



SEA TIGER



Vol. II, No. 43

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

November 30, 1966

500 Marines pay homage to comrades

DONG HA—Five hundred Marines paid homage to comrades killed in action during services here.

The Memorial Service, held on the 191st anniversary of the Marine Corps, was in memory of all fallen Marines, and especially those killed by enemy action in Operations Hastings and Prairie near the Demilitarized Zone.

Lieutenant Commander F. E. Sims, Fourth Regiment Chaplain, delivered the invocation and read the scripture selections. The 3rd Marine Division (forward) chaplain, Cmdr. J. A. Powell, gave the prayers of consolation and the prayers of committal.

The memorial read: "Each time Marines look at their long and distinguished history, we must remember the many fallen Marines whose lives brought the Marine Corps its reputation and status as the preserver of freedom and dignity of man. May we never forget their sacrifice."

The Marines were called to attention and rendered a salute while a firing squad fired a volley in tribute to their fallen comrades.

Sea Knight copter Plays dual role; fight, rescue

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG—CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 filled with troops played a dual role recently. They rescued a downed UH1E (Huey) helicopter and halted a Viet Cong attack against an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) artillery outpost at the same time.

The Huey, from Marine Observation Squadron 2, was downed by ground fire near the ARVN position at Hoi An shortly before dark the day before the Sea Knights made their rescue. Darkness and inclement weather made it impossible to lift the Huey out.

Later that night the Viet Cong made a determined assault against the ARVN artillery unit on a hill above the Huey. The fighting was heavy from 8 p.m. to midnight, and moderate then until dawn.

A 24-year-old Marine photographer, Sergeant Ronald C. Hathaway who was with the Vietnamese troops reports the guerrillas got to within 100 yards of the outpost, but accurate rifle and mortar fire held them off.

F-4 Phantom jets came at dawn and blasted the Viet Cong stronghold at the bottom of the hill.



Viet Cong suspect

Marines of "A" Company, 1st Bn., 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, interrogate a Viet Cong suspect during a search and clear operation north of Chu Lai. The Marines had received sniper fire from the village.

(Photo by LCpl. Ronald Curry)

'Prairie' frees 1,000 villagers from two years of oppression

By: 2d Lt. Mike Pitts

DONG HA—The village of Mai Loc nestles between rugged mountains of the northernmost area of the Republic of Vietnam, ten miles from the demilitarized zone. For years its inhabitants had lived a relatively peaceful life, cultivating their rice in the rich farmlands of the Cua Valley.

Then the Viet Cong came.

And with them came political indoctrination lectures, mass meetings and enforced labor.

For the 1,000 villagers it meant two years of oppression. It meant that the rice which they had grown for centuries would not be their own, for they were forced to pay a "rice tax" which took all but a meager amount.

Operation Prairie changed all

that.

On Nov. 16 two 3rd Marine Division companies joined a pair of Army of the Republic of Vietnam companies for a sweep through the western part of the Cua Valley.

They found what they were looking for—a company of Viet Cong reinforced by North Vietnamese soldiers—living and hiding in and around the village of Mai Loc.

Three days of fighting followed. Marines and South Vietnamese soldiers killed 44 Viet Cong and scattered what was left of the enemy unit to the hills.

But the important fact, at least for the Vietnamese villagers, was that Mai Loc village was free once again.

The Marines set up security around the village, and doctors and corpsmen began treating the sick and injured. It was the first

(Continued On Back Page)

CAC unit trap, kill 25 VC

CHU LAI—A platoon from a combined action company of the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, trapped and killed 25 Viet Cong yesterday in the hamlet of Phuoc Thuan (1), about 13 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

The Marines trapped the VC on a peninsula on the coast of the China Sea and pushed the enemy towards the water.

The fire fight developed when the Marines received small arms fire from a VC force dressed in black pajamas, green, and brown uniforms. The Marines returned the fire and set the trap to keep the VC from escaping.

Marine artillery and air strikes were called on the site and accounted for 15 dead VC. The other 10 enemy KIAs were killed by ground forces. A Vietnamese civilian, wounded in the fire fight, was evacuated to the battalion aid station.

The combined action unit observed an estimated 100 VC in the area prior to the arrival of reinforcements from the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment. The reinforcements established security around the VC bodies and their weapons.

Five sub-machine guns, 3 automatic weapons and 2 carbines were captured.

CWO Norbert A. Zimmerman, (Continued On Back Page)

Liberty Road sniping halted by 1st MarDiv

By: Cpl. A. H. Mitchell

DA NANG—Units of the 9th Marine Regiment concluded a search and sweep operation eight miles southwest of here Nov. 10 after sweeping some 29 square kilometers of flooded rice land.

The operation was prompted by Viet Cong harassment of traffic along the vital supply route known as "Liberty Road" and by VC sniping at nearby Marine positions, began Nov. 5 as companies of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and the 9th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division began a fan-shaped sweep south of Dai Loc.

Another company later joined the sweep while others acted as blocking forces to hem in an estimated Viet Cong platoon believed to be operating in the area.

Little contact was made with the VC in the first three days as Marines passed warily through mined and suspected mined areas, heavy undergrowth and flooded rice land.

The last two days and nights were marked by sporadic contact and sniping as the Viet Cong were compressed into a two square kilometer area ringed by rivers and Marines.

The elusive Viet Cong, unwilling either to be trapped or to make a stand, slipped out of the ring under cover of darkness.

At operation's end the Marines had accounted for five Viet Cong confirmed dead, six captured, and four weapons captured.



Move it out

Marines of "A" Co., 1/5, carry captured Viet Cong rice to a helicopter during a search and clear operation north of Chu Lai. Rice was later distributed to Vietnamese Villagers.

(Photo by LCpl. Ronald Curry)

SEA TIGER

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Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Brigadier General Jonas M. Platt
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force
Major General Louis B. Robertson
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
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Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

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Let's face the facts



The best way to save money is not to spend it. This statement appears to present a simple truth, but it is partly false and totally unrealistic. Everyone must spend money for necessities. And it is only human nature for people to seek luxuries in life.

Actually, you can save money through spending. The indiscriminate spender, or selective spender, saves money by comparing cost and quality as offered by reputable firms in the same business.

The greatest "savings through spending" result when you purchase an automobile or other items that

are usually bought under contractual terms. A careful examination of all facets of the purchase, and exactly how much you will have to pay before it becomes yours, can save you up to several hundred dollars.

