



SEA TIGER



Vol. II, No. 40

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

October 28, 1966

III MAF Salutes Navy Day 1966

Since the birth of our nation, the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps have formed an invincible team in keeping the sea lanes open and insuring liberty for freedom-loving people throughout the world.

We are again locked shoulder to shoulder in this all-important task in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Wherever Marines have gone in the past, the Navy has taken them. And whenever the Marines landed, Naval personnel were within their ranks.

The same holds true today. No matter how small the patrol or how large the amphibious action, Navymen are with the Marines.

Within our historical bond of sister service to the United States Navy, the Marines are particularly proud of those Navy medical, Chaplain, Naval Support Activity and Seabee personnel who serve side by side with us each day.

On this Navy Day, the officers and men of the III Marine Amphibious Force offer their congratulations to all "the men at sea," and their sincere appreciation for the courage, devotion and just plain "Gung-Ho" spirit of the Navymen within the III MAF.

—Lieutenant General L. W. Walt, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force.

MACV to retain some officers

Headquarters, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), has published guidance on the selection of officers for retention in the command beyond one year. Primarily affected are officers who are or may be assigned to advisory positions.

Officers selected will be extended for tours up to 18 or 24 months. Both commissioned and warrant officers will be considered for selection.

The new MACV Directive, Retention of Selected Officers Beyond Normal Tour, dated October 3, 1966, applies to officers of all branches of the service who are assigned to MACV Headquarters and to the advisory groups.

The directive states that "The retention of experienced or uniquely qualified officers beyond the normal tour in Vietnam is considered essential for the effective accomplishment of currently

(Continued on Page 3)

North Vietnamese company fails in attempt to ambush patrol

Wounded survivors tell of two-day patrol replete with deeds of courage

By: 2d Lt Dick Arnold

DA NANG—A firefight which began when a company of North Vietnamese regulars ambushed a patrol of Marines south of Chu Lai, ended quietly as the Marine patrol leader sank his K-bar knife into the chest of a surprised Viet Cong guerrilla who had come to reap the spoils of "victory."

The small-unit combat story came to light at a news interview here with four recon Marines who were wounded on the two-day patrol.

(One of the Marines, Sergeant Robert Thornton, 20, still carried a North Vietnamese bullet in his chest; the wound was covered with a band-aid).

Led by Gunnery Sergeant Clovis C. Coffman, 34, the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion's team patrol set up "shop" in an enemy fortified position of bunkers and individual fighting holes after landing by helicopter south of Chu Lai on Oct. 9.

The Marines figured to either catch the enemy returning to their positions, or to fight from them if the Viet Cong found out about their recon patrol.

It didn't take long for the latter.

That evening the recon unit was probed three times during an all-night rainstorm. Four North Vietnamese soldiers were killed.

With dawn (Oct. 10) the weather cleared, and in early afternoon the Marines began to move out from their observation post position to the helicopter landing zone where they were scheduled to be taken out of the area.

As the lead man in the inverted "T" or anchor-shape formation crossed the crest of a hill in the nearly shoulder-high elephant grass, he let out a yell and began firing his weapon.

"From then on in, it was 'Kattie bar the door,'" Gunnery Coffman said.

The point man was killed and "we took pretty heavy casualties in the first 10 to 15 seconds" of the ambush he said.

The Marines rushed the estimated 35-60 North Vietnamese regular and broke the enemy's line in half.

During the rush into point-blank fire of the NVA unit, one Marine sergeant got so close to an enemy soldier when he killed him with a shotgun blast, that the NVA's uniform continued to smoulder and smoke after his body hit the ground.

It was here that Sgt. Thornton got the rifle bullet in his chest that he still carried to the news interview.

The former Northwestern High School track star in Detroit, said the point-blank rifle bullet felt like he was being hit with a metal pole about "the size of a nickel."

Coffman, who watched Thornton get hit, said the muscular Marine did a backward somersault and came back up on his feet, firing and running.

The patrol team tightened into a "quite small" defensive perimeter at the landing site and pulled in all the wounded except for the point, who was killed earlier.

A Marine rushed out to get the point and got hit with a half dozen rounds near the knees. He continued to crawl toward the dead Marine when two grenades exploded alongside of him, and was only stopped when shot in the head.

(He was alive when the helicopters landed later to take the Marines out. Coffman interrupted the interview to see if he could get word on how the Marine was now doing. A call to the medical hospital revealed the Marine died overnight and Coffman's commanding officer said he'd tell his gunnery sergeant about it later when they were alone.)

During the fighting, which continued within 10 meters of the Marines' perimeter, Corporal Donald J. Chidgey, 19, took his second hit in 17 hours when a rifle bullet "bounced off my head."

Chidgey was operating a radio when hit. The round, slick spot surrounding the wound where medics had shaved his head to stitch up the cut, gave his hair the appearance of a halo when he doffed his cap for television cameras during the interview.

After Chidgey was shot, Coffman said he had to "hold onto his shirt-tails" to stop him from rushing out of the perimeter to do battle with the enemy on a more highly personal basis.

Chidgey's parents were Marines during World War II, and one of his brothers is now at Marine boot camp.

At one point in the 35-minute firefight, Coffman and Thornton stood side-by-side throwing grenades at the encircling enemy.

Knowing Thornton had been hit, Coffman took time out to ask, "How're you doing baby?"

(Continued on Page 3)



Sixth Purple Heart

GySgt. Clovis C. Coffman explains to newsmen during a press interview at Da Nang, how his recon patrol broke through a North Vietnamese ambush just south of Chu Lai. In the ensuing fight, Coffman picked up his sixth Purple Heart award. (Photo by WO Greg Cornuet)

Encircled recon unit escapes large force

By: MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—In a two-hour battle Oct. 12, a Marine patrol fought off a large Viet Cong force that had surrounded them 20 miles west of here.

Four Viet Cong bodies were counted by the patrol. Marine casualties were light.

The patrol from the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, was in place waiting for a helicopter lift when the VC force opened with automatic weapons from a ridgeline 200 to 300 meters away.

Corporal Leroy P. Lucas, 20, on his third patrol, and on his first as a squad leader, deployed his men in a circle in the elephant grass surrounding the landing pad and called in air support.

"All I could think of was to return the fire," said Second Lieutenant Albert S. Roberts, 25, who was on his first patrol as an observer. "I reacted the way I had been trained to react," he said.

