



SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

October 21, 1966

Gen. Davis studies troops in Vietnam

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—"This has been a most successful trip. As a result we now have a sound basis for the overhauling of the personnel management system," stated Major General Raymond G. Davis, head of the Headquarters Marine Corps Manpower Evaluation team.

General Davis and his team have been traveling since Sept. 6 when they left Washington. After visiting West Coast, Hawaii and Okinawa Marine Corps installations, they arrived in Viet-

nam Sept. 22.

The primary purpose of the trip was for the team to study the entire personnel management system, from the arrival of a new Marine recruit training or basic school, through his advance training, and then to duty at his first station.

"We expect a much improved system as a result of the trip," stated the general. "We have tried to see and talk to all officers and NCOs down to company level."

Members of the team estimate that the general has spoken to at least 8,000 Marines in the past month and has often been behind a speaker's rostrum for four hours a day.

"We hope to increase the number of young Marines out here," he said. "Officers and NCOs here have told me that it takes a very short time for them to carry their full load."

With a larger number of Marines here R&R (rest and recuperation leave) will be more easily available and it should be possible for Marines who have finished their tours to have a replacement here before they leave for the States, according to Gen. Davis.

Speaking of his impressions of the Marines here in Vietnam today, General Davis, a Medal of Honor winner during the Korean War, said: "Most of my career has been with infantry units in the field, and it's a thrill for me to talk to these young Marines we have out here today."

"They're very competent, aggressive and high spirited. Their only complaint is when they can't find enough Viet Cong to shoot at. It's hard to imagine how we could find better Marines than

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Gen. Walt nicked by bullet

According to a UPI release from Saigon, Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, was cut on the face October 4 when a Viet Cong bullet hit his helicopter.

The general's helicopter was flying over a Marine unit engaged in combat in the Quang Tri province; site of a fight against the north Vietnamese Army 324B Division, when a bullet broke through the plexiglas.

The UPI release quoted an officer as saying: "The only thing that made that sliver of metal noteworthy was that it hit a three-star general." It is believed that Gen. Walt is now the highest ranking officer to be injured in combat.

General Walt continued his work, however, and flew to Saigon the next day on business.

Sea Tiger wins award

The SEA TIGER has been selected as one of eight Marine Corps newspapers for the Chief of Information (Navy Department) Merit Award Certificates for the Second Quarter 1966, according to the Office of the Chief of Information, Washington, D.C.

In making the announcement of the awards, the Chief of Information pointed out that the Marine Corps was awarded eight of the 32 Merit awards presented out of a field of 500 eligible sea service papers.

In presenting the award to the Force Information Officer, Combat Information Bureau, Da Nang, Lieutenant General L. W. Walt praised the work being done in Vietnam by the combat reporters and combat photographers, who made the award possible.

In a letter accompanying the certificate, Gen. Walt stated: "The SEA TIGER has become a morale builder as well as an exceptional fine media for disseminating information to all hands." The general also expressed his appreciation for the devotion to duty of the writers and photographers who make publication of the SEA TIGER possible each week.

This award is the third con-

secutive CHINFO certificate for the SEA TIGER in its eleven-month history.

Other winning awards were the SENTRY (Quantico); BOOT (Parry Island); SCOUT (Camp Pendleton); GLOBE (Camp Lejeune); RIFLEMAN USMCR (Montgomery, Ala.); and the BUSHBEATER (Recruiting Station, Birmingham, Ala.).

Merit awards are made each quarter to the sea service newspapers which have been most outstanding during the quarter.

Legion of Merit for Gen. Platt

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG — Brigadier General Jonas M. Platt, chief of staff, III Marine Amphibious Force, has been awarded his second Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for "outstanding service as Commanding General, Assistant Division Command Group," from Nov. 10, 1965 to Mar. 15, 1966.

During that period Gen. Platt organized the defense of the Chu Lai airfield; was instrumental in gaining the trust and confidence of officials of the Vietnamese

Army's Second Division; and led combined U. S. Marine Corps and Vietnamese troops into battle against the Viet Cong.

He was cited particularly for his role as commander of Task Force Delta during Operation Utah last March. During that operation, which resulted in the virtual destruction of the 36th North Vietnamese Regiment, Gen. Platt, "displayed extraordinary tactical insight and aggressiveness" in planning and carrying out the battle.

"His exemplary leadership and relentless fighting spirit were instrumental in the success of the engagements in which he was directly involved" reads part of the citation.

He received his first Legion of Merit with Combat "V" while serving as commanding officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, and also as assistant operations officer of the 1st Marine Division, during the Korean Conflict.

Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. Other elements of the division are currently engaged in Operation Prairie south of the demilitarized zone.

Concurrently, the 1st Marine Division has moved its headquar-

ters and some of its units to the Da Nang area. Other elements of the division remain at Chu Lai where they continue operations.

The Third Marine Division has been headquartered in the Da Nang area since its entry into Vietnam in May, 1965.

Since then its mission has grown from protecting the area in and around the city of Da Nang and the nearby airfield complex, to one of pacifying a land area of 685 square miles containing a population of nearly one-half million people.

Notable among many of its achievements during this period was the establishment of a secure road link to the industrial complex at An Hoa located 25 miles west of Da Nang.

In July, the 3d Division was called upon to carry out Operation Hastings where the units involved met head-on with the North Vietnamese Army's 324 B

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Team in action

An unidentified Marine rushes forward with a 3.5 rocket round to be launched against a North Vietnamese Army bunker. A radioman (center) calls information to an artillery position far to the rear. The Marine on the right checks azimuth readings from a compass to relay to the artillery. The action took place just south of the DMZ.

(Photo by PFC E. L. Cole)

3dMarDiv moves to Phu Bai; 1st Division goes to Da Nang

DA NANG—The Third Marine Division, commanded by Major General Wood B. Kyle, changed its command post location from Da Nang to Phu Bai October 10, while Major General H. Nickerson, Jr., moved his First Marine Division CP from Chu Lai to Da Nang, occupying the spot formerly held by the 3d Marine Division.

Additional adjustments of subordinate units have taken place in conjunction with the move of the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions. Also, the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, U.S. Army, has moved to the Da Nang area.

The moves have taken place to enhance the combat posture of the III Marine Amphibious Force within the I Corps area.

In addition to the move of the 3d Marine Division headquarters to Phu Bai, additional elements of the division have deployed to

Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. Other elements of the division are currently engaged in Operation Prairie south of the demilitarized zone.

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SEA TIGER

Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Brigadier General Jonas M. Platt
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force
Major General Louis B. Robertshaw
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Major General H. Nickerson, Jr.
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Major General Wood B. Kyle
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

Force ISO
Editor

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GySgt. Lee Witconis

New additions to the SEA TIGER Pen-Pal Club are:

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Sandy Decker (19)
202 Gaffle Hill Road
Hawthorne, N.J. 07506
Marge Bars (24)
89 Rudolph Avenue
E. Paterson, N.J.
Pat Mandell
19 Noble Avenue
Noank, Conn. 06344
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Dear Sir:

At our 1965 Department American Legion Convention, a program entitled, "Stamps for Hospitalized Veterans" was begun. The purpose of this program is to encourage our hospitalized veterans who collect stamps as a hobby to continue this pastime.

while convalescing in our hospitals; or to interest our less fortunate veterans in this wonderful pastime as a form of therapy.

Ordinarily, programs of this sort cost a great deal, but this is one of the few that need not cost at all. We all receive mail; won't you please save the cancelled stamps? All cancelled postage stamps (both domestic and foreign) are acceptable, but the Commemorative issues are preferred.

Remember, there is no personal gain from this program for anyone. My sole purpose is to get people to save the used stamps for our less fortunate friends.

If you wish to join in this worthy program, please leave about 1/4 inch of paper around the stamp. They can be sent to:

John Sferratore,
Finance Officer,
SUFFOLK COUNTY
AMERICAN LEGION
526 18th Street,
West Babylon, N.Y. 11704

Little thing

On a sweep west of Dong Ha the other day some Marines from 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines saw an old farmer struggling to round up his herd of cows.

During a break, three Marines made like cowboys and brought the herd together.

The old man just stood and grinned. A small item, perhaps. But just think what it could mean if 50,000 men were being equally thoughtful each day.

Short on fuel; pilot lightens load

DA NANG — Although short of fuel Captain T. L. Watkins and First Lieutenant J. W. Cebrowski conducted a successful strike on a village with only one run.