It is the indiscriminate, or reckless spender, who usually runs into trouble. This type often contracts for heavy financial obligations. Case histories show that some get in debt so deeply they jeopardize their career.

Should you fall in the selective buyer category you will find that you have more money left to invest in a regular savings program.

You can plant these buyer savings so they will take root and grow even larger. One method is to spend this money for U.S. Savings Bonds. Thus, instead of paying interest on your purchase, you actually receive interest money.

After all, buying savings bonds is only another example of selective buying to get the most for your money. (AFNB)

Overseas deposits reach 5 million

During its first month of operation in September, the new Uniformed Savings Deposits Program recorded nearly \$5,000,000 in overseas deposits.

This is the program (Public Law 89-538) designed to serve the dual purpose of providing an attractive savings program for overseas military personnel and of helping to redress the adverse U. S. "Gold Flow" or balance of payments.

Under the law the President can prescribe or change at any time the interest rate to a 10 percent maximum. In mid-August President Johnson set the maximum 10 percent interest rate, compounded quarterly, on deposits up to \$10,000.

Department of Defense statistics show that more than 20,000 officers and men from all services joined the program in its first month of operation.

The service breakdown was: Army 12,832, Air Force, 6,160, Navy 1,150 and Marine Corps 200.

New emblem for FLSU-2

PHU BAI — Marines of Force Logistic Support Unit No. 2 have a new emblem, and it bears the motto, "Strength in Support."

The emblem, first ever for the unit, shows a clenched fist, representing the offensive strength of the Corps, grasping a key and wrench which depict the supply and maintenance capabilities of FLSU No. 2.

The emblem was unveiled during the Marine Corps Birthday celebration which was attended by baseball stars Joe Torre of the Atlanta Braves and Harmon Killebrew of the Minnesota Twins.

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Sea Tiger Pen Pal

This pretty Country & Western Music songstress is Devvy Davenport, who together with Gene Roman make up the singing team called the "Love Bugs". Devvy and Gene sang for Marines in Vietnam on Nov. 10 at MAG-11 and several EM and NCO Clubs. As a belated Marine Corps Birthday present, she would like to send her autographed picture to any Marine requesting one. Write to: Devvy Davenport, P.O. Box 2091, Orange, Calif.

SecDef says victory beyond NVN grasp

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara told a news conference at the LBJ Ranch that North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces were approaching a possible victory some 15 months ago, but he thinks it is now clear a military victory is beyond their grasp.

Recalling a dark military outlook during the summer of 1965, Mr. McNamara said South Vietnamese forces were decimated and the enemy seemed determined to cut the country in two at its narrow waist.

"To prevent that disaster the United States put into South Vietnam over 100,000 men in about 120 days. The potential disaster was averted, our forces began to bring a grave military situation under control."

The Defense Secretary told newsmen he and the President talked over their recent and separate trips to Southeast Asia with regard to the fiscal year 1968 defense budget.

Barring unforeseen contingencies, he outlined these major budget points:

• Draft calls will be lower during 1967, down from the August-November 37,000-50,000 monthly

average, to average less than 25,000 a month during December, January, February and March.

• Increases in U.S. force levels in South Vietnam to be substantially less, nothing on the order of the approximate 200,000 made from January 1 to December 31, 1966.

• Probability of a second cut in the planned annual rate of air ordnance.

• Stabilization trend governing air operations, deployment of air units to South Vietnam and the level of air activities. No sharp increase planned past the current 25,000 attack sorties a month.

Mr. McNamara noted a recent report on interrogations of enemy soldiers "showed the morale of the North Vietnamese soldiers in South Vietnam and the morale of the Viet Cong soldiers in South Vietnam is being affected by air and ground operations carried out against them by the United States, the South Vietnamese and other Free World Forces."

He cautioned the enemy is fighting stubbornly and shows every indication to fight on stubbornly as well as continue to infiltrate from north to south in large numbers.

Who says lightning never strikes twice in the same place?

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—They say lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but it did for a Marine medium helicopter squadron. On two consecutive nights, the squadron flew emergency missions under hazardous and similar conditions.

At six-fifteen p.m. on October 31, two of the squadron's CH-46A "Sea Knights" were called upon to retract an encircled Marine reconnaissance team from the mountains, 20 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The choppers arrived at the Marines' location after dark but were unable to land because of the dense jungle surrounding the ground troops. They were forced to hover, exposed to enemy fire, until the 17-man recon team could be lifted into the aircraft by hydraulic hoist.

The next evening at six-thirty p.m. word was received that another recon team was pinned down in the same area and two more planes were dispatched. This time there was room for one chopper at a time to land and 21 Marines were rescued through intense enemy fire.

Similarity between the two nights' missions was enough to arouse speculation among squadron members. Both missions were emergency retractions, they occurred at approximately the same time of day, and they took place in almost the same location.

On the third night the pilots and crews were ready, but nothing

30 VC kills

CHU LAI—A mission flown in support of Marine units netted two Marine fighter attack pilots 30 confirmed Viet Cong kills.

Flight leader, Captain John E. Bratton, and his wingman, First Lieutenant William J. Vehy, attacked the guerrilla forces 20 miles south west of Da Nang.

While making their bomb run the F4B Phantom jets received automatic weapons fire but were not damaged.

Help Keep
Our Economy
Strong

BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS

MAG-36's fuel farms for hungry helicopters

CHU LAI—Providing fuel to hungry helicopter engines is a full-time 'round-the-clock job for the men of Tactical Airfield Fuel Dispensing System, Marine Air craft Group-36.

The 23-man section is headed by First Lieutenant John P. Schubert. Schubert said, "we also operate fuel farms south of here at Quang Ngai and north of us at Tam Ky besides the one here at Ky Ha."

"Quang Ngai and Ky Ha fuel farms store 60,000 gallons while

Tam Ky is somewhat smaller and only has a 40,000 gallon capacity", added Schubert.

Schubert went on to say that aviation gas and JP-4 jet fuel are kept in stock at all three places. JP-4 feeds the group's thirsty CH-46 Sea Knight. The regular gas keeps reciprocating engines in UH-34D's chugging.

Enlisted chief, Gunnery Sergeant James Woods a veteran of 20 years, and the last 10 as a bulk fuel expert, said, "the fuel is trucked to all three locations, and is stored in 10,000 gallon two-ply containers made of collapsible rubber material.