Shortly after Lucas called for air support, a UH-1E helicopter (Huey Gunship) and two 1st Marine Aircraft Wing A4-E "Skyhawk" jet fighters dove out of the sky, peppered the ridgeline "blowing the VC away," and blunting the ambush, the corporal said.

Sporadic fire continued while part of the patrol, including the wounded, was loaded aboard the helicopter.

"We provided ground fire support so the first helicopter could get in and out," Lucas said.

A few seconds later the second chopper dropped in and the remainder of the patrol was successfully lifted away from the ambush.

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 Col. T. M. Fields
Editor GySgt. Lee Witconis

Published each Tuesday by the III Marine Amphibious Force. The SEA TIGER complies with Marine Corps Order P5600.31 and MCO P5720.44 and is printed with appropriated funds, by The Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. The SEA TIGER subscribes to and receives material from the Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB) whose material herein may be reprinted provided credit and no other copyrights are involved. All photographs are official U.S. Marine Corps Photos unless otherwise credited. Photographs submitted from other sources outside the Marine Corps for publication in The SEA TIGER become the property of The SEA TIGER. Material submitted for publication in The SEA TIGER must reach the Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force, FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602, on Tuesday of the preceding publication week. Statements, views and opinion expressed in The SEA TIGER are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps and should not be interpreted as directive in nature.

Circulation this issue 26,000

Time's running out

Are you prepared and ready to join your countrymen on election day as they go to the polls and vote?

You should be. By now your absentee ballot should have arrived. You have studied or know your state's candidates and their qualifications. You are now ready to exercise your most priceless privilege—the right to vote.

Just how priceless that privilege is can prove elusive and hard to grasp. We take our country for granted. But a top winner in a recent Freedoms Foundation Letter Awards Program cleared away some of the cobwebs when he summed it up this way:



"Our American concept of democracy is built on the ability of government by consent of the governed. This power of each individual American is expressed at the voting booth; there begins government, the strength of the Union. America is only as strong as the American voter, and power exists only where it is exercised. Don't lose your vote—use it."

That's a very good thumbnail explanation of why we should vote. And the last sentence sums it up. Unless you use your vote, it is lost.

Don't put off mailing your absentee ballot. Mark it and mail it now. (AFNB)

White House Fellows sought by government

WASHINGTON — Marines that are graduates of an accredited four-year college, between the ages of 23 and 36, and a citizen of the United States, are eligible for the "White House Fellows Program", according to Marine Corps Bulletin 1560.

The program established by the President, is designed to give rising leaders one year of "first-hand, high-level experience" with workings of the Federal Government. Past assignments have included special assignments with each of the 10 cabinet members.

Average age 23

Average age of U.S. sailors and Marines today is 23 years. There are about 250,000 enlisted men in the Marine Corps and approximately 660,000 in the Navy.

In addition to their duties as special assistants, White House Fellows participate in an educational program conducted by the Brookings Institution.

Selection is based on intelligence, character, ability and promise of future development. The program begins each year in early August and concludes in late August of the following year.

All inquiries and requests for application blanks should be addressed to the Director, Commission on White House Fellows, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500. Applications will not be accepted from candidates overseas unless they will return to the United States before regional interviews are held.

Applications will be accepted for next year's program until January 6, 1967.

Other details on the program are listed in Marine Corps Bulletin 1560 dated September 15, 1966.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New additions to the SEA TIGER Pen Pal Club are:

Sharon Conklin
485 N. Franklin Tpke.
Ramsey, N. J. 07446
Charlene Reczek (18)
3137 N. Oleander
Chicago, Illinois 60635
Linda Cameron (18)
3134 Metchosin Road
Victoria, B. C. Canada
Barbara Stanley
R R No. 1 Hyde Park
Ontario, Canada
Barbara Day (19)
23 Suffolk Avenue
Swampscott, Mass. 01907
Heather Murcheson (17)
2705 Wale Road
Victoria B.C. Canada
Pamela Weber
2427 Holland Street
Erie, Pennsylvania
Frances Morin (21)
596 Metropolitan Avenue
Hyde Park, Mass. 02136
Marilyn Sundsvold
Box 173
Kiester, Minn. 56051
Lorina Lee
3453 Lan Franco St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90063
Cris Bruegger

9703 Glandon Street
Bellflower, Calif. 90706

Patricia McDonald
Route No. 1
Bruce, Wisconsin 54819

Jessamine Moorea
4201 W. Victoria
Chicago, Illinois 60646

Lou Kirkpatrick (28)
1820 Powers Street
McKeesport, Penna. 15132

Laura Hammer (17)
301 Oltendorf Road
Streamwood, Illinois

Bonita Knott
Box 43 Horton State College
Shippensburg, Penna. 17257

Jean Blake
62 Gates Avenue
Brentwood, Long Island, N.Y.

Joan Carrai
202 Bay 14 Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11214

Shirley Copen
1735 Walline Road
RFD No. 4

Mason, Michigan 48854
Norma Drab (17)
16 Providence Court
Groton, Conn. 06340

Gerry Harnett (21)
Box 42
Cornish, Maine 04020

Gentlemen:

We have been referred to you for a listing in the SEA TIGER for Marines and Sailors who are interested in pen-pals. We are also planning a Christmas mailing about December 1st. Would interested Marines and Sailors write to: Otto Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer, the Three Clubs & Library, Mount Zion, Elliston, Kentucky 41038.



"THE MODERN UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS"—The exciting and inspiring story of the U.S. Marine Corps, from its beginning to the current struggle in the bitter guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam is told by Colonel "Jack" De Chant. Undoubtedly the most complete and comprehensive volume of its kind ever published on the Corps, "THE MODERN U. S. MARINE CORPS", includes a projection of what the planners think the Corps will be like in 1975 and a unique global map showing all the major posts and stations of the Corps. Here is an examination of the broad strategic scope of the Marine Corps as a part of the Navy-Marine global striking forces, and its needs and prime significance in the security and influence of the U. S. in the world community.

The author is a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and is a public affairs counselor now serving as Director of Information, Bureau of Employment Security, Department of Labor. He served four years on active duty as a Public Relations Officer in the Marine Corps in World War II, and pioneered the Battle Broadcasting technique, used extensively by the military services and the networks for bringing recorded battlefield radio reports to the American public.