The two pilots from Marine Attack Squadron 311 were flying a helicopter escort. Upon completion of their mission the flight leader requested a secondary mission to expend the ordnance.

The target was a village where hostile fire had been received. With enough fuel left to make one run the "Tomcat" pilots dropped their ordnance and accounted for six structures and a 200 meter trench line destroyed plus 15 VC killed by confirmed count.

Chaplain Speaks

LIFE AS A PILGRIMAGE

There comes a time when everyone must face the question, "What is the meaning of life?" For many a young man this question has been thrust upon him by the circumstances of our time. He finds himself involved in a war which is a struggle for life itself. To be engaged in this kind of struggle leads him to think on serious matters. He longs, among other things, to find an answer to "What is the meaning of life?"

This question must be answered by each individual. He must find the meaning for his own life. One answer to his quest is that life is a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage denotes life as a journey of both mind and body in search of life's fulfillment. The Pilgrim seeks answers wherever they may be found. Here is the beauty of life as a pilgrimage—search is not limited falsely. The Pilgrim is open not only to experiences within nature, but he is also open to that which transcends nature—God. So often man does not allow God to speak to him because man limits his view of reality. The Pilgrim does not do this. He is open and willing to let God speak in an attempt to find a more satisfactory answer to the questions of life.

Life, then, involves man's finding fulfillment of his potential. This is done only when man meets God and lets God direct the journey. Why not become a Pilgrim?

—Chaplain GERALD T. RICHARDS

Our nation's highest court

We all have a personal stake in our government. And whether we realize it or not, that personal stake is what makes our country great. Basically, it translates into teamwork.

But working together is not enough. We should know and understand how our Government functions.

As responsible citizens, we can benefit from a periodic review of the steps by which our nation's laws are enacted and by refreshing our knowledge of the constitutional system of self government. It's part of our great American Heritage.

We know our Founding Fathers wrote the basic law of the land—the Constitution. We also know they distributed the power of the federal government among three separate branches: (1) the EXECUTIVE made up of the President and his cabinet; (2) the LEGISLATIVE (Congress); and (3) the JUDICIAL (made up of the Supreme Court and the other federal courts.)

Let's look at the latter and the Supreme Court in particular, which came into being September 24, 1789, when the Judiciary Act became law.

French Statesman and author Alexis de Tocqueville, in his "Democracy in America" (1835) described the place and function of the Supreme Court in the government of the United States in language which remains basically sound. He said:

"The peace, prosperity, and the very existence of the Union are vested in the hands of the (justices of the Supreme Court). Without them the Constitution would be a dead letter; the executive appeals to them for assistance against the encroachments of the legislative power; the legislature demands their protection against the assaults of the executive; they defend the Union from disobedience of the states, the states from



the exaggerated claims of the Union, the public interest against private interests, and the conservative spirit of stability against the fickleness of the democracy. Their power is enormous,

but it is the power of public opinion. They are all powerful as long as the people respect the law, but they would be impotent against popular neglect or contempt of law.

U.S. banks in Saigon offer checking accounts

For the first time in Vietnam, military banking facilities now are available to all troops of the Military Assistance Command (MACV).

The Chase Manhattan Bank and the Bank of America this month opened for business here with U.S. personnel, the MACV Comptroller has announced. Both banks offer these special and unusual services:

First, they pay an interest rate of 5 percent — on checking accounts — per annum, compounded quarterly and requiring a minimum balance of \$100.

Second, no service charge is levied on the checking accounts.

No savings accounts are operated by the banks.

The U.S. Treasury Department is underwriting the cost of the checking account services to MACV troops, paying both the interest and service charges. This is also a "first" for the Treasury Department.

Although the banks may operate here for U.S. personnel only in MPC (Military Payment Certificates), depositor's check sent to the United States for a business

or family use becomes a dollar instrument there.

The serviceman may have all or any portion of his pay mailed to his checking account at either bank by establishing a local allotment through his finance or personnel office.

While both banks are located in Saigon, any military man in Vietnam can open and conduct a checking account transaction with them, by APO mail. (The MACV Comptroller emphasizes that only the APO, FPO system may be used for such business, since Vietnamese laws prohibit use of the civilian mails for this kind of transaction.

Addresses are as follows:

The Chase Manhattan Bank
Military Banking Facility
Box 20, APO 96243

The Bank of American
Military Banking Facility
Box 30, APO 96243

The banks are located in downtown Saigon, near the Astor Hotel, on Nguyen Van Thinh. Eventually, each will have branches within other areas of Vietnam.

Marines support Mid-Autumn Festival

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza, Cpl. Bob Pitner and LCpl Lowell L. Carson.

A South Vietnamese national holiday—the Mid-Autumn Festival—took place Sept. 29, in countless hamlets, schoolhouses and villages throughout the country.

And, as in scores of instances throughout the land on that day—sometimes called Children's day—artillery Marines of the Twelfth Regiment, Third Division, did their share to bring joy, warmth, candy and gifts to hundreds of children in their areas.

On two separate occasions that day—Involving nearly a thousand children and their parents—the artillerymen assisted village elders, teachers and family heads to organize and conduct events in the holiday festival spirit.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, according to many, is much like Christmas in the States: there are presents for children, a joyous and warm atmosphere, the holiday spirit and sense of togetherness.

At the Dong Ha schoolhouse in Le Son village about seven miles south of Da Nang, Marines of the regiment's 2nd and 4th Battalion's joined efforts to provide gifts, candy and food for approximately 700 persons.

Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Gallman Jr., commander of the 2nd Battalion, extended heartiest greetings to village elder Dang Phu Thu at the festival on behalf of his unit.

Traditional paper festival lamps ornamented the one-room schoolhouse. A light rain failed to dampen the spirits of grade school-aged children who ran around playing and clutching cups of sweetened beverages, packages of candy and treats, oranges and apples, cookies, festival masks and noise-makers.

Staff Sergeant C. P. Butler, 2d Battalion, civil affairs, was instrumental in arranging the details for the festival. Butler's hometown friends have contributed in large measures to his civic action efforts and programs here.

Responsible for arrangement and coordination of Marine and Vietnamese efforts in planning the festival was Vietnamese First Lieutenant Le Thanh Vien, liaison officer from the 34th Army of the Republic of South Vietnam artillery battalion.

The artillery Marines, also brought with them their Navy Medical Civil Aid Program team. The hospital corpsmen treated nearly 100 patients prior to the festival.

Later that afternoon, the artillery Marines of the 2nd Bn., joined efforts with their Vietnam-

ese counterparts—the soldiers of the 34th ARVN Artillery Battalion—to conduct a similar festival for children and wives of the ARVN soldiers who were deployed throughout the entire I Corps area, and were unable to be with their families for the event.

Many of the gifts distributed to the children were obtained from the Civic Action Center at the III Marine Amphibious Force. Presents were distributed, in the names of various groups and Stateside organizations.

Thanks to the men of Marine Group 16, the children of Sacred Heart Orphanage, three miles south of Da Nang, had a real party complete with ice cream, cookies, and floating balloons.

First Lieutenant Joe Dalton of Brooklyn, N.Y., learned about the Vietnamese holiday four days before it occurred.

As civil affairs officer for MAG-16 based near the orphanage, he decided to give a party for the children and began to muster his forces.

From the messhall, he got cookies and cold drinks. Marine Observation Squadron 2 donated toys and clothing. The Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion Six provided ice cream and a local Vietnamese laundry contributed the balloons.

Thus equipped, Lt. Dalton and a dozen volunteers arrived at the orphanage in the afternoon. The pre-school age children greeted the balloon-toting Marines with an enthusiasm shared universally and exclusively by children.

What followed was three hours of happy bedlam. Ice cream was heartily eaten, balloons were hastily popped, and cold drinks doused merrily upon all present.

Guitar playing First Lieutenant John Scilippi, was the star attraction. His songs, though sung in English, bridged the language barrier while the children listened as if they understood every word of "Three Blind Mice" and "Ring Around the Rosie."

It was a day that both the Marines and the children will long remember. It left the Marines more exhausted than the youngsters but just as happy.

Leathernecks of the Fifth and Seventh Marine Regiments and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, concentrated on villages adjacent to their area to make it a memorable one for the Vietnamese children.

The Marines passed out candy, cake, ice cream, cookies, fruit and presents during the day-long celebrations through civic officials and teachers.