"We take pride in our job and we like to think that we serve the cleanest fuel in Vietnam," said Woods who personally sees that the fuel at all three stations is checked for contamination at least once a day.

"TAFDS can not afford to have a dissatisfied customer," said Schubert.

Christmas show

A Christmas USO Show, "Holiday Jamboree," featuring western, folk and pop music, tours the Alaskan and Pacific circuits for 19 weeks, opening Nov. 22. The Pacific circuit also will get in early December, a USO theatrical troupe from Fresno Stage College and the Broadway hit, "Stop the World—I Want To Get Off."



SWIFT SKIPPER—Navy Lt. Dave Dawson, skipper of Swift patrol boat PCF-76, takes the helm for a run at shoreside snipers. After drawing fire, EN-1 Raymond Andrade, USN, bombarded the Viet Cong with 81mm mortar rounds and 50 caliber machine gun fire from the gun mounted on top the mortar tube.

(Photo by: Cpl. Garry Gaspard)

Sea Tiger Spotlight on:

Navy Swift boat patrols

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—Corporal Garry Gaspard, a photographer for the 1st Marine Division, has carried his camera through just about every type of combat operation against the Viet Cong since arriving in Vietnam last March.

Looking for something he hadn't tried, the 22-year-old photographer from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, signed on for a Navy "Swift" boat patrol.

A modern day version of the PT boat, the Swifts run up and down the coast of

the line of fire to a clump of boulders.

The boat drew out of range, made a wide circle and come in for another pass.

Sparks flew as the machine guns tore up the rocks and the smoke from three well placed mortar rounds billowed into the sky.

The third pass was made without contact.

"I think that settles that," said the skipper who turned the boat homeward.

Bond sales up

Series E and H U.S. Savings Bonds sales in October increased 10 percent above the amount sold in the same month last year, according to the Treasury Department. Total sales were \$408 million compared to \$369 million in October 1965.

Gain in public holdings of both series because of October sales netted another \$98 million, putting total cash value on Savings Bonds outstanding at \$49,987 million.



Switchboard crew

Wiremen of Communications Company, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, put through hundreds of telephone calls during their switchboard watch at Chu Lai. Front to rear are: LCpl. Donnie W. Vance, Pvt. Edward S. Anderson, LCpl. Willie L. Jones and LCpl. Samuel G. Jackson, the supervisor on duty.

(Photo by Cpl. Garry R. Gaspard)

Islanders now know American cities, towns do have hearts

By GySgt. E. G. Nolen

KY HA—Until last Saturday morning most of Ly Son's 10,000 population had never heard of Chicago, Detroit or Syracuse, N.Y.

But, that afternoon when Marine Aircraft Group-36 Leathernecks left the tiny island located 20 miles off the coast of Chu Lai, it was a different story. Ly Son's people now know that America's big cities have a heart.

The helicopter flight to the tiny island is an old story to the Marines—Civic Action. During this visit they brought in their CH-46 Sea Knight 'chopper, hundreds of pounds of clothing donated by people from the three large U.S. cities.

The clothing had been collected by citizens of these cities as part of "Project Handclasp," and was finding its way into homes of 234 needy families living on the 10-mile wide South China Sea island.

"I wish the Americans who donated these clothes could see the grateful look on this kid's face," explained MAG-36 Navy

Chaplain Harold W. Jeffers, as he handed a shirt and trousers to a seven-year-old boy.

"They are probably the best clothes he has ever owned," concluded the Chaplain as he watched the happy youngster slip into the shirt.

The visit to the island is conducted every week by MAG-36

Marines. And, while they are there, they always try to pass out clothing, toys and soap donated by various towns, cities or organizations back in the states.

Included on each trip is a medical team of at least two doctors, a dentist and a number of corps men. They treat Ly Son's sick and injured.

Nineteen evacuated in Elephant Valley

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

At five-forty p.m. Nov. 5 a Marine helicopter squadron received word that planes were needed to evacuate a Marine reconnaissance team surrounded by a numerically superior force of Viet Cong, 15 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The pilots attended a hurried briefing while the crews rushed to two of the squadron's CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopters. Within four minutes after the call for help was received, the two air-

craft were airborne and enroute to the embattled Marine's position.

Eighteen men and one wounded Viet Cong prisoner waited on the side of a hill in an area known as "Elephant Valley." Viet Cong on all sides were pouring intense small arms fire into the tiny landing zone.

Flight leader, Captain Lawrence McDonald, went in first and loaded 10 men aboard his chopper. He took off and made a pass over the area while his crew chief and gunner strafed the enemy position with their .50 caliber machine guns.

While the second plane was loading the remaining troops, the co-pilot, First Lieutenant Jack Exum, looked out the window and saw a Viet Cong sniper taking a bead on him from approximately 50 yards away. Fortunately, the sniper missed and the plane lifted safely out of the zone.

The choppers delivered the wounded prisoner to a medical facility near Da Nang, dropped off the recon team, and returned to the Marble Mountain Air Facility. The entire operation lasted less than 45 minutes from start to finish.

Record set

CHU LAI—Two Marine pilots established a squadron record 40 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

Captains Gordon O. Booth and John D. Morris, killed 10 Viet Cong on their strike and on the same mission flew their A4E Skyhawk squadron's 10,000th accident free hour in Vietnam.

The afternoon strike was called to support combined Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and Army Special Forces units under heavy enemy ground fire. The pilots made six runs apiece bombing and strafing their target.

Secretaries donate

DA NANG—The Ky Hoa maternity clinic, recently built by Marines of the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile battalion, has received a cash donation from a professional club in the United States.

The donation came from the Congressional Secretaries Club, an organization comprised of men and women who are secretaries to United States Senators and Representatives.

Miss Virginia Butler, president of the club, said in her letter that the club does not generally make donations such as this, but that they had been particularly interested in the Marine Corps' Civic Action Program, and the club's board of directors made a special exception for this case.

The maternity clinic was started by Navy Lieutenant James H. Deeken, a doctor from St. Louis, Mo., when he was battalion surgeon.



An introduction

MSgt. Pat Landry, manager of the MAG-12 Staff NCO Club, greets "Sonny" as the 1st MAW clubs show arrives at the Group Staff Club. Speaking for "Sonny" is Lou Dupont, who operates three puppets during the show. Looking on is Lisa Page, vocalist with the show. The group toured Wing Clubs in Vietnam.