He is also the author of DEVIL BIRDS, the story of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II. For this book, he was awarded a National Air Council Fellowship.

His new book is published by Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., at \$6.95, 180 pages illustrated.

Rice and logistics

Rice to the people of Southeast Asia is survival—life itself.

Rice contains protein, fat, starch, sugar, minerals, fibrous matter and Vitamin B. As in other countries in Asia, it is the staple food of Vietnam.

Together with salt, and coupled with weapons, it is a basic consideration in the conduct of this counterinsurgency war. Weapons determine the capability to fight; food, the capability and the will to fight.

Since the first of the year, rice has been denied to the enemy in two significant ways: First, through operations aimed at the protection of the rice harvesting (such as Golden Fleece), and secondly, through search and destroy operations.

The significance of such operations such as Golden Fleece is evident from a comparison of rice crops harvested in the area of operation before the operations began to take place, and the larger crop yield which was possible under the protection of the military.

In regular search and destroy missions and clearing operations since January 1, 1966, several thousand tons of rice have been captured.

But what is the real significance of these drives to deny the enemy his rice harvest? What importance does rice assume in the Vietnam conflict? Furthermore, what are some of the possible consequences of this loss of rice to the individual enemy soldier.

Because the combat life of the guerrilla is replete with hardship and privation, the additional burden imposed with the loss of food tends to weaken his will to fight; lessens his effectiveness in battle, and finally; affects his health by lowering his resistance to disease.

At the individual Viet Cong sufferer, so does his cause and his organization. The logistics problems encountered by insurgents are difficult enough. Couple these with the losses to search and destroy operations, bombings, artillery fire, and relentless coastal and inland waterway patrols aimed at cutting the infiltration of weapons and supplies, and they assume discouraging proportions

to the VC logistic effort. Deprived of other alternatives, the VC supply system must either purchase rice from farmers at a fair price, thus depleting their supply of funds, or alienate the local population by confiscating the rice or taxing to get more.

These logistical problems disrupt the enemy time table for operations. Planning, always a VC strong point, becomes less exact, and more contingent on variables beyond their control. The element of calculated military risk rises constantly until it becomes unacceptable. Finally, preplanned operations must be indefinitely postponed or cancelled because the pre-located caches have been destroyed or captured.

The enemy does his fighting on rice. Deny him his rice ration and you hasten his defeat.

Chaplain Speaks

"LITTLE THINGS"

We are living in a time when the world is inclined to measure the value of things by their magnitude. We speak of great men and women as those who have reached the pinnacle of fame; of great deeds as those which have won the applause of an admiring world; of great wealth as belonging to him who can count his money by the millions. But, for a moment, think of the might of little things.

It was a little thing for a janitor to leave a lamp swinging in the Cathedral of Pisa, but in that steady swaying motion, the boy of Galileo saw the pendulum and conceived the idea of thus measuring time.

The children of a spectacle maker, when playing in their father's shop, placed two or three spectacles one over another, and told their father that distant objects looked larger. From this hint came the telescope. A spider web suggested to Captain Brown the idea of the suspension bridge.

Many time we pass through the day and fail to see the thousands of interesting things about us.

The world has more need of a great number of Christians doing the common little things of life. A great many of us are kept out of real service for Christ and the church because we are waiting for some little things. The Bible says, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."

—Chaplain J. Grechow

Coverage includes Da Nang-Chu Lai

New television station opens

By GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—Would you believe "Batman?" How about the FBI and Marshal Dillon? Even Sgt. Saunders is here to help.

It's doubtful whether "Charlie" will fold up his tent and quietly sneak away when he hears that these video heroes are in the I Corps area, but thousands of Marines, sailors, airmen and soldiers are cheering their arrival.

Television is here. The premier performance was held on Saturday, Oct. 22, when Armed Forces Television Station (AFTV) Da Nang took to the air on Channel 11, VHF.

For four hours every evening, from 6:30 to 10:30, the station will broadcast from its location near the summit of Monkey Mountain.

"We will have news broadcasts before we close every evening," said Captain Don Leach, officer in charge, "and hope to have baseball and football games on as well."

Staffed by nine Marines including the captain, an Air Force production man and an Army announcer, the station will operate from a specially built van that houses all the needs of a TV studio and transmitter.

Three of the crew, Staff Sergeant John McKay, news director, and Staff Sergeant Dan Dylewsky and Corporal Frank Schachmayer, both engineers, watched the van as it was built at San Leandro, Calif. All of the staff attended a month long school at the Armed Forces Radio and Television Studios in Hollywood, before reporting to Vietnam.

Master Sergeant Paul Shaner is the senior enlisted man of the crew. Both he and Capt. Leach returned specifically for this task—Shaner from the retired list and Leach from the reserve rolls.

Announcers are: Army Staff Sergeant Tom Fisher, Staff Sergeant

Jack Holsonback, and Sergeant Howard Shinrock. Airman 1st Class Robert Schwartz is the production engineer and special effects man while Sergeant Dave DeBolt is the film editor and librarian. Sergeant Charles Frazier handles the administrative details of the station.

The broadcast area includes

most of the Da Nang complex and should reach as far south as Chu Lai. Reception north of Da Nang will be greatly limited because of the mountain ranges between Da Nang and Phu Bai.

The first day's broadcast opened with a special introductory program, followed by a sports show.

MABS-36 Utilities makes life pleasant

CHU LAI — Anyone having orders to join Marine Aircraft Group-36 has a pleasant surprise coming, thanks to the Group's Marine Air Base Squadron-36 Utilities Section.

Through the efforts of Gunnery Sergeant Kenneth A. Sabo and his 75-man crew, MAG-36 has a new laundry, tin-roofed tropical huts, a chapel, and clubs that rival any in Vietnam, to name but a few of the completed projects.

In charge of the MAG-36 Utilities Section, Sgt. Sabo said, "You name it and we do it . . . as soon as possible." The Marine added, "If one project needs more men we fill it with men who have finished other jobs. We all share the load. The only real problem we have is that there's only 24 hours in a day," he explained.

Of particular pride to Sabo and the men is the water provided to the area. "According to the Group Medical Department, we supply

the best water in Vietnam to the Marines of MAG-36," Sabo stated.