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE—Hospitalman Joseph Garcia hands out candy to children at the Mid-Autumn Festival near Chu Lai, Sept. 29. First Marine Division Marines threw parties for children of three villages. The festival has its origins in the 8th Century and is observed in mid-autumn by all Vietnamese. (Photo by Cpl. Garry R. Gaspard)

Captain Kenneth W. Johnson, Seventh Marine Regiment, expressed the theme of the celebration when he told the villagers of Phu Le and Tin Doa hamlets, "It is our hope that tonight when the moon is full that your hearts may also be full with happiness. And we wish to thank the people of Vietnam for allowing us to help make this day a little happier for the children."

The climax of the festival comes at night when the moon is full. Whatever they are doing the Vietnamese take time to enjoy this night when the moon is at its brightest.

For the Marines it was a chance to play Santa Claus and to help cement their good relations with the future generations of Vietnamese by helping them celebrate their biggest holiday.



BUS BOY—A toy greyhound bus may be strange to a Vietnamese child, but from the look on this boy's face, he aims to keep it. The bus was presented to him during the annual Children's Festival by 1st Division Marines. (Photo by Cpl. Garry R. Gaspard)



CANDY FOR THE KIDS—An unidentified Marine from "M" Co., 3rd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, passes out candy to children.

Kenosha, Wisc. citizens aiding Vietnamese children

By: Sgt. Nick Radel

DA NANG—The future of Vietnam lies with the children of Vietnam. The people of Kenosha, Wisconsin are doing something to make that future a brighter one through their compassionate assistance.

The Jaycees of Kenosha have volunteered to assist in this great cause through the Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Program for Vietnam.

The Hoa Phat School and Orphanage, housing over 600 Vietnamese children from ages 5 to 13, has need of such help.

Captain John C. Gillman, commanding officer of Headquarters Company Headquarters Battalion and Gunnery Sergeant Leo G. Manley have been assisting the combination school and orphanage for over a year with donations from battalion Marines.

"The Vietnamese children at the school and orphanage have a constant need for food, clothing and educational materials," said Capt. Gillman, "and we are trying to fill that need so that they will look forward to a happier future."

A five room school has just been completed for children from 7 to 13. There are 45 to 50 children in each class. The children have wooden tables for desks and benches for chairs, with one

blackboard in each classroom. The school was constructed from concrete blocks and cement purchased from Marine Corps Civic Action funds and money donated by the Marine Battalion. The tables and benches were built from scrap and used lumber.

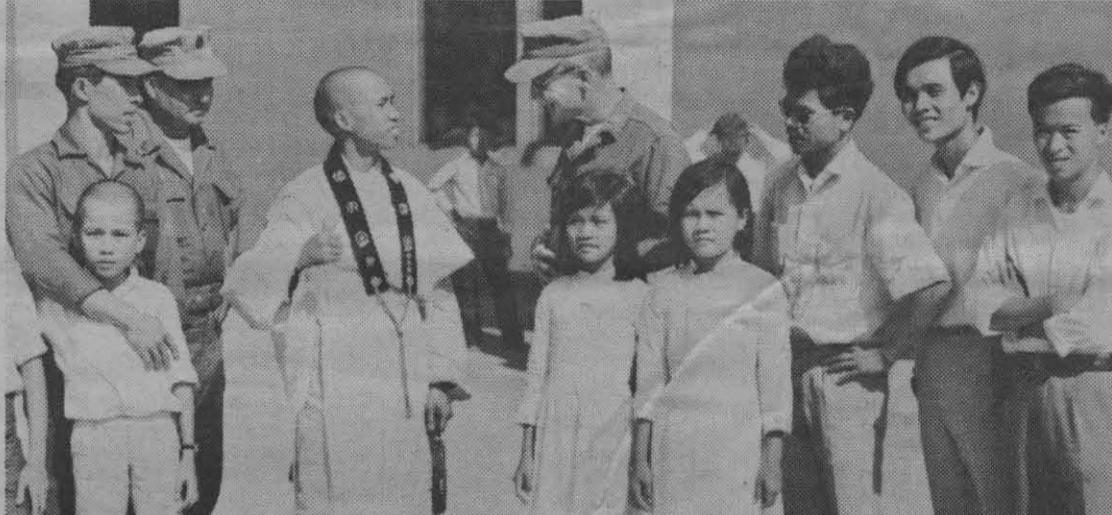
Gunnery Sergeant Manley commented, "The school was completed with team-work and generosity of the Marines of Headquarters Battalion and the people of the United States. They supplied the money and materials and the Vietnamese people provided the labor."

In the school/orphanage complex there is also a nursery school equivalent to kindergarten. Two Vietnamese teachers instruct 160 children in a class of 5 and

6 year olds. They are temporarily housed in a wood frame building that will be replaced by a three classroom cement block building.

Future plans for the complex are for an orphanage dormitory. Now the majority of the "war orphans" live with foster parents and go to school during the day. However, the orphanage is growing so fast that a dormitory is rapidly becoming a necessity.

Captain Gillman said, "There is a definite need for a three story dormitory so the children may be properly taken care of. We would also like to build three more classrooms for the nursery students, and, if materials and money permit, a two story high school."



Students and teachers from the Hoa Phat School and Orphanage group around Capt. John C. Gillman, HqBn., Civil Affairs Officer, as he discusses plans for further improvement of the school and orphanage complex with head schoolmaster Chaplain Venerable This Thanh Huu. Also present are an interpreter from the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam, SSgt. Le Khac Cang and GySgt. Leo G. Manley, Civil Affairs Chief, 3d Marine Division.

New airline half-fare plan approved

The commercial airlines have revealed an improved half-fare plan for military personnel traveling on leave. It puts an end to "certain types of bumping", contains new priorities and a confirmed reservation system.

The agreement has been signed by twenty-two airlines, with more expected to follow suit.

To date, 16 major airlines have agreed to provide confirmed reservations, at half fare, to all military personnel on emergency leave and they are working on a plan to give a priority to men on combat and convalescent leave.

Air Transport Association vice president Norman J. Philion stated in testimony before the House Armed Services subcommittee that the following steps

will be taken by the airlines:

- Effective immediately, servicemen will get absolute priority ahead of all other standby, reduced-fare passengers.

- The military traveler will be advised of his status—in other words he will be told to which point he has been cleared, and if he agrees to take the flight to that point, he will not be bumped by anybody.

- If he does go beyond the point to which he has been cleared, he can only be bumped

by a full-fare passenger who has made prior confirmed reservations.

- The airlines concerned have agreed to a new system of check-in. The check-in time will be stamped on a special card and all airlines at the terminal will honor the check-in time on the card.

- The airlines have agreed to publish a consolidated pamphlet which will contain all information and fares which apply to military standby travelers.

Refuses medical evacuation in order to continue fighting

By: LCpl. A. H. Mitchell

CHU LAI—Lance Corporal Clifford D. Glenn, was awarded the Silver Star Medal for "conspicuous gallantry in action" during ceremonies here Sept. 26.

The nation's third highest combat decoration was presented to Glenn by Major General Lewis J. Fields, 1st Marine Division commanding general.

He was cited for his actions on June 20, 1966, during a Viet Cong attack on his position while serving with "D" Battery, 2nd Bat-

talion, Eleventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

His citation read in part: "Shortly after midnight, LCpl. Glenn's battery was subjected to a Viet Cong infiltration attack, which had been preceded by a barrage of mortar rounds and grenades which inflicted a number of Marine casualties

"Although suffering from multiple shrapnel wounds in the face and legs, LCpl. Glenn refused evacuation and remained in position to repel the enemy onslaught



'Bulldog' returns

Capt. Jerry R. Thompson, a pilot with VMA-223 receives congratulations and a "welcome back" from LtCol. Robert B. Sinclair, VMA-223 commander upon logging the unit's 1,216th flight hour in September. The record for the Chu Lai-based squadron topped the previous monthly high of nearly 1,131 hours set by the "Bulldog Squadron" in July.

(Photo by PFC R. G. Cowen)

Genuine VC spotter built by MAG Cpl.

By: Sgt. P. L. Thompson

CHU LAI—About ten feet of wire, a piece of wood, an old number 10 can from the mess hall, and a used light and battery from a UH-34-D helicopter, has become a new weapon against the insur-

gent Viet Cong. With the above and a great deal of ingenuity, Corporal Christopher C. Justus, has put together a "genuine Viet Cong spotter"—a searchlight with a range of 800 yards.