(Photo by LCpl Russ Cowen)



HAPPINESS IS—This grinning Vietnamese mother and her daughter were among the 234 needy families to receive clothing during the MAG-36 Marines' latest visit to the island of Ly Son.

(Photo by Sgt. Ron Hathaway)

Until Marines came

VC wouldn't permit any church services

By: LCpl. A. H. Mitchell

DA NANG—Citizens of predominantly Catholic Bich Bac hamlet hadn't held church services in more than two years.

The Viet Cong wouldn't let them.

Marines of the 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division solved that problem with a County Fair Nov. 16. They brought in a priest, Navy Chaplain Thomas A. Kenny, Ninth Marine Regimental chaplain, and a Vietnamese lay leader to celebrate a Mass for the villagers.

The Fair began when the Twenty-Sixth Marines, with the assistance of local Army of the Republic of Vietnam units, formed a ring of security around the hamlet.

Under the direction of First Lieutenant William D. Mooney, civil affairs officer of the battalion, Marines set up a dispensary, kitchen and movie equipment.

The people gathered in the small Gothic-style stone church to listen to speeches by the Vietnamese officials and hold Mass.

For the children the Marines had comic books written in Vietnamese and volleyball equipment. Before long the Marines and

children were engaged in a lively game.

Before the day ended, 125 people in the tiny hamlet had been treated by the Navy hospital corpsmen, the people watched a movie — a new experience — and the Marines had hopefully won a new hamlet to the side of freedom.

Ice from Brownies

DA NANG—Staff Sergeant Johnny Rice rotated home this month, but he left fond — if not chilly — memories for the Marines still serving here.

It all began last Christmas when Rice, then attached to the 3rd Marine Division, received a package containing cookies, canned goods and letters from 10 members of Brownie Troop 339 of Oklahoma City, Okla.

After answering each letter personally, Rice sent each girl a Vietnamese doll. In their letters, the brownies asked Rice if there was anything that he and his fellow Marines could use in Vietnam.

"Jokingly, I wrote and told them the only thing we really needed was ice," said Rice. "I never expected the brownies to take me seriously, much less do anything about it," he added.

Thus began "Operation Ice Machine," a major project for Brownie Troop 339, their advisors and parents.

The brownies conducted a rummage sale and eventually earned the money to purchase the machine.

They then contacted the Oklahoma Air National Guard who flew the crated ice machine to Vietnam.



SPORTS

Courtesy of Pacific Stars & Stripes

Pro Races

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Eastern Conference					
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	8	2	1	800	366
St. Louis	8	2	1	800	227
Cleveland	7	4	0	636	295
Philadelphia	6	5	0	545	229
Washington	6	6	0	500	289
Pittsburgh	3	7	1	300	189
New York	1	9	1	100	188
Atlanta	1	10	0	991	135

Western Conference					
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	2	0	.818	274
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	253
Los Angeles	5	5	0	.583	243
Chicago	4	5	2	.444	163
San Fran.	5	4	2	.556	258
Chicago	4	5	2	.444	163
Detroit	4	7	1	.364	197
Minnesota	3	7	1	.300	223

Sunday					
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Los Angeles	3	10	3	.723	
Baltimore	0	0	0	.723	
St. Louis	3	0	3	.06	
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	.03	
Chicago	7	3	3	.1023	
Atlanta	0	0	0	.66	
Washington	13	21	14	.2472	
New York	0	14	14	.1341	
Green Bay	7	14	0	.728	
Minnesota	3	0	6	.716	

AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE					
Eastern Division					
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	3	.727	317	220
Boston	6	3	.667	235	228
New York	5	5	.500	229	214
Houston	3	8	.273	271	301
Miami	2	9	.0	182	159

Western Division					
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
*-Kan. City	9	2	.818	402	241
Oakland	7	5	.583	259	250
San Diego	5	5	.500	248	208
Denver	3	8	.0	273	148

Sunday					
W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	9	.13	3	.32
New York	7	3	.0	14	.24
Denver	3	0	.3	14	.20
San Diego	0	0	.3	14	.17
Boston	0	10	10	0	.20
Miami	0	0	7	7	.14

NFL Statistics

By The Associated Press
(Through Games of Nov. 20)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

LEADING GROUND GAINERS

Avg.					
Att.	Yards	Gain	TDS		
Kelly, Clev.	157	830	5.3	10	5
Bass, L.A.	185	808	4.4	8	
Sayers, Chi.	167	785	4.7	6	
Green, Clev.	117	640	5.5	3	
B. Brown, Minn.	162	611	3.6	5	
Coffey, Atl.	142	577	4.1	3	
Taylor, G.B.	155	531	3.4	4	
T. Brown, Phila.	143	513	3.6	3	
Reeves, Dal.	125	504	4.0	6	
Willard, S.F.	130	481	3.7	5	

LEADING PASSERS

Avg.					
Att.	Com.	Yds.	Tds.	Gain	
Starr, G.B.	181	116	1,776	10	9.81
Wash.	349	207	2,507	18	7.18
Meredith, Dal.	285	148	2,516	22	8.83
Ryan, Clev.	260	139	1,862	20	7.16
Unitas, Balt.	262	149	2,086	17	7.96
Tarkenton, Minn.	275	148	1,861	10	6.77
Brodie, S.F.	305	169	1,958	10	6.42
Johnson, St. L.	205	103	1,334	10	6.51
Gabriel, L.A.	309	162	1,938	7	6.27
Morrall, N.Y.	151	71	1,105	7	7.32

LEADING PASS RECEIVERS

Avg.					
Recd.	Yds.	Gain	Tds.		
Hershey	57	1,143	20.1	5	
Taylor, Wash.	54	776	14.4	7	
Mitchell, Wash.	47	779	16.6	8	
Moore, L.A.	47	383	8.1	3	
Hayes, Dal.	45	948	21.1	10	
Parks, S.F.	44	514	11.7	2	
McDonald, L.A.	43	494	11.5	1	
Nowatzke, Det.	43	275	6.4	1	
Berry, Balt.	42	570	13.6	5	
Casey, S.F.	41	581	14.2	1	

AFL Statistics

AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

TEAM OFFENSE

Avg.					
Yds.	Rushing	Passing			
Kansas City	361.1	151.3	209.8		
Buffalo	328.4	127.1	201.3		
New York	327.1</td				



Friendly fox

Charles F. Shortround, a Vietnamese fox, leaves no doubt who his favorite human is. Charlie's best friend is Maj. Richard A. Widdows, 7th Marines Civil Affairs Officer. The four-and-a-half-month-old bundle of affection purrs like a cat, drinks root beer, orange soda and coffee. "He thinks he's people," the major said. P. S. Charlie is really a Charlene.