Electrical power for the group is another responsibility of this section and they have a heavy equipment unit which maintains and improves the roads in the area.

Gunny Sabo is quick to point out that the men deserve all the credit for accomplishments so far. "When most of the crew came here there was nothing. They started with tents and have literally built a city from scratch," he said.

The section chief explained that the mission of MABS-36 Utilities is to provide direct support to the flying squadrons in the Group. "Because of the squadron's full time job of flying, they don't have time to worry about who is going to build living quarters for them. As long as there's a MABS-36 Utilities, they won't have to."



Navy Lt. H. H. Henson checks the ear of a Vietnamese boy during a MEDCAP. The 28-year-old doctor was one of MAG-16's medical personnel who treated the people of Son Thuy, a small village five miles south of Da Nang.

Dr. claims Medcap helped voter turnout

DA NANG—Two Navy doctors, a dentist, and six corpsmen of Marine Aircraft Group-16 entered the village of Son Thuy on October 11, ready for battle. Their enemy was disease and ignorance and their weapons were medicine, knowledge, and understanding.

Their visit to Son Thuy was one of many Medical Civil Affairs Program (Med-cap) carried out daily by the United States forces in Vietnam. The purpose is to teach the Vietnamese the principles of sanitation and disease prevention as well as curing those who are already ill.

Doctors gave shots, the dentist pulled teeth, corpsmen treated cuts and bruises, and they explained the necessity for cleanliness in the peoples' daily lives.

The fight against ignorance is a slow and difficult one, but the medical men of MAG-16 feel that they have made progress since they first visited Son Thuy last May. They also feel that their efforts are contributing to the defeat of the Viet Cong.

As 23-year old Hospitalman 2nd Class John Caldwell, put it, "They are seeing the difference between what the Viet Cong say they will do and what the Americans really do."

Navy Lieutenant J. L. Babcock, a 27-year-old doctor, agrees that

Trapped recon unit—

(Continued From Page 1)

Thornton answered, "I'm OK."

Looking again, Coffman saw blood coming from the corner of Thornton's mouth and repeated, "You ok?"

Thornton replied, "I've got a bullet in my chest but I'll be all right," and continued to sling the hand grenades.

For Thornton the wound was his second within 10 days.

As the fighting reached the "touch and go" stage, Huey gunship helicopters ("bless their hearts" Coffman said) came in and worked the enemy over within 25 yards of the perimeter.

Later fixed-wing jets firing rockets came to their aid, and the extracting helicopters arrived to almost "crash-land" in the bumpy terrain covered with deep elephant grass.

The Marines took out all their wounded dead, weapons and equipment.

But the fighting for Coffman and Sergeant Allistair J. Livingston, 24, of York, Yorkshire, England was not quite over.

The pair remained behind on the landing zone until the loaded helicopters could return to take them out.

Livingston, a former British soldier of the Royal Light Highland Fusiliers and lieutenant with the Canadian Army's 48th Highlanders, resigned his commission to enlist in the Marines in February, 1965.

He extended his tour twice in Vietnam and now has 22 months in country. His parents and two brothers and a sister still live in England.

Within the four to five minutes it took a helicopter to return to the zone, Coffman and Livingston, hiding in the tall grass, watched four local guerrillas "waltz their way down into the position"; probably to see what they could find that the Marines had left behind.

When the quartet of VC got within six feet of the Leathernecks, Coffman and Livingston jumped out onto the trail firing their pistols.

The last of the VC was killed by Coffman with his combat knife, and brought to 20 the total confirmed enemy killed during the operation.

Both Coffman and Livingston also picked up their second wound in Vietnam during the fighting.

For Livingston it was his second in two weeks.

Coffman's Purple Heart awards now total six—he was wounded four times while fighting with this same 1st Marine Division in Korea.

Coffman continuously praised the actions of his men during the interview.

The soft-speaking father of a five-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter, told newsmen "there's one thing about getting shot; and there's another about being shot two or three times or more and still getting up for more."

He said that over a half-dozen of his men—including the corpsman—were hit so bad they couldn't move about; but they just "sat in place firing rifles anyhow."

Coffman, a Marine reservist, voluntarily returned to active duty only six months ago. The owner of a free lance commercial art studio in Richmond, Coffman previously served on active duty with the Marines from 1949 until 1956 when he joined the organized reserve.

He has been in Vietnam four months.

On Oct. 11, eight members of the patrol including Thornton, Chidgey and Livingston received meritorious promotions because of their actions in the firefight.

Retain—

(Continued From Page 1) assigned or future missions of USMACV."

The directive states that officers will be encouraged to extend voluntarily, but when necessary they will be retained involuntarily. Officers may apply for selection.

Selected officers will be granted 30 days ordinary leave with space-required travel to CONUS after completion of at least nine months of their tour.

MACV advises that the bill now before Congress to grant 30 days free leave to personnel who extend their Vietnam tours has not yet been approved.

U.S. Seventh Fleet

The U.S. Seventh Fleet, which has been stationed strategically in the Far East since World War II, has about 200 ships, 700 aircraft and 70,000 personnel.



DISEMBARK—A Vietnamese soldier runs out of a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron CH-46 Sea Knight while the crew chief unloads a 55-gallon drum. HMM-165's Sea Knights, with their heavy payload, are being used extensively on resupply missions.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)



RICE HARVEST—PFC Alexander G. Sanchez watches closely as rice harvesters tie bundles of rice during a Golden Fleece operation a few miles from Chu Lai. Leathernecks from the Fifth Marines provided security for harvesters.

(Photo by Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

Unit finds 'Golden Fleece' unique

By: Cpl. Ira Taylor

CHU LAI—To the Vietnamese farmers near the hamlet of Ky Lien, eight miles south of Chu Lai, it was just another rice harvest.

To Leathernecks of the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, it was a new and unique experience — their first "Golden Fleece" operation.

A Golden Fleece operation is designed to protect Vietnamese workers during the rice harvest

and at the same time deny the rice to the Viet Cong.

Marines, working together with Vietnamese Popular Forces, patrolled the area heavily, sending out night patrols and setting up ambushes, as well as making constant sweeps of the area to insure a safe harvest for the farmers.

"We haven't had any harassment yet from the Viet Cong and I think the patrols are keeping them out," said Captain James M. Sims, one of the officers par-

ticipating in the operation.