The 20-year-old Marine, currently attached to the Marine Aircraft Group-36 Provisional Ri-

Surprise reunion

DA NANG—High atop a mountain two miles from the DMZ is an unlikely place for a family reunion—but Dennis and William Dickinson of New York City had one—quite by accident.

It happened during a helicopter resupply for a battalion of the Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division during Operation Prairie.

Captain Dennis J. Dickinson, air liaison officer for the battalion, called in helicopters for a resupply mission. One arrived with his brother William aboard as crew chief.

Due to the possibility of enemy fire, they only had a few minutes for a quick "how have you been."

Captain Dickinson said he knew his brother was in the Da Nang area, but had not been able to contact him.

"I was taxiing an F8 Crusader jet for a mission once and saw him walking along the ramp, but couldn't stop. This time he was on the plane. Luckily he picked the right hill to land on."

Corporal William Dickinson flies with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 363.

fe Company, is one of the men responsible for the security of the MAG-36 helicopter complex.

While on duty with the third platoon, Justus noticed the large number of flares used every night to light up the beaches in his sector of the security area.

Several nights later, while watching a helicopter land, he saw the powerful landing lights scanning the runway.

"All of a sudden it seemed such a simple idea," said the Memphis Marine. He went on to explain that with the help of three other Marines from the platoon he found a light from a helicopter, asked one of the squadrons for a battery that could no longer supply the needed power for a chopper, and started to work.

"The first problem we ran into was the lack of a reflector," said Justus. "We solved this by using a tin can, cutting out part of the bottom, attaching the light and rigging it on a piece of wood".

The next night the light was tested for the first time, and, Justus said, it worked out better than a flare.

Shortly after news of the light spread, Infantry companies from the 1st Marine Division heard of it and came by to see if they could borrow it for a night. They too, said it was much better than the standard hand flare used on their perimeters.

Since then the light has become an object of study.

A design for the light was drawn up and sent to Headquarters Marine Corps citing its usefulness, easy construction and low cost.

Corporal Justus was awarded a meritorious mast from MAG-36's commanding officer, Colonel Victor A. Armstrong, for a job well done.

Casualty report

In the 5 1/2 years from Jan. 1, 1961 through August 27, 1966, American operations in Vietnam have cost U.S. forces 4,919 deaths and 27,149 wounded. Another 287 servicemen are still missing and 72 are known to be prisoners of war or interned.



Vietnam market scene



a cool dress
for hot tote
KOWLOON, CHINA

One-manpower Radical produces a quiet Taiwan ride

Children, nets,
and an



Filipino boy
with his
most
prized
possession

Pretty Thai basket seller
BANGKOK, THAILAND



baskets laundry
occasional dog, are a part of the life of a Hong Kong fisherman



Time and place

Reading his Bible during a break after hiking three miles through jungle near the DMZ is PFC Richard E. Ferris, an automatic rifleman serving with 3rd Bn., Fourth Marines.

(Photo by PFC E. L. Cole)

Missiles ready at all times

By: Cpl. Mike Saska

DA NANG—A 23-year-old Corporal arrives at his designated place of duty and checks out his working area before starting his daily task. His job—supervise nine men under him. His mission—insure that the Hawks Missiles are ready to go and will go when the time comes.

Corporal Robert L. Webb has the responsibility of checking and re-checking the intricate systems of the Hawk Missile at "B" Battery, Second Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion.

Webb is in charge of the Missile Test Section and overall supervisor of the strategically placed anti-aircraft missiles around the battery.

His section is divided into several teams, each with a distinct job but all employed to accomplish the over-all mission.

The missiles arrive in a canister container. Secured at each end, the drab cylinder is common place around the battery but its deadly contents are the daily responsibilities of the test section.

Four men on the section are assigned to "can" and "de-can" the missiles. Using mechanical equipment a bulky looking tube is maneuvered out of its coffin. The stripped "bird" is then given its "wings" by the team.

They add the four stabilizer fins and elevons. They attach the initiator, the safety arming device, and finally, the detonator. Their job is complete for the first missile only to turn to the next canister to repeat the process.

Another man is responsible for the loaders. He places the "birds" in their positions preparing them for flight.

The final two teams are concerned with handling equipment which simulates a missile on a launcher and goes through the complete stages of firing, flight and arrival on target. Cpl. Webb is in charge of the test shop team.

"If it works here, it has to work up there," said Webb, "That's all there is to it."

The same process is repeated on the launchers using different men and machines but working for the same results.

Every six weeks each missile is tested. It is run through the

test procedures in the shop and then rotated to a different position.

Some are replaced in the canisters, others are placed in threes on a pallet. The remainder are those of the greatest importance.

With silent power three missiles loaded on a launcher are on

standby to be fired by remote control in the event of an air attack.

Will they fire? Cpl. Webb with a stern look of determination and pride in his section remarked, "If firing conditions would exist, they (the missiles) are ready and will be ready at any time."

Flying sergeant gets two combat awards

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—Gunnery Sergeant Donald E. Beaver received two combat decorations, the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and the Purple Heart Medal, in the same ceremony.

The awards were presented on Sept. 28, at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang, by Marine Aircraft Group-16 commander, Colonel Richard M. Hunt.

The Navy Commendation Medal was awarded for "heroic achievement" while serving as an aerial gunner with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164 in connection with operations against insurgent communist forces on June 10-11.

On the night of June 10, HMM-164 was called upon to evacuate wounded. Army personnel from the jungle near Dak To—an hour and one-half flight to the south. Enroute one of the three choppers dispatched crashed into a cloud-obscured mountain top.

After a vain attempt at locating the downed helicopter in the almost non-existent visibility, the two remaining choppers completed the rescue of the wounded soldiers and resumed the search.

At about 8:30 a.m. on June 11, they spotted the first survivor, a Navy corpsman. Although injured he made his way into a nearby valley, through what Beaver described as a "tremendously steep hill, really hard climbing, and terribly thick jungle."

Beaver volunteered to lead an expedition into the Viet Cong infested jungle in search of the other Marines. Arriving at the crash scene, the rescue team found one dead, two critically injured, and another seriously injured.

The one who was able to walk was taken to an open area where he was lifted into one of the helicopters by hoist.

The other two survivors were placed between fallen tree trunks while a gap was blasted in the towering rain forest large enough to lift out the more seriously injured man.

The third was taken to a clearing further up the slope for eva-

cuation.

Nearly three months later, on Sept. 2, Beaver was involved in a heated fire fight while inserting Marine ground forces against positions some 18 miles south of Da Nang. He received his Purple Heart Medal for shrapnel wounds sustained in the action.



GySgt Donald Beaver

Short Rounds

Brothers

CHU LAI—Besides being brothers and careermen in the Armed Forces, Marine Captain Robert E. Williamson and Army Sergeant Major John W. Williamson have something else in common:

They both volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam.

The two met and compared career notes at the 1st Marine Division Oct. 1.

Captain Williamson of Headquarters Company, Eleventh Marines served in Vietnam from August 1964 to February 1965. He was then an advisor to a Vietnamese Marine Brigade. Two months of his tour were spent at a special forces camp at Gia Vuc and another two months with Marine Air Base Squadron 16 at Da Nang.

The Army Sergeant Major works for Marine Brigadier General William K. Jones at the Military Assistance Command, headquarters in Saigon.

During his first tour in Vietnam from June 1963 to June 1964, he served with an Army experimental team.

Asked why he volunteered a second time, Sgt. Maj. Williamson, father of seven children, said, "I couldn't let my younger brother get ahead of me."

The Marine captain began his second overseas tour in February, the Army sergeant major in August.

VMA-223 strike

DA NANG—A phone rings weakly and a Marine pilot answers the call. The message received was short and to the point—give air support to a friendly unit under enemy fire.

In less than 15 minutes Captain Gary R. Grant, and Captain Pete A. Krueger, two pilots on standby alert with Marine Attack Squadron-223 at Marine Aircraft Group-12, were on target approximately 15 miles south of Chu Lai.

Friendly troops were receiving heavy enemy fire from a village and it was up to the two "Bulldog" pilots to suppress the enemy action and destroy their emplacements.

Each pilot made four runs on the village with napalm and 20mm cannon fire.

The result destroyed 25 structures and damaged eight. They also accounted for five Viet Cong killed.

