first job of the contact team at a command is to contact the battalion supply officer. He, in turn, notifies all sections of the repair van's arrival.

Parked in a conspicuous place, it takes the team only a few minutes to set up the van in preparation for the 10 or 12 machines they repair on an average day.

"One of the most common problems we find are dirty machines," said Breyette. "A thorough cleaning with solvent is the answer to this problem."

Sgt. Breyette and his two school-trained Marines, Cpl. R. L. Rouse (Norfolk, Va.), and LCpl. F. M. Harris (101 Woodland Dr., New Albany, N.Y.) were presented Letters of Appreciation from the commanding officer of 1st Medical Bn., for a job completed recently.

The contact team made a stop at the medical battalion compound and found that nearly every machine was inoperable. "For two days the van was a beehive of activity," read the certificate citing the Maintenance Bn., Marines.

The other team leader, SSgt. Gary K. Nelson (863 Duke Ave., Niagara Falls, Canada), also has two school-trained Marines assigned to his repair van: LCpl's Maylon Bramlette, and Michael St. Johns, both of Brooklyn, N.Y. This team too has been praised by unit commanders in reports to Maintenance Bn.

These six Marines, with their two vans, form a unit that is unprecedented in good down-to-earth service to neighboring and distant allied commands throughout the Da Nang area.



HAND—An outstretched hand from a Marine buddy helps lift this Leatherneck from a stream south of the Demilitarized Zone. (Photo by LCpl. Don Barr)

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

(Continued From Page 2)

Louise Weber
St. Margaret Memorial Hospital
School of Nursing
265-46th St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201
Age 20

Jo Ann Baker
URH Allen Hall 279
1005 Gregory Dr.
Urbana, Ill. 61801
Age 18

Christine Perry
45 Carlton St. S.
Dartmouth, Mass. 02748
Age 16

Jean Hopper
110 Overocker Rd.
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603
Age 29

Beverly Stirrat
Rt. 3, Box 353
Lake Villa, Ill. 60046

Betty J. Campbell
St. Rt. B., Box 189
Vidalia, La. 71373

Barbara Lee Reck
7937 Richard Rd.
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Sheryl Blaha
2918 Stevens
La Crescenta, Calif. 91214

Laura A. Goumas
71 Pleasant View Circle
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

Mary Gardiner
Elaine Gardiner
79 Moody St.
North Andover, Mass. 01845

Jenifer Martin
782 Waverly Rd.
North Andover Mass. 01845

Miss V. Fendorak
115-61 224 St.
Cambria Heights, N.Y. 11411

Jean Bishop
2312 Marrie Ave.
Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001

Jo Ann Hughes
732 Alevander Ave.
Dresel Hill, Pa. 19026

Irene Harvey
11 Charles Hill Rd.
Orinda, Calif. 94563
Age 18

Carol Martin
Box 3335
Appalachian Station
Boone, N.C. 28607

Mona Simpson
4024 Doane St.
Fremont, Calif. 94538

Judy Smith
8614 Inkster Rd.
Apt. 202
Dearborn Heights, Mich 48127
Age 24

Lucy Brod
8044 Prospect Ct.
Niles, Ill. 60648

Marilyn Milward
44 Hill Top Dr.
Burlington, Mass. 01803
Age 19

Sharon Dick
728 Highland Ave.
Paramus, N.J. 07652
Age 19

Coleen Sullivan
3065 Coolidge
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
Age 17

Susan Moore
Missur St.
S. Grafton, Mass. 01560



APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE—Marines look on as a South Vietnamese Air Force Skyraider roars low over a treeline to drop its ordnance on an enemy position during Operation Linn River 12 miles southwest of Da Nang. The 7th Marines had been receiving heavy fire from the enemy position. (Photo by Sgt. Gary Clark)

Marines See Sea Duty

By LCpl. Ray Wolf

ABOARD THE USS NEWPORT NEWS — Leathernecks of 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines got a taste of life at sea during a oneday visit aboard the cruiser USS Newport News (CA-148).

The ship's skipper, Capt. Edwin K. Snyder, welcomed the 18 enlisted men and one officer aboard the world's largest heavy cruiser and told them, "The ship is all yours. Go where you want, do what you want, and don't be afraid to ask any questions."

The first order of business for the Marine visitors was a hot shower and shave. Then, their mud-caked, battle-torn jungle utilities were exchanged for new uniforms.

With Capt. Snyder's invitation in mind, the Marines began exploring the 717-foot cruiser from stem to stern.

Navy hospitality was clearly evident as the Leathernecks were afforded "head-of-the-line" privileges in the messhall and the sailors were eager to answer any questions posed by the visitors.