"The Marines enjoy helping the Vietnamese farmers and the farmers seem grateful to the Leathernecks for what they are doing," the captain said.

One hundred and sixty-five tons of rice have been harvested since the operation began Oct. 9, with as many as 700 harvesters working in one day. An estimated 80 tons remain to be harvested.

'We move units not just gear'

CHU LAI—The slogan of one moving van company "We move families, not just people" could be paraphrased when applied to Marine Air Base Squadron (MAG-13) heavy equipment section to read, "We move units, not just gear."

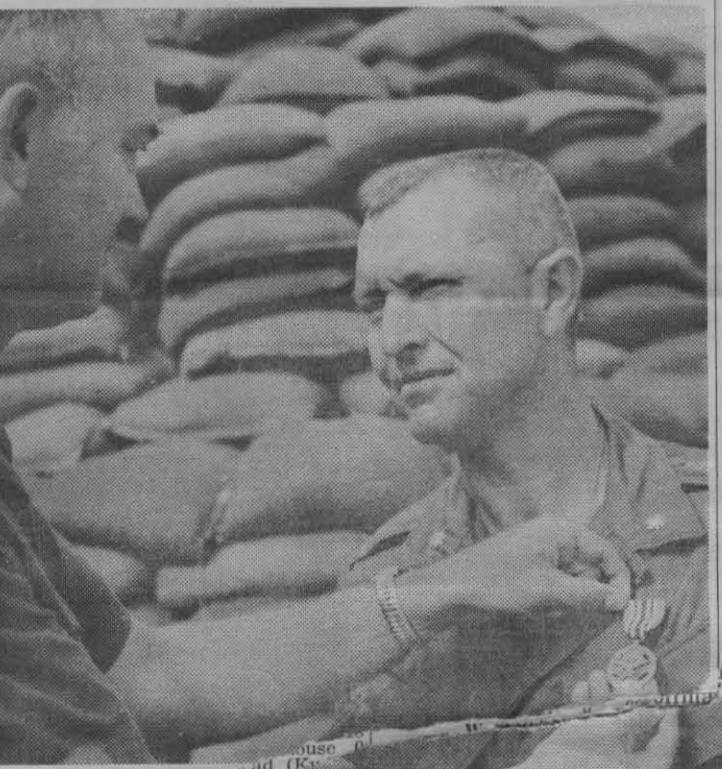
Like their civilian counterpart, the MAG-13 unit also boasts of an extremely low breakage record, when moving items ranging from coffee cups to 6,450 pound mobile arresting gear.

This 15-man section, under the direction of Staff Sergeant Rodney L. Jaeger, has moved the group's gear including avionics and radar vans and mess hall refrigerators; in some cases, three times since the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing outfit arrived at Chu Lai early in October.

During the first few weeks the section's fork-lifts were driven nearly 1,400 hours. On one occasion all nine were deadlines for preventive maintenance at midnight. Working under specially-rigged lights, the mechanics had eight ready to go by 8 a.m.

"I have nine operators, four mechanics and a dispatcher to handle the load," Jaeger said. "Most times these men work 16-18 hours a day, and have, on occasion, put in 36 straight hours to accomplish a job."

The Section's bulldozer and crane operators help build roads and living quarters.



Medal winner

...21st Lt. William H. Rice, fire support coordination officer for the 12th Marines, is awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for meritorious service at the Defense Atomic Support Agency. He served as operations and instruction officer at the Albuquerque, N.M. base from July 1963 to June 1966. Col. B. S. Read, regiment CO, makes the presentation.

(Photo by Sgt. Kevin B. McVeigh)

California city adopts battalion

By: Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—Ever hear of a city "adopting an entire battalion of Marines?" The city of Martinez, Calif., has.

The 9,600 citizens of Martinez have adopted the officers, men and trucks of the 1st Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

"We have been seeking a way to indicate our support for our country's policy in Vietnam, and particularly our appreciation to the men who are serving in that country," Mayor John Costanza and City Manager Paul F. Hughey said in a joint-letter to 1st Motor's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Russell E. Johnson.

"As a result we would like to propose to you that the City and people of Martinez adopt your battalion as its own," they added.

It all started with a group of anti-war demonstrators who expressed their adverse feelings in front of the Naval Weapons Station, Port Chicago-Concord, Calif., just a few miles east of Martinez.

The City of Martinez decided to balance the ledger and show where it stood in the matter.

Knowing that other cities had adopted units in Vietnam, the Martinez City Council discussed the proposal with Major Michael E. White, commanding officer of the Marine Barracks at the Naval Weapons Station. Major White recommended adopting the 1st Motor Transport Battalion.

"The generous offer to adopt this battalion is a pleasure seldom experienced," Col. Russell wrote in a letter accepting the city's proposal. "The content of your proposals were enthusiastically received by the officers and men and is already proving to be inspirational. It is with deepest gratitude that we accept your most generous offer to adopt this battalion."

Vietnamese children receive scholarships thanks to Chaplain

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—Twenty-three Vietnamese teen-agers will be able to finish high school thanks to the efforts of Navy Lieutenant Commander Willard W. Bartlett, a chaplain with Marine Aircraft Group-16.

On Oct. 17, the youths received the first scholarships to be given by the Vietnamese Education Scholarship Board, founded by the American minister.

Chaplain Bartlett formed the board by bringing together representatives of the Da Nang area's four major religions. Its members include ministers and educators from the Buddhist, Cao Dai, Roman Catholic, and Protestant faiths.

Although the funds for the scholarships are contributed by Americans serving in Vietnam and their families, the board itself is made up entirely of Vietnamese.

The chaplain is an advisor but has no vote in its proceedings.

Since his arrival in Vietnam in Dec., 1965, the 39-year-old Congregationalist has been interested in the advancement of the Vietnamese people. He feels, however, that "education and hard work" are more valuable than charity.

He put his ideas to work by helping to provide financial assistance for deserving youths who otherwise would be unable to com-

plete their education.

Students are picked on the basis of scholastic merit and financial need.

214 strike

CHU LAI—Two Marine pilots, in an unusual scramble to North Vietnam, were alerted to fly their A4E Skyhawks to destroy an unseen target.

Captain B.L. Coleman and First Lieutenant Edward W. Kent left Marine Aircraft Group-12 before dawn.