Texas pilots

DA NANG—Two Texas pilots, encountering automatic weapons and small arms fire, made a dozen runs on an enemy troop emplacement killing eight Viet Cong and destroying the VC position.

Captain H. J. Fennell of Gilmer, and Captain D. D. Page of Warton, attached to Marine Attack Squadron-214, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, were called upon to make repeated runs on an enemy placement.

The "Black Sheep" squadron pilots returned the fire encountered while over target with rockets, napalm and 20mm cannon fire.

The air attack destroyed 10 fighting holes and a trenchline, besides killing the eight enemy troops.

Up front

HUE/PHU BAI—Lance Corporal Robert C. Barnes likes to be up front where the action is.

He got his chance recently while acting as point man for a company-size patrol near the demilitarized zone in South Vietnam.

The 23-year-old Marine said the jungle was dense and the trail he followed twisted and turned

every which way.

He spotted six Viet Cong soldiers walking toward his position. Before they could fire a shot, the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion Marine ambushed and killed all six.

A few months ago, during Operation Holt, Barnes surprised three VC and disposed of them without having a shot fired in his direction. Barnes' fellow Marines feel safer with him up front.

Decorated

CHU LAI—"You are a very brave man," Major General Hoang Xuan Lam said, as he presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry to Marine Captain Frank H. Adams during ceremonies at the 2d Army of the Republic of Vietnam headquarters in Quang Ngai Oct. 5.

Captain Adams, a Marine aerial observer with the 1st Marine Division here, was awarded the medal for piloting an O1-D Bird Dog aircraft to a safe landing after the pilot had been killed by Viet Cong sniper fire on Sept. 23.

With the pilot lying, mortally wounded across the instrument panel, Capt. Adams, with no previous flying experience, took control of the aircraft, righted it and flew "blind" 18 miles to Quang Ngai.

Once above the airstrip he was "talked in" from the tower to a safe landing.

Since the incident, the 27-year-old Marine has flown an additional nine aerial missions . . . "but not as the pilot," he pointed out.

Tame tiger

DA NANG—A friendly smile has replaced the once vicious "Tweed's Tigers".

Staff Sergeant Dennis C. Barts, a metalsmith with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361, Marine Aircraft Group-36, has switched cats and in doing so has turned the once ferocious HMM-361 squadron insignia from a terror of the jungle to a contented kitten.

When the Memphis Leatherneck joined the squadron in June at the Ky Ha, Marine Corps Air Facility located 50 miles south of Da Nang, everywhere he looked the squadron's savage tiger insignia glared back at him.

"It was sort of depressing having that mean-looking cat continually baring his fangs at me all day long," explained the sergeant.

"Recently, while thumbing through a magazine, I showed the non-ferocious version to Lieutenant Colonel McDonald D. Tweed, our commanding officer, and he decided we would switch cats.

"No-one likes a 'sorehead', so our mean tiger was on his way out", stated Barts who has been keeping the metal and paint shop crews busy repainting the friendly "Tweed's Tiger" insignia on the unit's UH-34D helicopters.

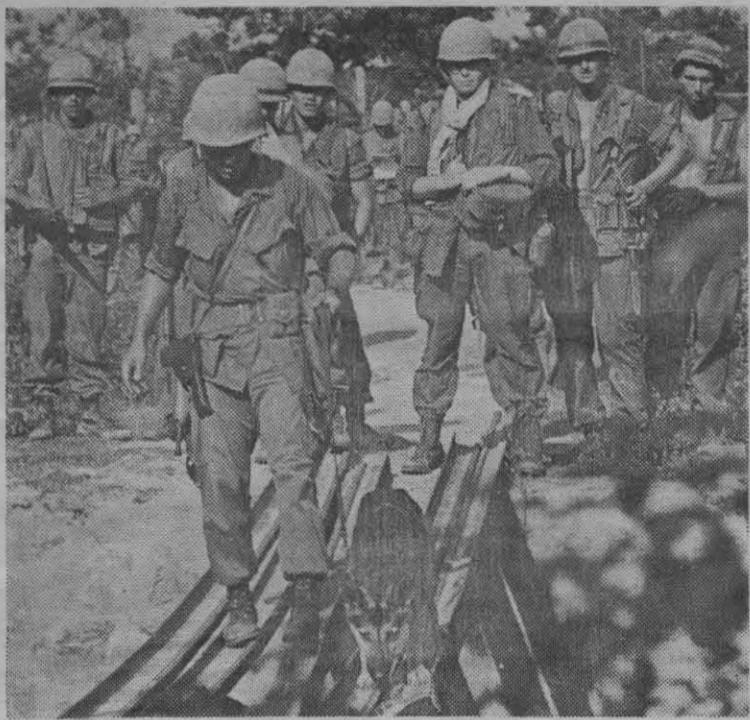
Interview

CHU LAI—A long distance telephone call and a cooperative Phoenix, Arizona, radio station resulted in a taped interview with a Marine in Vietnam heard in New York City.

The interview with Lance Corporal Donald Doscher, Phoenix, taped at Chu Lai Sept. 13, by Tom Hartell of Radio Station KYND.

Doscher's family was informed of the broadcast time by the radio station and were anxiously waiting for it to begin when the telephone rang.

The caller was the Marine's brother in New York City who knew nothing of the interview. The mother placed the radio near the telephone and . . . Doscher's brother listened to the broadcast 3000 miles away.



Sniff, sniff

"Stormy", a Marine scout dog with the Scout Dog platoon, 1st Military Police Bn., III MAF, leads the way across a bridge during a search and destroy mission several miles northwest of Chu Lai. Stormy and his handler, Cpl. Ronald L. Aiello, are attached to the 3d Bn., Fifth Marines.

(Photo by LCpl Mike Worden)

Becomes 'minister' during Hill 400 fight

By: LCpl. Tom Sawyer

DONG HA — A Navy corpsman became a "minister" during the battle for hill 400 last week when a wounded chaplain gave him his cross of office.

Hospitalman Second Class Leeland R. LaRose, a corpsman with "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marines, was making his way out of a dense jungle to a make-shift landing zone when he heard a cry for "Corpsman". As he raced across the field he noticed a man running back and forth caring for the wounded. At the side of one Marine, the officer knelt in prayer. Suddenly an enemy mortar round slammed into the landing zone.

When LaRose regained his senses he saw the officer clutching his right leg. LaRose raced to administer aid to the wounded man and discovered it was Navy Chaplain Stanley Beech.

Chaplain Beech smiled and said if the wound turned out to be serious, "I can still preach on one leg."

"After I did all I could," LaRose said, "I asked if there was anything else he needed. The chaplain asked me if I would pray with him for a few minutes. I knelt down beside him and we prayed together. I asked God to

save the chaplain's leg. I felt a strong feeling inside me — I knew that the chaplain's leg would be saved."

Chaplain Beech is now back in the United States — his leg was saved.

LaRose was given Chaplain Beech's cross to carry on with what the chaplain had been doing in Vietnam.

Although he is still a corpsman; anyone seeking spiritual guidance or who just feels like sitting down and talking, is welcome to visit LaRose.

LaRose's spiritual work won't stop after his tour in Vietnam. He plans to study for the ministry when he leaves the service and become a pastor in his church in the States.

Commandant expresses thanks to those affected by extension

A message of appreciation to all Marines who were affected under the involuntary extension of enlistment last year has been received from Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The text of the message is:

"On December 14, 1965, I extended my appreciation to the first group of Marines, who had experienced involuntary extensions of their enlistment and were about to depart from active duty, for the exemplary manner in which they had performed the additional service they had been called upon to render.

"By October 28, 1966, all Marines, whose enlistments were involuntarily extended, will have been afforded an opportunity to be released from active service. Again, with the greatest satisfaction and pride in each and everyone of you I extend my sincere appreciation for the many sacrifices you have made and the unselfish manner in which you have accepted and performed your assigned tasks. The service you have rendered, be it in Vietnam or elsewhere in the world, has contributed significantly toward the attainment of our nation's goals in Southeast Asia. Additionally, this service has enabled the Marine Corps to maintain the necessary experienced manpower to field fighting units capable of meeting and defeating hostile forces in the traditional Marine Corps manner.

"To those of you who have elected to continue in the military profession I am most pleased and honored that you have decided to make the Marine Corps a career. It is a good career and a rewarding one.