A highlight of the visit came when the ship fired a naval gunfire mission. The Marines looked on from every possible vantage point as the big eight-inch guns

belched fire and smoke as they sent rounds toward enemy targets ashore. Many times the visiting Leathernecks had received supporting fire from these very same guns.

When the fire mission was over the Marines headed for the gun turrets, loaded with questions for the gun crews about the guns, their ammunition and operating procedures.

After evening chow the Marines and sailors sat around the crew's lounge swapping "sea stories" while waiting for the start of the nightly movie. After the movie small groups of sailors and Marines could be found in the lounge talking about home and their part in the Vietnam conflict.

After a good night's sleep on clean sheets and thick mattresses, the Marines awoke the next morning ready to make the most of their few remaining hours aboard the ship.

Pfc. Raymond A. Holcombe (Smoke Run, Penn.), an eight-month Vietnam veteran, summed up the feelings of the Marines when he told a sailor, "It's a welcome change to be aboard ship, but I wouldn't want to stay here all the time. I'm used to life on the beach and it's not too bad."

The last hour aboard ship was

filled with picture-taking and exchange of addresses between the Marines and sailors.

Capt. Snyder, in bidding farewell to the Marines said, "I hope all of you have a better understanding of life aboard ship and that you all thoroughly enjoyed yourselves."

1/9 Hits Beach

By Cpls. John Lawrence and John McCullough

CUA VIET — As the ramp of the huge Navy landing ship hit the beach, Marines of the 1st Bn., 9th Marines poured across the sand ready to devour everything in their path—steaks, cold drinks, USO shows and a well-stocked exchange.

The war-weary Leathernecks were participating in a rest and rehabilitation operation instituted by MajGen. Raymond G. Davis, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Division, to give his infantrymen a break from the damp, thick jungle.

First Lt. Ward Dunlap (Minneapolis, Minn.), who coordinates the program at Cua Viet, explains, "As soon as they arrive, we direct them to the living area where we get them settled and explain the program to them. Then we turn them loose for 48 hours of doing just what they want and nothing more."

Most of the Marines immediately headed for the beach.

Cua Viet, just six miles below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), is the site of perhaps one of the most beautiful beaches in Vietnam. And the warm waters of the Tonkin Gulf are healing for bone-weary combat troops.

During the afternoon of the first day, there is a USO show. It is the first time in many months that many of the Marines have seen pretty girls or listened to live pop music.

"The post exchange is another facility the men really appreciate. We stock it with all the goodies that we can lay our

Projectile Glances Off Eye

By LCpl. Art Kibat

AN HOA—Getting hit in the eye by a flying 40mm high explosive projectile is enough to ruin a Marine's day.

It happened to Pfc. Lenny L. Kleist and it knocked him end-over-end nine times, but, all-in-all, it was a mighty lucky day for him.

Kleist (4224 So. 18th St., Omaha, Neb.) has an injured eye but things could have been much worse—the round could have exploded on contact.

Kleist's unit in the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division was conducting a sweep during Operation Taylor Common, when they made brief contact with the enemy.

The enemy was a small band of Viet Cong who quickly high-tailed it from the area when the action began, but during that time a deadly 40mm projectile was fired toward Kleist.

Kleist was approximately 25 yards away from where the round was fired, but it hit him at a 45 degree angle.

Due to the angle, he was knocked off his feet and the round glanced off his head without exploding. It should have exploded on the slightest contact, once it had gone 15 yards after being fired.

"My eye is still sore, but I won't lose my vision in it and I'm lucky to be alive," Kleist said while recalling his close encounter with death.

Kleist is scheduled for an operation to fuse back together some shattered nerves around his eye and then he will return to the United States.

hands on, including radios and cameras," reports Dunlap.

Every man in the battalion also has the opportunity to have his weapon checked at the mobile armorer's shop set up on the beach. The shop has the equipment to work on everything from a pistol to an 81mm mortar. The infantrymen, whose lives depend on their weapons, make good use of this facility.

A frequent and informal visitor to the rest and rehabilitation operation at Cua Viet is Gen. Davis, who takes every opportunity to talk first hand with his Marines about their outfit, the war, home—the things that Marines talk about.

Other popular facilities at Cua Viet are religious services, band concerts and movies, which run practically every night.