The two Marine Attack Squadron-214 jets arrived on target in less than a half hour to discover the target was visible from the air.

The Leathernecks, in one run, destroyed the enemy truck convoy and witnessed secondary explosions and a secondary fire before returning to Chu Lai.

Roadside attendant has 'heard them all'

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI— "How much gas do you need?" the Marine dragging the heavy black hose with the silver snout asked the two men in the jeep.

"No, I'm not going to check your tires or wash your windshield—how many times a day do you think people ask me that kind of question . . . ?"

No doubt a humor Ronald J. Lance Corporal Sheerer believes he has heard every wisecrack there is about his job of pumping gas into dusty jeeps, trucks or whatever other type of vehicle pulls into his roadside "gas station" at a busy intersection on Highway One.

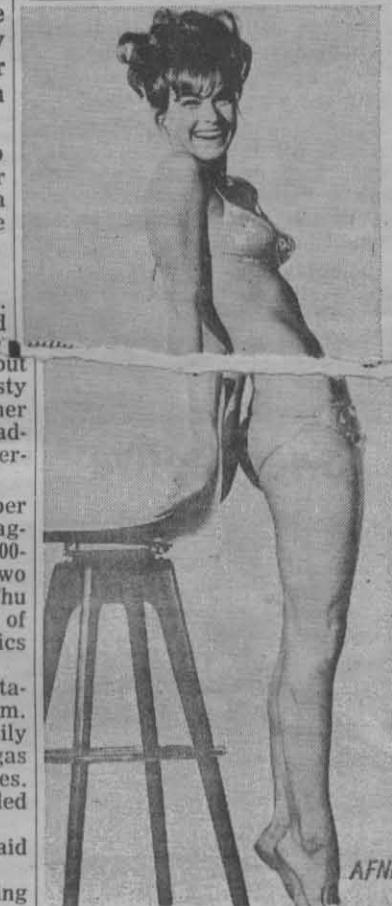
"Mobile Gas Station Number One" is a large truck-trailer sagging under the weight of four 800-gallon gas tanks. It is one of two such gas points provided at Chu Lai by the Bulk Fuel Platoon of Supply Company, Force Logistics Command—"B".

Sheerer opens his thriving station at 7 a.m., closes after 5 p.m. He estimates he pumps a daily average of 3,000 gallons of gas into at least 150 thirsty vehicles. Once a day a fuel truck is needed to refill the empty tanks.

"I've heard them all," he said sardonically.

"People come in here asking for high test ethyl, green stamps

—believe me, I've heard them all."



Fireball

It's obvious Patti Chandler of the movies is happy about something. Maybe it's her role in a new movie called Fireball. Maybe it's just she's happy to be posing for all the Marines of the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam.

Serpent in tropical garden tamed by civil affairs team

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG—Ly Tin is a tropical paradise. An island in the South China Sea some 25 miles from Ky Ha. Its two volcanoes were tamed long ago and now lush foliage, instead of lava, covers their slopes.

But there is a serpent in this tropical garden—a serpent comprised of disease, filth and lack of sanitation.

Many of the 10,000 people on the island are covered with open sores or are afflicted with what doctors suspect is impetigo and yaws. Most do not know the benefits of soap.

Led by Captain Cyril E. Gonzales, the Provisional Rifle Company of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36, is working to help Ly Tin.

Every week Capt. Gonzales, some of his men plus doctors and corpsmen from MAG-36, make the trip to the island. From the moment their helicopters land, they are overwhelmed by the islanders greeting them. The Marines and medical personnel are invited to have tea and bananas in the islanders' thatched huts.

Major General L. B. Robertshaw, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding officer, recently made a trip to the island with the civil affairs team, and he commented on the friendliness of the people and the enthusiasm with which they greet the Marines.

Once the greetings have been taken care of, the doctors and corpsmen set to work treating the sick. On a recent visit, more than 100 medical and dental patients were treated in less than two hours.

While the medical section of

the civil affairs team is at work, the rifle company Marines help keep order among the Vietnamese gathered for sick call. Sometimes they do another equally important job by walking around making friends with the islanders.

The Marines are helping build a Catholic school and a dispensary. Two more schools are planned. In addition, they distribute school books and soap donated by people in the United States.

Captain Gonzales, a 37-year-old veteran of over 20 years in the

New CO 9th Marines

DA NANG — Colonel R. M. Richards assumed command of the Ninth Marines at Hill No. 55, 10 miles south of Da Nang this month. He succeeded Colonel D. J. Barrett, Jr., who commanded the unit for the past three months.

Colonel Richards was Division Assistant Chief of Staff (G-4) before this assignment. Colonel Barrett becomes assistant chief of staff (G-3) for the III Marine Amphibious Force.

Marine Corps, is enthusiastic about his part in helping the people of Ly Tin, but he knows that only the surface has been scratched in completely wiping out sickness and disease there.

Award twist

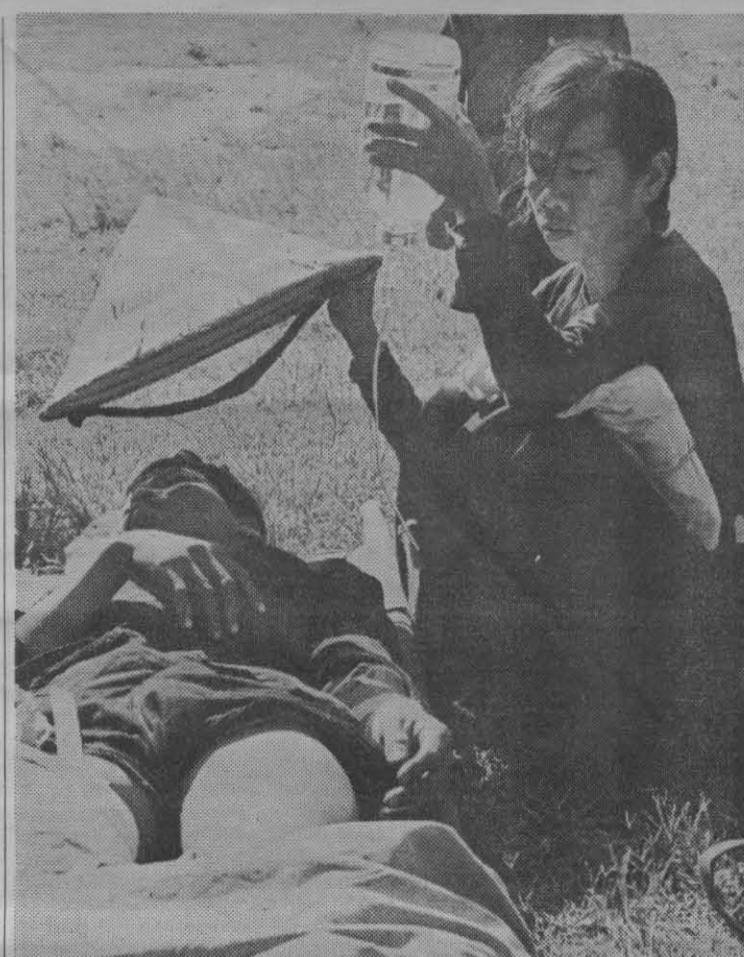
DA NANG — Many Marines receive decorations in the United States following duty in Vietnam.