(Photo by Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

19-year-old Marine saves rebuilt bridge

By SSgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA — A 19-year-old 3rd Division Marine played a key role in a successful defense of a newly-repaired bridge during an attack by an estimated platoon of North Vietnamese soldiers.

Private First Class Jeffery J. Yeaman, a rifleman with "L" Company, Fourth

Busy Sgt.

Staff Sergeant Bobby G. Taylor is a busy Marine.

The sergeant's regular job is NCOIC of a marine observation squadron's flight equipment section. During his spare time the Atlanta Leatherneck serves as an aerial gunner on his squadron's HU-1E "Huey" gunships.

"My paraloft supplies every type of flight and survival equipment from seatbelts to fish hooks," Taylor said. He explained that his shop is responsible for all flight gear issued to the squadron's pilots and crews. This includes helmets, flight suits, flack jackets, and all safety and survival equipment that goes with an aircraft everytime it leaves the ground.

First Lieutenant David G. Cassell, officer-in-charge of the group paralofts, said, "SSgt Taylor recently had an inspection of his paraloft by an administration and maintenance team and scored a 97, which is very good."

The first day Taylor flew as a gunner he went on 14 missions, four of them strikes, earning his combat air crewman's wings. Less than a week later he completed twenty missions for his first Air Medal.

"During October, I was high gunner for time in the air. I had a total of 57.5 hours," said the busy staff sergeant.

The Atlanta Marine says he will continue to fly. He added, "Running a busy shop and flying all of the time keeps me busy and that's the way I like it."

NVA dead, and helped break up the attack when he knocked out an enemy 60mm mortar position with two hand grenades.

The Cau Duoi bridge, spanning the Hieu River in Cam Lo, about eight miles west of Dong Ha, was attacked by the NVA platoon less than 15 hours after it had been repaired by Marine engineers.

The engineers took 36 hours to rebuild the bridge, demolished by Viet Cong mortar fire last year.

In the early morning following its completion, enemy soldiers began firing small arms and mortar fire at the bridge and its nine-man security squad.

Four Marines were wounded in the mortar barrage against the south bank of the river.

Meanwhile on the north, NVA troops were attacking in force. They moved a mortar to within 25 yards of the bridge — and within 15 yards of Yeaman's position. When it fired, Yeaman threw two grenades at the muzzle flash.

A sweep at dawn revealed two khaki-clad enemy bodies, a Chinese carbine, a 60mm mortar round, and two 40-lb. satchel charges.

The following day, the bridge was officially opened during a ceremony attended by 500 persons.

Among those honored at the event were engineers and infantrymen who had repaired and defended the bridge which opened for the first traffic in nearly a year.

Navy Optical Shop

'New eyes' in minutes

By JO1 Bob Young

U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DA NANG (PAO) — Eyesight goes hand-in-hand with marksmanship. Without the ability to see, a steady hand is worthless.

The Marines, Army and Navy in South Vietnam can be thankful to a handful of men at the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang for providing those with failing eyesight the ability to see again.

These men, working at the Station Hospital of the Support Activity, can, within a matter of minutes, provide an individual with a new pair of "second eyes" . . . eyeglasses.

This first Navy optical shop ever operated in a combat zone is providing glasses for the fighting men in the northern sector of South Vietnam and even, in certain instances, men from other areas of South Vietnam.

Under the direction of Lieutenant Commander J. F. Johnson, an optometrist, the opticians have on several occasions made over 100 pairs of glasses a day. Their personal high is 119 pairs a day and 1573 pairs a month.

The patient list is varied, ranging from field troops with only a few short hours in which to procure glasses to the many sailors attached to activities in and around the Da Nang area.

The speed with which the 7 Navy opticians can process a man through an eye test and out the door with his new glasses is far beyond the reach of even the most modern facilities in the United States.

Through a process of reparatory eye acuity tests, an eye refraction by the optometrist, lens selection, marking, edging and mounting into frames, a patient can walk out with his "new eyes" in less than an hour.

In addition to speedy processing of a patient, the shop receives quite a few mail order prescriptions from fleet units at sea and field units unable to reach Da Nang. These prescriptions are promptly filled and sent out the same day.

Lucky PFC

By: SSgt. Ed Grantham

DONG HA — Private First Class John A. Brittan, 19, considers himself lucky. Everyone who's seen his helmet tends to agree.

On Operation Prairie the 3rd Division Marine was point on a company sweep when a North Vietnamese soldier opened up on him with a burst of 10 rounds from an automatic rifle.

Brittan's helmet took the first round. The bullet hit near the front, passed through the steel pot, cut its way through the ballistic fiber liner and grazed the inside sweat band before ripping out the other side.

The impact knocked Brittan off his feet and dazed him.

"At first I thought I was hit seriously. I shook my head and took off the helmet to see if I was bleeding. But I got away without a scratch," said Brittan.

First Sergeant Richard S. Peabody, "H" Company Fifth Regiment, made arrangements for Brittan to keep the helmet as a souvenir.

"Just in case no one believes you," Peabody said.

Flying Ski

CHU LAI — Tomorrow "Ski" goes flying.

Last week Staff Sergeant James J. Kolbinskie attended aerial gunner's school at HMM-361, and will soon fly his first mission with that squadron.

"Ski" hopes his new gunners' chores are as interesting as his full time job for the past 11 months. He is platoon commander of a rifle platoon that provides perimeter security for auxiliary air station.

Since heading the platoon, "Ski" has led 294 patrols and participated in two major operations.