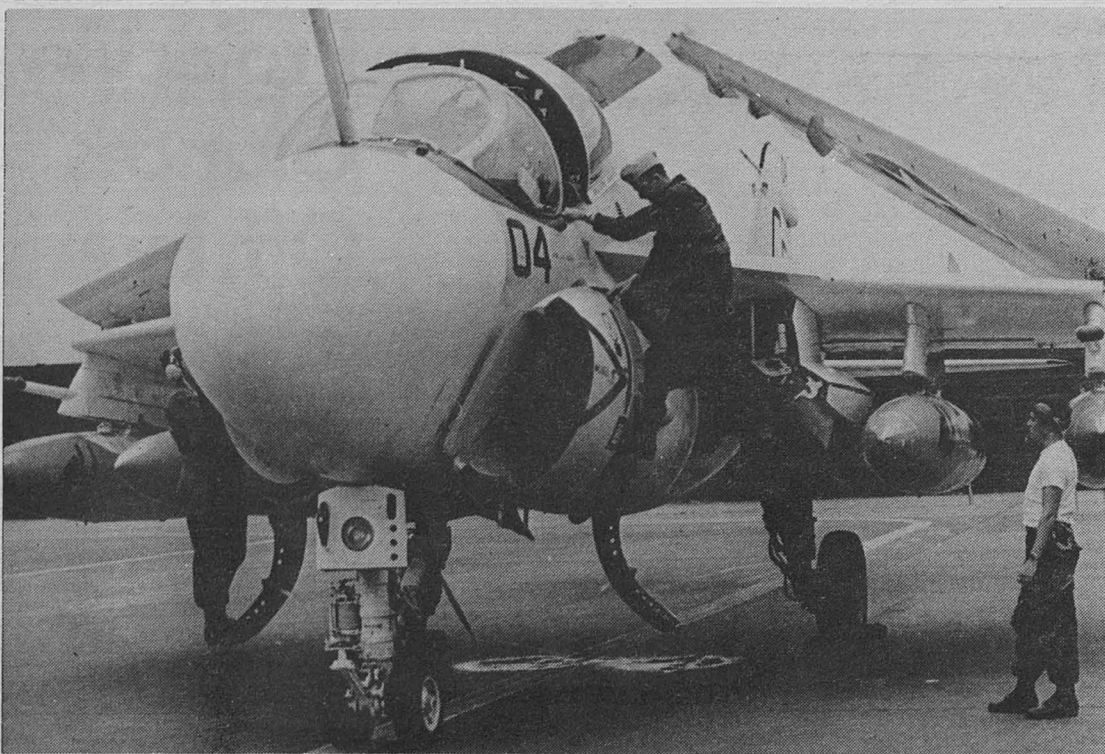
"I've enjoyed myself so much that it's going to be hard to get me away from here," said Cpl. Rick Beglin (Bloomfield, N.J.).

The commanding officer of the 1st Bn., 9th Marines, LtCol. George W. Smith (North Springfield, Va.) says, "While operating in the field, my battalion is often split up. The rest and rehabilitation operation here at Cua Viet is the first time since August that we have had the entire unit together."

"This is a great opportunity for the men to be themselves, to relax and do as they please for a couple of days," he concludes.

Arrangements are being made for every 3rd Division infantry battalion to visit Cua Viet once every eight weeks.





END OF THE JOURNEY—Lt. Col. Ronald L. Townsend, CO, Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 255, disembarks from his A-6 Intruder jet after leading the squadron on its trans-Pacific flight from California to Da Nang. (Photo by SSgt. Bill Risher)

Enemy Flushed From An Hoa...

(Continued From Page 1)
ARVN hands as they continue the meticulous search and clear operation.

The Leathernecks discovered and destroyed a sophisticated sapper battalion training site. The communists had constructed 8 ft. scaling walls and numerous barbed wire entanglements to train their soldiers to infiltrate and destroy allied positions. Numerous classrooms, complete with blackboards and training aids, were located and destroyed.

A dispensary, hospital complex and medical training center were found on the slopes of Ong Thu. The complex was equipped with sophisticated surgical and medical equipment and included electricity and running water.

Maj. Evans said that medical training at the center evidently had been very advanced, almost to the level of that of enemy "field surgeons." Among enemy documents found at the training center were neatly prepared diplomas each trainee received upon completion of the training.

Improved trails provided quick access through the jungle canopied mountains. A captured enemy engineer revealed that it was his unit's mission to clear and improve trails. Over these trails rice was transported west from the lush lowlands and equipment and supplies flowed east to the units fighting in the Da Nang area.

More than 1,200 hooches and

over 1,000 bunkers, complete with messing facilities, have been located and destroyed. At least 10 large-unit base camps were rendered useless on the enemy.

The 3rd Marines' commander, Col. Paul D. LaFond (Skowhegan, Me.), said he feels that it is significant that friendly forces "have been able to penetrate deeply into the enemy's base areas with the Marines' stepping-stone fire support base techniques."

Using the leap-frog tactics, the Marines are steadily advancing into the enemy's former haven. In the wake of the enemy's retreat, the Marines continue to find enemy caches of supplies and equipment.

"The men have been in the field almost constantly for the past two months, but their mo-

rale remains high," states GySgt. Fred J. Florian (Washington, Penn.) of the 3rd Marines headquarters element.