"To those of you who have not yet made your decision of this important matter (1) encourage you to study well the advantage of the many benefits available to you as Marines. We continue to

need experienced, skilled, qualified and battle-tested Marines and we are now able to reward personnel possessing these assets by such incentives as pro pay, variable reenlistment bonuses, rapid promotions and selection of duty assignment.

"To those of you who are returning to civilian life I wish the

utmost success in the profession you may choose. I am confident that you will continue to reflect credit on the Marine Corps in whatever you may do or wherever you may be.

Again, I wish to thank all of you on behalf of your nation and the Marine Corps, for a job well done."

Knowing the language helps in curing sick

By: Cpl. Nick Harder

DA NANG — "When you're trying to cure sick people in a foreign country and have to wave your arms and make gestures to make yourself understood, it's time to learn the language."

So said Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class Larry L. Hoedl, of the 2nd Battalion First Marines, 3rd Marine Division.

At the time he was cleansing a four-year-old Vietnamese boy's head sores. The lad had arrived at the battalion's morning sick call, along with dozens of other civilians, 12 miles south of Da Nang.

"When I first came to Vietnam, I was full of ideas about how to treat the Vietnamese," said Hoedl.

"When I was assigned to a CAC (Combined Action Company) squad in Phu Bai, I knew it was a good opportunity to get to know the people, live with them, and treat their ills.

"When I held my first sick call for the village people, I had my initial series of shocks. Some of the people had obvious diseases and infections.

"For others, diagnosing was difficult because I couldn't communicate with them. I was really at a loss and wasn't much help to them.

"I decided to pick up a basic Vietnamese vocabulary, but fast," said Hoedl. "I bought a

Vietnamese dictionary and practiced on everybody from kids to the village chief."

Gradually Hoedl's vocabulary began to grow and his ability to treat people grew proportionately. He now has over one thousand words in his Vietnamese vocabulary — but has found himself with a new problem.

"When the battalion moved from Phu Bai to the southern Da Nang area, I found the people here speak a completely different dialect, although the language is basically the same."

"I'll just have to begin all over again," he said, "but my dictionary's getting pretty worn."

Move-

(Continued From Page 1)

In the ensuing battle near the DMZ in the northern province of Quang Tri, U. S. Marine units thoroughly disorganized the NVA Division, causing its withdrawal back across the DMZ and in the process inflicting 900 confirmed kills on the enemy.

Since that time the 3d Division and units of the 1st Marine Division have been conducting Operation Prairie in the same vicinity, denying this vital area to the NVA attempting to infiltrate over the DMZ into South Vietnam.

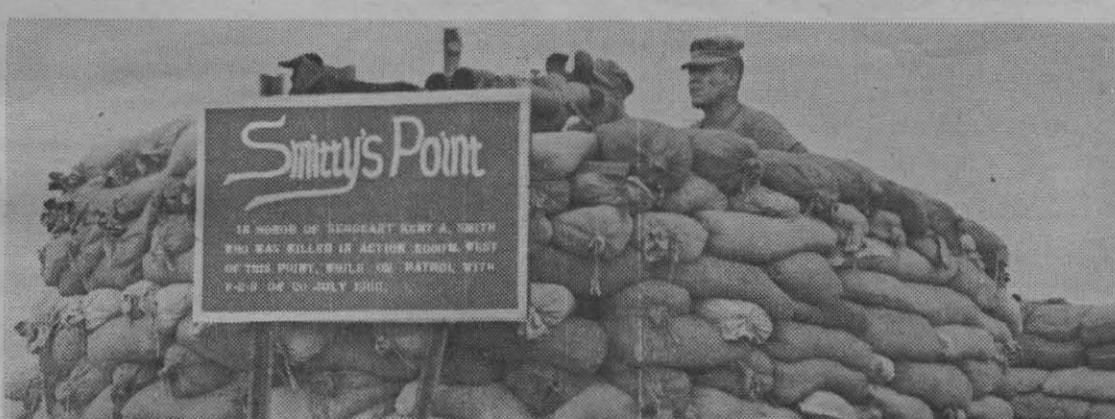
With many of its units already committed to Operation Prairie, it was thought the 3d Division could best influence the operation by moving closer to the scene; thus the reason for the move to Phu Bai.

The 1st Marine Division has taken over the tasks previously assigned to the 3d Division in the Da Nang area.

The First Marine Division entered the combat zone on April 1, 1966 when the division's command post moved ashore at Chu Lai. The 7th Marines had preceded the rest of the division to Vietnam, taking part in Operations Starlight, Piranha, Harvest Moon, Utah and Texas.

In addition to assuming additional tasks in the Da Nang area, elements remaining at Phu Bai continue its threefold mission of destroying the Viet Cong insurgents, protecting the Chu Lai combat base, and continuing the Marine Corps' civic action program.

Point dedicated to fallen comrade



SMITTY'S POINT—Dedicated to the memory of Sgt. Kent A. Smith, 2nd Bn., Third Regiment, who was killed in action by Viet Cong forces last July.

(Photo By Sgt. D. J. Small)

just a few well chosen words," said his platoon sergeant.

"He was a great guy, and a great Marine," recalled other friends from "F" Company, Third Marine Regiment.

Smith's platoon sergeant remembers the Salt Lake City, Utah, Marine's concern for his men before the patrol left that day. "He felt something was going to happen."

Smith and his squad acted as point for the patrol near the village of Nong Lam. He was killed

by an electrically detonated VC mine.

Now it's "Smitty's Point" 20 miles southwest of Da Nang. It's one of the most strategic observation points within the Third Marine Division operational area.

It boasts a 20-power telescope which enables the Marines of "F" Co. to keep close watch on Viet Cong activity in the Vu Gia river valley.

The Marines there feel that Smitty is watching too.

New helmet

A new flight helmet having four times the strength protection of those now in use will soon be available for Marine Corps helicopter crew members in Vietnam.

Besides providing increased head protection from ballistic fragments while landing troops by vertical assault in enemy occupied zones, the new helmets also provide excellent crash impact protection and noise reduction.

The helmet, developed by Naval Systems command, also has a dual eye-protective visor.

Shell of the helmet is molded of ballistic nylon and resins and lined with plastic foam. The helmet assembly weighs five pounds.

By: Sgt. Dave Small

DA NANG—"He was a natural leader, all his men were eager to follow him," said Lieutenant John R. Schwarm, so the third platoon dedicated a memorial to Sergeant Kent A. Smith.

"We made a large dedication sign and placed it on the highest point overlooking the Vu Gia river valley, where Smitty was killed in action last July," Schwarm added.

Smitty was the type of a guy that could brighten your day with

Silver Star:

Corpsman directs Medevac of 22 critically injured troops

DA NANG—"Above me I could hear the grenades as they made dull thumps against the branches of the banana tree. It was 1 a.m. and that Viet Cong out there was trying to kill me . . . I found it hard to believe. He threw a lot of grenades and they exploded all around me, but the branches of the tree deflected every throw, saving me and the wounded Marine I was trying to help."

Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Delmar J. Wiggins was caught in a triangular ambush while serving with "F" Company, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines in La The Bac village (3), about 15 miles south of Da Nang.

What began as a routine search and destroy mission ended in a bitter fire fight against an estimated force of 500 Viet Cong and a clash which would later give birth to "Operation Kings" on March 18, 1966.

For his heroic action in personally directing the medical evacuation of 22 critically wounded Marines under fire, HM3 Wiggins received the Silver Star Medal from Major General Wood B. Kyle, Commanding General, 3d Marine

Division, on September 27, 1966.

At 3 p.m. on March 18, Wiggins' company was pinned down by heavy small arms fire and 81mm mortar fire by what was then estimated to be a platoon-sized VC unit.

"We were completely pinned down and had walked into a perfectly planned ambush," said Wiggins. "We couldn't dig in or move out and had great difficulty in removing the first few casualties."

By nightfall, the platoon size enemy force had ballooned into

an estimated reinforced battalion, according to observers on Hill 55. Supplies were running short and one attempt at medical evacuation by chopper failed.

"There was no way to get the casualties out by foot so I asked for a med-evac chopper over the field radio". In darkness, Wiggins directed a chopper to a landing zone using flashlights in the midst of heavy fire. The chopper descended but was cut down by small arms fire and a mortar.

Infantrymen from the company took advantage of the misfortune and turned the tide of battle in their favor by dismantling the .30 caliber machine guns from the chopper and directing the muzzles on the Viet Cong.