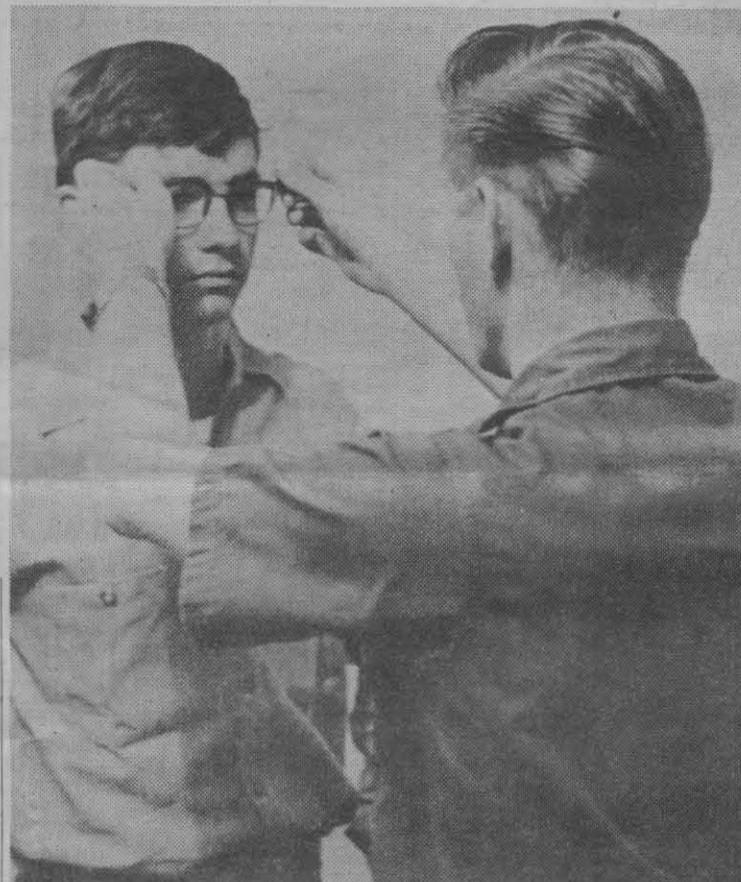
Remarking on the speedy processing, Hospital Corpsman First Class John Kelly stated, "We try to get the patient out of the shop as quickly as possible. Sometimes it is necessary because the men have to return to the field within a few hours. We couldn't let them return knowing their eyesight could mean their life."

Although the shop can not make bi-focals and other related lenses which need special grinding, future plans include a grinding shop.

"With grinding capabilities, we could fill any prescription within a matter of hours," Hospital Corpsman First Class J. H.

Brown commented. He went on to add that presently prescriptions for bi-focals and other related prescriptions have to be sent to the United States to be filled, thus delaying the glasses by four to five weeks.

Even without the grinding shop, the opticians at the Support Activity are providing "new eyes" for thousands of men throughout South Vietnam . . . eyes that could mean the difference between the split second timing necessary in this war torn country to preserve a life or the inability to see the impending danger, resulting in possible death.



PRELIMINARY FITTING — Hospital Corpsman Second Class L. C. Stout, of the Station Hospital Optical Shop, tries sample glasses on a patient to insure correct fitting of the frames. This step is a preliminary step prior to the actual eye test and making of the glasses. (Photo by JO1 Bob Young)

Shoeshine boy's dream suddenly becomes real

CHU LAI — Little Ane Le Van will always have a place in his heart for members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361.

The 12-year-old Vietnamese shoeshine boy had dreamed all his life of owning a bicycle. Squadron-361 turned his dream into reality when they presented him a new yellow bike.

First Lieutenant James D. Johnson, Jr., an HMM-361 pilot, and the squadron skipper, Lieutenant Colonel McDonald D. Tweed, watched as the grateful youngster saw his bike for the first time.

"He was so proud that tears came into his eyes," explained Lt. Johnson, who played a major part in fulfilling Van's dream.

The lieutenant first met the boy at An Hai, a small fishing village just outside Ky Ha where Marine Aircraft Group-36 is homebased.

"I was riding a Special Serv-

ices bike at the time," recalled the lieutenant, "and the friendly English speaking kid begged me to let him ride it. He told me he was saving money shining shoes at our group barber shop to buy his bike."

"He only had a few dollars saved and he wanted a bicycle so much that everyone in HMM-361 chipped in and came up with some cash. I went to Da Nang to buy the bike in the post exchange but they did not have one," he said.

Lieutenant Johnson made up his mind to get Van a bike so he drove through Da Nang's First Marine Aircraft Wing area asking Marines riding bikes if they would sell. He finally found a Marine captain with almost a new bicycle. "He didn't want to sell," said the lieutenant, "but I finally convinced him that Van needed the bike more than he."



BREAK TIME—Marines of 1st Shore Party Bn., 1st Marine Division take a break during Operation Golden Fleece 7-2. When the next helicopter comes in they will load the rice aboard, part of 50 tons harvested during the operation.

Golden Fleece 7-2

800 march north to freedom

By: GySgt. James J. Oggerino

CHU LAI — More than 800 refugees marched out of the My Loc area Nov. 14 and headed north to freedom.

Guarded by elements of the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division the exodus marked the end of a six-day operation designated Golden Fleece 7-2.

Strung out over several thou-

sand meters, the refugees brought an estimated 200 head of cattle and all the worldly goods they could carry. Small children carried even smaller children. No one was empty handed.

The sick and aged and the very young were evacuated by Marine helicopters.

During the six-day operation Marines of the 2nd and 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, protected 400 harvesters. In all, 50 tons of rice was gathered and delivered to the refugee center at Binh Son.

During the harvest Marines killed two Viet Cong and captured two, one of whom had a sniper scope.

The citizens of the My Loc area were forced to plant the rice for the VC. When they tried to leave the Cong forced them to return to their hamlets.

When the Marines arrived the village chief requested the villagers be permitted to walk out with them. The word was passed and the villagers came from miles around.

"Many of these people spent their entire lives here," said Major Thomas G. Adams, 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marines Oper-

ations Officer. "They took with them what they could carry. There are no commercial van lines here."

Nothing of use to the VC was left behind.

GED testing for 3dMarDiv

PHU BAI—High school and college level general educational development (GED) testing is now underway in the 3d Marine Division.

Personnel desiring to be tested should contact their battalion education officer, or the division education office for details.

Tests are now being given to Marines in the Phu Bai area. The division education NCO, Lance Corporal Roger S. Boeker, will then relocate to another major area to conduct testing.

Tentatively scheduled for testing are the Dong Ha, Khe Sanh and An Hoa areas.