"Every time they find another cache, it spurs them on to look harder for the next one," he said.

Typified by small unit actions (133 contacts through the first week of February), the large scale combat operation with combined U.S. Marine, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) forces had accounted for nearly 1,800 NVA/VC killed. As of Feb. 12, 47 detainees had been classified as POWs by the ARVN. Twelve former enemy soldiers have elected to return to the Government of Vietnam service under the Chieu Hoi (open arms) program.

Wing Boasts Heavy Duty Copter Plucker

By LCpl. Blake B. Barker
DA NANG—One of the CH-53A Sea Stallions of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 463 really lives up to the squadron nickname, Heavy Haulers. Among its cargo have been F-4 Phantom jets and CH-

46 Sea Knight helicopters.

The Tactical Air Recovery (TAR) helicopter is specially outfitted to pick up damaged aircraft and return them to their home base or a repair facility.

The TAR chopper is a regular Sea Stallion helicopter with all but the essential equipment removed.

"The crew must insure that the load is properly balanced, and in the case of helicopters, that the rotor blades are secured before making the lift," explained Cpl. Michael J. Salley (Phoenix, Ariz.), crew chief.

When possible, a crane hoists the downed bird a few feet off the ground to make sure its weight is distributed evenly. But when retrieving aircraft from the "bush" the crewmen must make an accurate estimate.

During flight, the crippled plane hangs on a strong nylon web about 15 feet below. With its powerful twin turbine engines the heavy hauler can carry more than 13 thousand pounds.

During 1968, HMH-463 recovered more than 180 smaller aircraft, with a savings of an estimated \$60 million.

Op. Dewey Canyon

(Continued From Page 1)
credited with 83 confirmed communist dead, eight detainees, one Chieu Hoi, 87 individual weapons and five crew-served weapons captured, 144,000 rounds of small arms ammo, 132

mortar rounds, 363 rocket propelled grenades, 500 pounds of TNT, 18,000 pounds of rice and large quantities of medical supplies. Seven trucks were destroyed.

Also seized were an NVA transmitter and other communications equipment.

Marine units were hampered by bad weather for nine days early in February but "the only thing we lost by the weather was some momentum," said Col. Robert H. Barrow (St. Francisville, La.), commander of the 9th Marines.

"This regiment has operated constantly for the past seven months in good weather and bad. We've picked up a few tricks that enable us to operate rather effectively even when we are socked in," Barrow said.

By pre-positioning several days' food and ammo supplies as they moved forward and by supplementing their diet with captured rice, the Marines fared well until the weather broke sufficiently to permit resupply.

Now screening the area with saturation patrols, Dewey Canyon's second phase, the Marines wonder what they're getting into.

"Plenty," said Col. Barrow. "The enemy seems determined to defend this area. He is down there. The farther we go the stiffer the resistance will be."

Marine casualties remained light during the first three weeks of the operation.

Too Old?

By Sgt R. R. Keene

CHU LAI — Officials at the Youngstown, Ohio, Selective Service Board recently brightened the spirit of a Marine officer serving in Vietnam when they mailed him his draft classification.

Much to the surprise of Chief Warrant Officer Westley E. Eckley (Sebring, Ohio), a 20-year veteran, he received a draft card stating that he is classified 5-A.

The lean-looking CWO, ordnance officer of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Aircraft Group 12, happily shows his draft card to fellow Marines and states that he doesn't have to worry about being drafted, the 5-A classification places him in the "too old for military service" category.

Camp Dedicated...

(Continued From Page 1)

tionary Brigade, landed in Vietnam. With them was Lt. Col. Joseph E. Muir, a fine officer and a close friend.

"Since that time, Hill 55 has become the center of Marine offensive activities from here to the An Hoa basin. As a focal point for logistic support and troop operations, this hill has proved vital in the defense of Da Nang. It is only fitting that such an important position should be named Camp Joseph E. Muir, in honor of a fine Marine."

A native of Oak Hill, West Va., Lt. Col. Muir enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1945. Known to his contemporaries as "Mr. Vietnam," he earned the nation's second highest award for valor, the Navy Cross, for his role in Operation Starlight the month before his death. Operation Starlight was the first major battle between the Marines and Viet Cong main force units.

His citation for the Navy Cross reads in part:

"Though fully cognizant of the danger, he repeatedly positioned himself in the midst of the violent action. Upon encountering strong enemy resistance, he joined the assault companies in front line positions to personally direct their advance and succeeded in conquering two of the more strongly defended hostile areas, resulting in 215 confirmed enemy dead."

In addition to the Navy Cross, Lt. Col. Muir also won the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal for his actions in Vietnam.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM:

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

TO:

Postage

3rd Class 8¢

Airmail 20¢

1st Class 12¢

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