Wiggins, meanwhile, busied himself with the task of moving the critically wounded Marines to shelter and rendering artificial respiration and what limited assistance could be given in the field.

"When the chopper came down", said Wiggins, "We had to get those wounded out of the line of fire. We moved them into foxholes, former VC caves, and even protected them with our own bodies. I have seen many firefights but this was the worst I've ever been through".

By 3:15 a.m. the Viet Cong had lost their fire superiority because of the added fire power from the downed chopper and broke contact. Almost immediately the wounded were medically evacuated.

Operation toothbrush

By: GySgt. J. J. Oggerino
CHU LAI — About 800 elementary school children in nine hamlets of Chu Lai will receive dental treatment of a joint 1st Marine Division endeavor.

The program, initiated by the civil affairs section, Seventh Marine Regiment and the 1st Dental Company, began Oct. 3 when Navy Lieutenant Peter A. Morabito examined 80 children in the hamlet of Tri Binh, eight miles south of Chu Lai.

During the examination Dr. Morabito made a note of those children needing emergency treatment and returned to the hamlet Oct. 6 to perform 25 emergency extractions. He also treated adults who came to the clinic set up in the local school house.

Upon completion of the emergency treatment Dr. Morabito demonstrated the proper method of brushing teeth, distributed toothbrushes to the children and gave each family a bottle of mouthwash.

The program is designed to bring dental hygiene to every school child in the Bin Sam elementary school district. A follow-up clinic will be conducted next month.

Dr. Morabito is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry.



HM3 Delmar J. Wiggins received the Silver Star for his part in directing the evacuation of 22 critically wounded Marines during a fire fight near Da Nang on March 18, 1966. Wiggins is also the holder of a Purple Heart Medal. The corpsman is now a member of 3d Medical Battalion

(Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)

Maj. in Huey deals one-punch knockout

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

PHU BAI — Major Jon R. Robson and his UH-1E "Huey" helicopter of Marine Observation Squadron-2 dealt a one punch knock-out to a Viet Cong recoilless rifle and its crew.

The action occurred last month a few miles east of Phu Bai where elements of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam were engaged in heavy fighting with the Viet Cong.

Robson's Huey gunship was escorting two helicopters of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-161, assigned the mission of evacuating

wounded South Vietnamese soldiers.

A U.S. Army observation plane received heavy ground fire as it flew in to mark the landing zone.

After two runs by the Huey, the ground forces still reported receiving fire. Then the Army plane spotted the Viet Cong strong point, centered around a 57 millimeter recoilless rifle.

Robson made a pass over the position and fired ten rockets from the pods on the sides of his aircraft.

The enemy fire ceased and the other helicopters were able to successfully complete the evacuation.



Brothers meet

Marine WO Roland L. Lambert and his brother, Air Force SSgt. Richard A. Lambert talk over old times at 3d Marine division headquarters. This is the first meeting for them in more than eight years. Roland is with G-2 section and Richard is with the 303d Munition Main. Squadron at Bien Hoa AB near Saigon.

Sgt., Detroit citizens help RVN refugees

By: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG—Brighter smiles have become commonplace on the faces of Vietnamese children at the Phuoc Thanh Catholic refugee camp about five miles north of here since Sergeant Kurt L. Cordes of Detroit began presenting them with clothes.

The 25-year-old electronics technician is attached to Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron 235, Marine Aircraft Group-11, First Marine Aircraft Wing.

He and his wife discussed providing clothes for refugees before he left the U.S., after acquaintances, who had returned from Vietnam, told them of the clothing need.

While he was enroute here, his wife was not idle. She contacted their pastor and with help from members of the Fairview Church of Christ in Detroit began collecting clothes.

After his arrival in Vietnam in May, Sgt. Cordes informed his wife he had located a refugee camp.

In less than three months after his arrival the boxes were enroute here. So far three boxes have arrived and there are more on the way.

When Sgt. Cordes dismounts from the truck at the camp, the children swarm over him. It is hard to tell from the beaming smiles, who enjoys the visits, most, Sgt. Cordes or the children.

Editor wives

Wives of servicemen in Vietnam around the Minneapolis-St. Paul area are putting out a four-page mimeographed newspaper once a month that covers "doings back home," according to the American Red Cross.

The group is sponsored by the American Red Cross Minneapolis-Hennepin County chapter.



CHILDISH AFFECTION—A ten-year-old Vietnamese girl shows her appreciation for clothing she has received from Sgt. Kurt L. Cordes while a six-year-old boy happily accepts an offering from the 25-year-old resident of Detroit.

(Photo By: Sgt. Rich Grosco)

Mechs keep them purring at helicopter engine shop

By: GySgt. E. Nolen

DA NANG—"Keep them purring" is the motto of a small group of engine specialists at the Marine Corps Air Facility in Chu Lai.

This group,—Staff Sergeant Robert E. Usina; Sergeant Patrick E. Davison, and Private First Class Daniel J. Paulson—form the engine shop of Marine Observation Squadron 6, a unit of Marine Aircraft Group-36.

Their mission is to keep the squadron's UH-1E "Huey" helicopter turbine shaft Lycoming-T-53 jet engines in first class condition and to rebuild and balance tail rotor blade assembly sections.

"When one of our aircraft engines even so much as sputters we're ready to work on it," Usina stated. "If a line maintenance crewman thinks there is something seriously wrong with an engine we give the unit a thorough inspection. We make sure everything is perfect — there's no room for mistakes in our trade," the shop chief added.

The group's largest workload is the required 13 week check of each engine. "We use an odd and even check system," said Sgt. Davison. "During odd checks we

pull and replace all fuel and oil filters and visually inspect external areas of the engine for damaged or missing parts. We also check the compressor and turbine section for foreign object damage," he added.

The 'even' checks include a complete 'hot section' inspection. This section is the portion of the turbine where the fuel and air mix and explode into power.

"They're sweet little engines and we love to keep them purring," Ursina, a veteran of more than 14 years of jet engine repair experience, concluded.



BRONZE STAR—Cpl. Elmer Durbin is congratulated upon receiving a Bronze Star Medal for heroism during Operation Hastings in July.

(Photo by Cpl. Paul Johnson)



KARATE CLUB—SSgt Donald Bohan, in black shirt, demonstrates his championship form to members of the Marble Mountain Isshinryu Karate Club. The club is made up of Marines from MAG-16 and headed by Bohan, a fifth degree black belt holder and former North Carolina state champion.

(Photo by Cpl Paul Johnson)

MAG-16 forms Karate club

By: Cpl Bob Pitner

DA NANG — "Karate is the art of killing with the least amount of effort, but the most amount of energy placed in the part of your body that is striking," explains Staff Sergeant Donald Bohan, a fifth degree black belt holder. While chief for Marine Aircraft Group 16, Bohan spends his spare time teaching this deadly art to 35 Marines stationed at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang.

They are members of the Marble Mountain Isshinryu Karate Club, formed by the former North Carolina state champion last March. They meet four days a week, rain or shine, to practice.

Bohan has founded five Karate clubs and believes the sport should be included as a basic

part of military training. He stresses that it develops good physical condition, mental condition, and self discipline."

He was introduced to Karate while stationed on Okinawa 10

years ago and since then has reached a level of proficiency unsurpassed by few Americans. He gave demonstrations at the New York World's Fair in 1964 and 1965.



Swing it

The "Hondells," a rock 'n' roll singing group, entertains Marines of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment during a USO tour of 1st Marine Division units on Oct. 9.

Airport info desk

The Department of Defense's air travel testimony to Congress on half-fare leave rates called for military information desks at six major airports around the country on a trial basis. Military Traffic Management and Terminal Services (MTMTS) would gain responsibility for monitoring and taking appropriate action on leave travel by commercial air.

Chaos of war brings out the best in men

DA NANG—When faced with the kind of chaos only war can produce, Corporal Elmer Durbin, a member of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, has proven he can react swiftly.

His quick and heroic actions during the first day of "Operation Hastings" earned him the Bronze Star Medal.

The citation reads in part: "Cpl. Durbin was acting as a crew chief of a CH-46A helicopter of HMM-265 which participated in the initial helicopter strike in Operation Hastings on July 15, 1966. During the first landing of this strike, three helicopters crashed in the landing zone. Cpl. Durbin's aircraft was next to land in the zone after the crashes and stayed on to evacuate the wounded.