Approximately 2 1/2 days for the high school level test and 1 to 2 days for the college level are required.



Handy back

Plotting a VC position to call in an airstrike, PFC Bill H. Burns uses the back of Cpl. Perry Roberts as a table during a search and destroy operation. Both Marines are members of 1st Bn., 11th Marines, working in support of the 1st Marine Regiment during an operation 11 miles south of Da Nang.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

Short Rounds

Crash crew

CHU LAI—Twenty-three members of a Marine aircraft group here spend 24 hours a day staying prepared for a job they hope they will never have to perform.

They make up the group's crash crew which stands ready at any moment of the day or night to come to the aid of a stricken helicopter or to fight a fire that might start in the area.

Gunnery Sergeant Everett M. Elliott, NCOIC of the Crash Crew, says his men actually have three important jobs to perform. He says they are responsible for the two large helicopter runways and also serve as the group fire department.

"Besides those two full time jobs we also take care of repair and operation of all the landing lights on the runways and taxi strips," he added.

Elliott says his section is very proud of their fire department.

Besides a good fire prevention program, the fire department provides and maintains fire extinguishers for the mess halls, buildings and billeting areas at this helicopter base.

by a mine blast. I was piloting the second helicopter that attempted to land in the area", said Sims.

"The first one detonated a mine and was damaged," he added.

Sims explained he was unable to lift the wounded man out of the zone with the helicopter's hoist because of the man's wounds.

"I started thinking that if one chopper had set off a mine where it has tried to land then there should be no more mines in that exact spot." He went on to say that with the aid of his crewchief he set the chopper down in the wheel marks of the other chopper.

"We were lucky," said Sims, who has been in Vietnam for 11 months. He added that the pickup was successful and the wounded Marine was rushed to medical aid.

Reunion

DA NANG — No one is looking forward more to the annual Bob Hope tour of Vietnam than Lance Corporal Gregory J. Gibbons, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Where Hope goes so goes Gibbons' father, an NBC musician who spent the last four Christmases with the entertainer performing for servicemen overseas.

"Actually, the primary reason I joined the Marine Corps was because of the tales my father told me after his return from the Far East," Gibbons said. "I had to see if the Marines lived up to my father's stories."

When Joseph H. Gibbons, the Marine's father, was returning from Vietnam last year, his son was leaving the States.

"This time," said Gibbons, "I hope to see my father during the holidays."

"I was always proud of Father for giving up his Christmas to entertain the troops," Gibbons said. "Now that I'm here I really appreciate what he and all the entertainers who come over for the USO do for morale."

Bunker Hill

DA NANG — It was about 1:30 a.m. on Sept. 17 and four Vietnamese and one U.S. Marine were on guard when an incoming rocket exploded in the night.

The battle for "Bunker hill" began.

Sergeant William R. Kelly, and the Vietnamese Marines were guarding the command bunker that serves as a headquarters for the civil affairs team who work in the nearby hamlets.

The Viet Cong wanted that bunker.

After the explosion, Sgt. Kelly went outside to help the radioman who had been knocked down by the concussion, to get inside the sandbagged bunker.

"It was then that the small arms fire began," the Marine explained. "All we could do was hold our ground."

The five-man guard drove off the attackers following a two-hour fire fight.

"We estimated about 15 communists were in the attack," Kelly said.

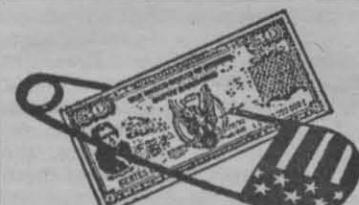
The sergeant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for his actions at ceremonies Nov 8 at the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

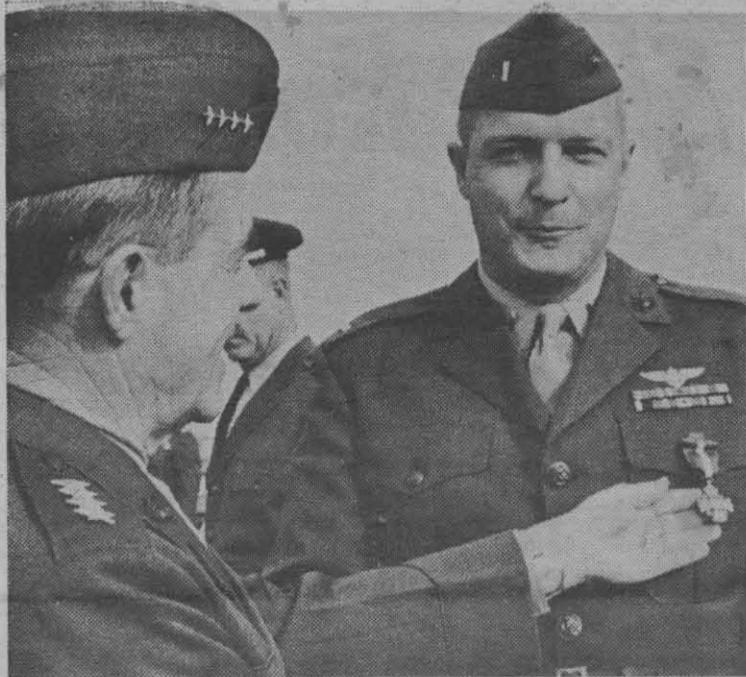
DFC

DA NANG—Captain Samuel R. Sims, Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-36, MAG-36, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroic actions against Viet Cong forces last July 22.

Sims earned his award while flying a medical evacuation mission in support of a 1st Marine Division reconnaissance unit.

"We had been asked to pick up a Marine that had been wounded





Navy Cross

2d Lt Donald J. Berger is presented the Navy Cross by Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr. CMC, at MCAS El Toro, Calif. Lt Berger received the medal for "extraordinary heroism" while serving in Vietnam last March. He was credited with saving the lives of his crewmen and a large number of American and Vietnamese personnel. Gen. Greene made the presentation immediately following his arrival at El Toro for a two-day visit Nov. 15-16.

Tanker with aviation

By GySgt. E. C. Nolen

CHU LAI — Tank drivers are normally scarce around a Marine Corps helicopter unit. Marine Aircraft Group-36 is the exception.

Typical of the tiny band of Leathernecks who drive those "lumbering monsters" around the auxiliary air station's perimeter is Staff Sergeant Lawrence P. Dalgarn, "A" Company, 1st Tank Battalion.