Not Captain John V. Brennan. He gets them in Vietnam for duty in the United States.

Operations officer for the 2nd Battalion, Twelfth Marines, 1st Marine Division, Brennan was presented the Army Commendation Medal Oct. 16, during ceremonies at the regimental headquarters.

He was cited for meritorious service while serving as an instructor at the U. S. Army Artillery and Missile School, Fort Sill, Okla.

During this three year tour of duty there, Brennan graduated over 300 artillery officers.



Shade and strength

A wounded Vietnamese soldier lies in the shade of his wife's hat and receives intravenous fluid from the bottle she is holding for a Navy Corpsman from MAG-36, while he attends another patient. Wives of Vietnamese soldiers often accompany their husbands to the hospital when they have been injured.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

Roy Rogers, Dale Evans entertain

By: Cpl. D. L. Cellers

DA NANG—Country and western music at its best—is what the 3rd Shore Party Battalion witnessed the night of Oct. 18 when Roy Rogers and Dale Evans appeared at the battalion's Enlisted Club.

The popular couple, accompanied by "Wayne West and his Travelons," arrived in Vietnam Oct. 13 for their first in-country tour. They appeared at various military installations in the Saigon area before coming to Da Nang.

"Saigon is a city of wheels," stated the western movie hero. "The streets are so crowded that transportation is very slow and treacherous. After seeing this, I

will never again gripe about the traffic on the freeways in California."

Rogers, known to many as "The King of the Cowboys," appeared at military bases in the Da Nang area for four days before returning to Saigon.

While in flight from Saigon to Da Nang in a C-130, Roy, a licensed pilot, was in control of the plane over half the way here.

"It was raining so hard and visibility was so slight that I had to give the controls back to the pilot," said Roy.

"At times it seemed that we were almost skipping across the South China Sea. I was a nervous wreck all the way," he smiled.

Roy and Dale make their home in Apple Valley, Calif., where they own and operate an inn when not on the road making guest appearances.

The "Travelons" entertained at the inn for four months before volunteering to accompany the famous couple on their tour of Vietnam.

Wayne West is the leader of the singing group while Dick Slye, a cousin to Roy, is the lead guitar player. Other members of the group included Chuck Lawyer, piano; Jim Carney, bass guitar; and Tim Gober, drummer.

Throughout the show, drenching rains and thunder nearly drowned out the sounds of western music. When the downpour reached its peak, Dale set down her microphone and calmly stated, "I guess I have seen a monsoon season."

Ending the show, the couple sang their ever-popular theme song, "Happy Trails to You," then signed autographs and talked to Marines in the battalion.

Aviation trophy

goes to 212

WASHINGTON — Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 212, the first Marine jet aircraft squadron to be deployed aboard a CVA for combat operations, has been selected to receive the Commandant's Aviation Efficiency Award for FY 66.

Admiral Roy L. Johnson, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, in announcing the award, said, "This award is won only through devoted effort and superb professionalism on the part of all hands." The squadron was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Ludden of Chico, Calif., for the period covered in the award.



Dale Evans belts out a country and western tune to the accompaniment of Roy Rogers and the Wayne West Travelons at the 3d Shore Party Bn. Enlisted Club.

(Photo by Cpl. N. B. Call)

Lack of excitement but plenty of work

Story By Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG — Sergeant Charles Solomon has a demanding job; but to him it is interesting, and one in which he has many years of experience.

The 25-year-old Leatherneck is the NCOIC of the Marine Air Group (MAG)-36 Special Services section at Ky Ha.

Sergeant Solomon began his dealings with athletic gear in his father's sporting goods store in Maryland. He enlarged his experience by working in the sports department of a large department store while stationed at New River in 1965.

After arriving here in December 1965, he flew as a gunner with Marine Observation Squadron-6 for about six months. His transfer to special services meant a decline in the wiry NCO's daily excitement, but he compensates for it by hard work and long hours.

He recently finished an inventory of all items handled by the Group special services section—footballs, basketballs, skin diving equipment, gym clothes, badminton sets and a host of other paraphernalia—and found that almost 6,000 items are included in his list of equipment on hand. Working alone, the list took him one week to complete.

New colonel

Colonel Guy M. Cloud had his silver eagles pinned on by Major General L. B. Robertshaw, CG, 1st MAW, and Colonel A. A. Lund, 1st MAW Chief of Staff during promotion ceremonies at the Da Nang Air Base Oct. 18. Colonel Cloud is Plans and Reports Officer for the 1st MAW.

In addition to his regular duties of checking gear in and out, Sgt. Solomon also performs other services for MAG-36. From July to October he was lifeguard at the Group's beach on the South China Sea.

His evenings are filled by operating the movie projector for the outdoor theater, and he is the captain and quarterback of the MAG-36 intramural football team.

New bunker's solidly built

CHU LAI — When three members of Marine Aircraft Group-13's guard section overheard the guard chief mention a need for a command bunker, they decided to do something about it.

The men, Lance Corporal Benjamin N. Jackson and Privates First Class Antony E. Sanchez and Robert D. Connors, like most Marines, didn't go for half-way measures.

Working in their spare time, with materials immediately available, they built a six-foot high bunker covering some 15 square feet in three days.

The position consists of a reinforced steel box, surrounded with a double layer of sand bags.