"He leaped from his aircraft and raced across the landing zone

to assist the personnel to his helicopter for evacuation. He spotted a wounded man lying in a ditch about one hundred meters in front of his helicopter and went back to get a stretcher and secured litter bearers from available Marines to assist loading the wounded.

"His complete disregard for his own safety, his heroic and professional actions throughout the entire operation, were an inspiration to all who observed him."

The decoration was presented by HMM-265's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert E. Mendenhall, on Sept. 28 at Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang.

Chopper fixers

DA NANG — A 6-man team of aircraft repairmen has had the opportunity afforded few civilians of observing at first hand, Marines on the job in Vietnam.

All civil service employees from the North Island Naval Air Station near San Diego, Calif., they arrived in Vietnam in July to effect several modifications on the CH-46A helicopter used by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadrons-164 and 265.

During their stay at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang, they worked and lived under the same conditions as the Marines. Team leader Ferris G. White, a 27-year veteran with the Civil Service, said of the Marines:

"We had many working with us and they were outstanding men, all of them. The squadrons were wonderful to us."

The primary modification incorporated on the CH-46A "Sea Knights" was a barrier filter designed to keep sand out of the jet engines. Another change was a new inter-com system which improved communications between the helicopter pilot and crew.

The six-man team includes: T. E. Allen, J. L. Vigil, F. G. White, R. E. Small, J. C. Floyd and F. C. Lawrence.



Ice cream

A Vietnamese boy gets his first taste of ice cream from his big sister at the Sacred Heart Orphanage near Da Nang. The ice cream and other goodies were part of a party given the children by the men of MAG-16, based one-half mile from the orphanage. (Photo by Cpl. Paul E. Johnson)

Exchange accepting orders for U.S. autos

The Vietnam Regional Exchange has instituted a brand-new service for its authorized patrons. Now, with a single \$250 deposit, the serviceman can order an American automobile for stateside pickup.

Air Strike

DA NANG — Two A4E Skyhawk jet pilots halted enemy fire and destroyed their gun positions while flying support for a helicopter pickup 25 miles south of Chu Lai.

Captains Larry T. Denny and John R. Stummer, both members of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 214, were flying cover for a helicopter when the aircraft received heavy enemy fire 100 yards from the landing zone.

The two Marine pilots from Marine Aircraft Group-12 strafed the enemy troops and their emplacements, effectively silencing their guns.

Most experts here feel the most convenient way to handle the payment is by saving a maximum amount of money during your tour through the new Uniformed Services Savings Deposits, which pays 10 percent interest compounded quarterly.

A major point brought out by the Exchange is that each of the three factory representatives in the new car concessions give a 15 to 20 percent discount (depending on the size of car) to command personnel.

With contracts now signed with American Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motors, the VNRE expect similar arrangements to be firmed soon with General Motors.

Each PX patron ordering a car through this major service will be able to specify exact details of his automobile, such as color, trim, accessories, etc.

Exchange officials, enthusiastic over obtaining this service for Vietnam patrons, anticipate extensive transactions in it.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM:

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

Postage
3rd Class 4¢
Airmail 8¢

TO: _____

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

1st all-USMC permanent airfield

It's now MCAS Chu Lai

By: SSgt. Lyn Parnell

DA NANG—A two-fold ceremony conducted at Chu Lai Oct. 5 dedicated the first all Marine Corps permanent landing facility in Vietnam and welcomed the men of Marine Aircraft Group 13 to the facility.

Major General L. B. Robertshaw, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, in dedicating the Marine Corps Air Station, Chu Lai Main, said, "This airfield will be a memorial to the men that gave their lives to make this facility possible."

Constructed of concrete, and has mobile arresting gear at each end. There are concrete aprons and taxi-ways which provide access to the fuel pits and hangar area.

Following the dedication, Colonel Douglas D. Petty, commanding officer of MAG-13, made the first official landing on the runway in a TF9J jet.

"This airstrip is an outstanding addition to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing assets in the Republic of Vietnam," said Col. Petty. "The new runway is unquestionably the best in Vietnam and will provide MAG-13 fighter-attack aircraft with facilities from which they can conduct all-weather operations against the enemy."

MAG-13 was activated March 1, 1942, at San Diego, Calif., and saw action during the Marshall Islands campaign.

At the close of World War II the Group was deactivated and then during the Korean War was reactivated in 1951. They deployed to the Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii in early 1952.

From 1952 until 1965 the group served as the air arm for the 1st Marine Brigade. At the present time there are four squadrons in the Group. They are: Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 13; Marine Air Base Squadron 13; and Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 323 and 542.

Both fighter attack squadrons fly the F4B Phantom jet aircraft. Another Phantom squadron will join the group in the near future.

Present for the ceremonies were Major General H. Nicker-son, Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, Brigadier General William A. Stiles, Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, and other high ranking military and civilian officials.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Band under the direction of CWO-4 Victor Shul provided music for the ceremonies.



FIRST STRIKE—Col. Douglas D. Petty, CO, MAG-13, paints a bomb on his aircraft to signify the first combat strike flown the new MAG-13 airfield at Chu Lai. LtCol. Aubrey W. Talbert, CO VMFA-323 holds the stencil. Talbert was Petty's wingman for the mission flown in support of Marine ground units

(Photo by Sgt. Joe Abreu)

Blue, Girl Dragon join ROK Marines

By: Lt. Kwan Hyock Jo

DA NANG—Blue Dragon and Girl Dragon are the newest members of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Blue Dragon Brigade. They are less than a month old.

The son and daughter of Viet Cong guerrillas, the babies were named and adopted by the Blue Dragons after two staff sergeants found their mothers during Operations Van Buren and Lee and delivered the infants in the field.

Neither of the Marines, Staff Sergeants Choi Young Sam, 24, and Chun Young Bu, 25, had any previous experience as a mid-wife.

Choi was leading his squad toward a Viet Cong Hamlet Oct. 3, after U.S. Marine helicopters had dropped the Dragons at Bin Khanh, Quang Ngai Province. He found the woman lying in a rice paddy during a driving rain storm. By motions she indicated she was about to have a baby

While other Marines held a poncho over the sergeant and the woman, Choi successfully delivered little Yong Hee (Girl Dragon). SSgt. Shin Yong Dae, 29, a naval surgeon, was on hand to care for the woman after the birth.

The Vietnamese woman, Phan Thi Xuan, revealed that her husband was a local Viet Cong who fled before the Korean Marines arrived on the scene.

Lee Chung Yong (Blue Dragon) was delivered by Chun during Operation Van Buren under similar circumstances.

Blue Dragon's father was also a VC but decided to quit the communists when he saw what good care the Koreans gave his wife and son.

With the consent of the parents, General Lee Bong Chool, commanding general of the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade, adopted and named the children and accepted responsibility for providing for their livelihood.

Details given on change to Military Medicare Act

Dependents of active duty personnel may obtain out-patient care from civilian sources without first going through military channels under the Military Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966.

The new outpatient care program went into effect Oct. 1 and is expected to benefit an estimated 1.6 million active duty dependents of some four million living remote from military medical facilities.

These individuals previously paid all costs when going to civilian sources. Now, the dependent's sponsor pays all charges during a fiscal year until the costs reach \$50, then he pays only 20 percent of further costs that year. If the sponsor claims more than one dependent, he pays the first \$100 and 20 percent of the remainder for that fiscal year.

Once the \$50 or \$100 total has been reached, the civilian source bills the government for 80 percent of charges thereafter and collects 20 percent from the sponsor.

Most types of outpatient care

are authorized. Dental care, however, may be provided only as a necessary adjunct to medical or surgical treatment. Routine physicals and immunizations are limited to dependents preparing to join their sponsors overseas under official orders.

Drug and medicine purchases are limited, except for insulin, to those obtainable by written prescription of a licensed physician or dentist.

Marines in Vietnam now have a year-round exchange mail-order program which enables them to purchase gift-type merchandise for delivery to designated recipients in the States, thanks to OPERATION HOME FRONT.

The operation, established at the request of the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, was in full swing by June when 5,000 copies of the gift catalog were forwarded to Vietnam. The Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., designated as the command to provide the service

and direct liaison, reported on September 20 that 809 orders totalling \$25,826.47 have already been received.

A second catalog, the Christmas supplement, was forwarded to Vietnam on September 25. Three thousand copies of this special catalog were forwarded by air to the III Marine Amphibious Force.

Catalog number three, which will include a greater variety of items based on this year's sales experience, will be ready for distribution during March 1967.

New gift catalog out