He has been chauffeuring tanks for the Marines since the early days of the Korean conflict, and he knows his business.

"When I first arrived at Chu Lai I felt out of place around helicopter Marines. It didn't take long to find out that I would get a lot of ribbing about my occupation," explained the tanker.

Dalgarn is a section leader with the tank unit, and provides continuous perimeter protection for the heliport.

Recorded tapes

go postage-free

President Johnson has signed into law H.R. 13448 extending free mail privileges for servicemen to include recorded messages in addition to letters and cards.

"This means that our men in Vietnam can send home, postage-free, the sound of their own voices—and in some small way help ease the burden of being apart through words of love and reassurance," the President said.

He noted that the bill "will help bridge the distance between our servicemen in Vietnam and their families back home."

The President pointed out the new law will also help speed newspapers and magazines "to our men in Vietnam by available airlift, at lower surface mail rates . . . We are speeding their mail — more than two-million pounds every month."

In another area regarding servicemen in Vietnam, President Johnson said, "They are receiving the fast and most modern medical care in the world—the remarkable care that saves the lives of almost 90 percent of those wounded."

Since reporting aboard last December, Dalgarn has become a familiar sight perched on his M48A3 tank as it clanks and rattles around the perimeter.

Very seldom does he ride without at least one aviation Marine kidding him about never getting off the ground.

Planter

DA NANG—Built on a barren stretch of sand along the South China Sea, four miles south of Da Nang, the Marble Mountain Air Facility was constructed for utility.

All attempts by the men of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-16 to enhance the appearance of the base by planting shrubs and flowers were unsuccessful.

Suddenly, greenery of all kinds began to appear mysteriously all over the station. The chapel, mess hall, and many other buildings had walkways adorned with neat rows of flowers, small palm trees and other types of local vegetation. Yet for six months, the owner of the green thumb remained anonymous.

Recently, the phantom planter was identified. He is a retired staff sergeant of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam named Huynh Nhong who works in MAG-16's mess hall. A quiet man who retains his rigid military bearing despite his years, he declined to explain his actions beyond the fact that he is a Roman Catholic and wanted to do something for the church.

Whenever he is not busy supervising a 20 man shift of Vietnamese workers employed by the MAG-16 Industrial Relations Office, he goes inconspicuously about his duties as group gardener. No one knows where he gets the plants or how he makes them flourish in the seemingly sterile earth, but he does.

CAC—

(Continued From Page 1) an aerial observer with Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, was flying over the area and described it as "a well executed operation by the ground forces. They knew exactly what they were doing."

Marine casualties were light.

MEDCAP team splashes down on Thuan An island

By Cpl. Jim DesRoches

PHU BAI—Seven Navy corpsmen from "A" Company, 3rd Shore Party Battalion cruised five miles from their base camp to Cu Lai by Vietnamese junk. The camp and the village are both located on Thuan An Island.

The 3rd Marine Division corpsmen were a medical team headed by HM1 Charles Pichon.

As the junk approached the water's edge, cheering and waving their arms. Many villagers carried baskets of bananas, sugar cane and other tropical fruits.

But the real fun began when the corpsmen disembarked from the junk, which ran aground 10 feet from shore.

A bamboo ladder was laid from the bow of the junk to the shore. The ladder was about 12 inches wide—and not too steady.

As the first "Doc" began to descend the ladder, a storm of laughter arose from the village. It seems they had already made bets as to how many of their visitors were going to fall into the water.

Three corpsmen made it to shore without getting wet. The children seemed disappointed—but not for long.

Captain Bill Phelps, "A" Company commander, got half-way down the ladder. As he lifted his hand in the victory sign, he fell into the waist deep water and came up smiling. The children screamed with delight.

After all the corpsmen were ashore, they wasted no time in getting to work. In three hours they treated 140 persons.

"Doc" Pichon said his men did a great job, and had fun doing it. The corpsman believes a little compassion goes a long way, and his men do the job they do because they share his feeling.

Pichon, a Navy corpsman who served with Marine units for nearly 14 years, left the Navy for a job at Cape Kennedy. At the outbreak of the Vietnamese War, Pichon decided to return to active duty on the condition he would be sent to Vietnam. He believed he had something to offer the people in the way of medical assistance.

Soon it was time to leave the village. All the corpsmen made it aboard the junk without getting wet.

They displayed signs of having been visited by the "Docs"; tubes of toothpaste and bars of soap held in small hands; bandages over cuts and infections.

LCpl. rescues

Sailor at sea

PHU BAI—When a small Navy patrol boat had capsized in heavy seas off the coast, four UH-34D helicopters from HMM-163, Marine Aircraft Group-16, were sent to the scene.

A chopper piloted by Major Joseph P. Beno, executive officer, spotted a man in the water soon after reaching the area.

"It took only a glance to tell that the man was unconscious," said the major.

Lance Corporal Joseph G. Deal, crewchief, was sent down the helicopter's hoist to pickup the Navyman.

"When I first started down the hoist I couldn't tell how rough the surf was, but when I hit the water I found out in a hurry," Deal said. Some of the swells were 15-feet-high he said.

Deal swam to the unconscious man and grabbed his life jacket, held with his legs and gave the signal to hoist away.

The survivor was given artificial respiration, and taken to a medical station.



He nose his business

Rex, a Marine Corps scout dog, sniffs a Viet Cong's clothing, held by his handler, PFC Erving E. Ellington, prior to going on a patrol in the area known as the "horseshoe", 12 miles south of Da Nang. Ellington and Rex were attached to 3d Bn., 1st Marines during an operation. Members of the Scout Dog Platoon, 1st MP Bn., they were used extensively during the operation which netted four VC killed and 15 captured.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

Villagers freed—

(Continued From Page 1) time in two years that the people of Mai Loc had been medically assisted.

The Viet Cong had kept them virtual prisoners in their own village. They were not permitted to travel or trade with surrounding areas.

When the people were told about a refugee village about two miles north of their own, they re-

quested to be sent there.

On Nov. 19, 820 people representing 177 families and 92 per cent of the population of Mai Loc, left their homes and moved north. They were guarded—and assisted—by a company of Marines. They journeyed to join 2,300 other Cua Valley inhabitants who fled during the past year to the village of Doc Kinh to escape communist domination.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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Postage
3rd Class 4¢
Airmail 8¢

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