Stocked with food and water, the new bunker also has a radio system connected with all the group's defensive positions. It has been designated the nerve center for the MAG-13 perimeter defense in case of an attack.

Gunnery Sergeant Melbern L. Boutilier, the group guard chief said, "These men did a remarkable job in such a short time. The new bunker can withstand just about any type of small arms fire. I'd bet it would take a direct hit from a 155mm artillery shell to penetrate it."



First for corpsmen

HMI Thomas V. Doyle and HM3 Robert D. Hernden, both with H&HS-1, 1st MAW, receive the first Aircrewmen Wings for corpsmen from MajGen. L. B. Robertshaw, CG, 1st MAW for participation in medical evacuations aboard helicopters in Vietnam. HM Kermit G. Cole, a member of Marine Wing Service Group-17 also received his wings. The wings were recently authorized for corpsmen serving with the 1st MAW in helicopter combat operations in Vietnam.

(Photo by Sgt. R. V. Milligan)

Marine-ARVN team trap VC force of 50

By: LCpl Lowell L. Carson

DA NANG — When elements of the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division settled down for the night of Oct. 15, they had a noose around the necks of an estimated 50 Viet Cong.

It was the fourth day of a search and sweep operation south of Da Nang.

Operating jointly with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the Marines and ARVN would alternately sweep and block their way down the coastal plain. Each day, the noose drew tighter.

Only occasional sniper fire indicated the enemy was there.

On the fourth day, the Marines closed the trap around Tra Khe (2), a suspected VC hamlet which they had previously cleared. They quickly established a perimeter around the hamlet which were so crowded that transportation is very slow. They had surrounded the Viet Cong force.

Realizing they were trapped, the Viet Cong came out of well-concealed holes and in a desperate 35-minute firefight tried to break out. A ring of fire kept the enemy in the hamlet.

Nine VC were killed in the initial fight. When dawn came the Marines and ARVN drew the noose tighter while the Viet Cong retreated into their hidden caves and spider traps.

A sweep through the hamlet the next day resulted in two more killed and five captured. The remaining enemy was well-hidden, undetected, but still surrounded.

During the night of the 16th, the now desperate VC mustered their remaining members and probed the perimeter again. Again they were repelled. The next morning three more bodies were found.

The action continues with 27 Viet Cong killed in the first six days.

JOIN UP...
JOIN IN



SUPPORT YOUR RED CROSS

8 SEA TIGER

Book being published about 1st MarDiv action in Vietnam

An unusual historical project was completed at the 1st Marine Division last week with the departure of award-winning author Edward Hymoff who completed writing a 35,000 word text of the Division's combat service in Vietnam to be published in mid-December.

History was being written while it was happening, and was authored at the scene by the well-known military writer and historian who is under contract to Cross, Hinshaw & Lindbergh, Inc., of New York and Goodway Printing Company, Inc., Philadelphia.

The 1st Marine Division's participation in Vietnam was launched with the arrival of the first elements of the 7th Marines to Vietnam in July 1965, according to Mr. Hymoff. "And that's where this book begins," he added. "When it will end is anybody's guess. But subsequent editions of this pictorial history will be updated as time goes on."

According to the veteran war correspondent, "I've been trying to put into words the sights, the sounds, the feelings and thoughts of Marines fighting in Vietnam. There's the mud, the heat, the rain, the bugs and mosquitos, and death lurking anywhere and everywhere; something that has really not been portrayed in any factual book published so far about this conflict."

More than a dozen unit histories are planned with the stories in text and black and white and color photos and combat art, he said. Order blanks will shortly be in the 1st Marine Division's PX and in officers and enlisted men's clubs.

However, he explained, that unlike most books that are put on sale, a royalty from every book sold will be placed in a special fund and turned over to the unit's commanding general to utilize as he believes most fitting. The author said "My publishers and I believe that this is essentially a story and an era written by the very men who are active participants. A portion of this monetary gain should be returned to



Author Edward Hymoff at work at the 1st Marine Division writing his pictorial history of the Division in combat in Vietnam.

them in some manner."

Emphasizing that the volumes in the series are not "cruise books," the author disclosed that the quality of the books to be published will be similar to the successful American Heritage books.

When asked why he didn't kick off the series with the Third Marine Division, which was first to arrive in Vietnam, instead of the First Marine Division, Mr. Hymoff explained that one reason was nostalgia. He had reported the First Marine Division's actions during the Korean War and it was a unit he was proud to have "served" with then, as now. "Of course, we'll soon be launching our book project with the Third Marine Division and one with the First Marine Air Wing," he explained.

The author pointed out that the unit histories project has Department of Defense approval.

Nine hours of quiet—then, 'here it comes'

DA NANG—"Okay, watch for the fire. Here it comes... here it comes!"

These were the words Corporal Ervin Dantin heard from his aircraft commander seconds before a Viet Cong bullet ripped within eight inches of his ear.

Pressing the trigger of his .50 caliber machine gun, Dantin returned the fire until the CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopter in which he was flying gunner banked out of range.

Nine hours of quiet had suddenly developed into a fight for life.

Dantin's chopper was one of two from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164 placed on standby at Phu Bai, Oct. 3. From 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. they waited for something to happen.

Then the call came for planes to evacuate a Marine reconnaissance team which was outnumbered and surrounded by a North Vietnamese force in the mountains, a few miles to the west.

As the chopper dropped between the jungle-covered hills, Dantin noticed a big white spot off to one side. The fire came from around the spot and Dantin

used it as a natural bulls-eye.

Unable to land through the intense enemy fire, the planes withdrew until morning when they returned with seven more of HMM-164's helicopters. This time they landed and discharged a company of Marine ground troops into the communist infested valley.

Parting shot

CHU LAI—A parting shot from the Viet Cong shook up a truckload of homeward-bound Marines near here Oct. 17, but no one was injured.

Lance Corporal James C. Corrigan, B Company, 1st Motor Transport Battalion, was driving a truck carrying 14 men of the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st SC Division to the Chu Lai Marine terminal for rotation air freight to the States.

While enroute, Corrigan's truck tripped an enemy mine, apparently set for a much lighter vehicle. Damage to the truck was slight.

After a last brush with the reality of war 14 Marines headed home, where farewell party games aren't quite so rough.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM: _____

Postage

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

3rd Class 4¢

Airmail 8¢

TO: _____

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