



SEA TIGER

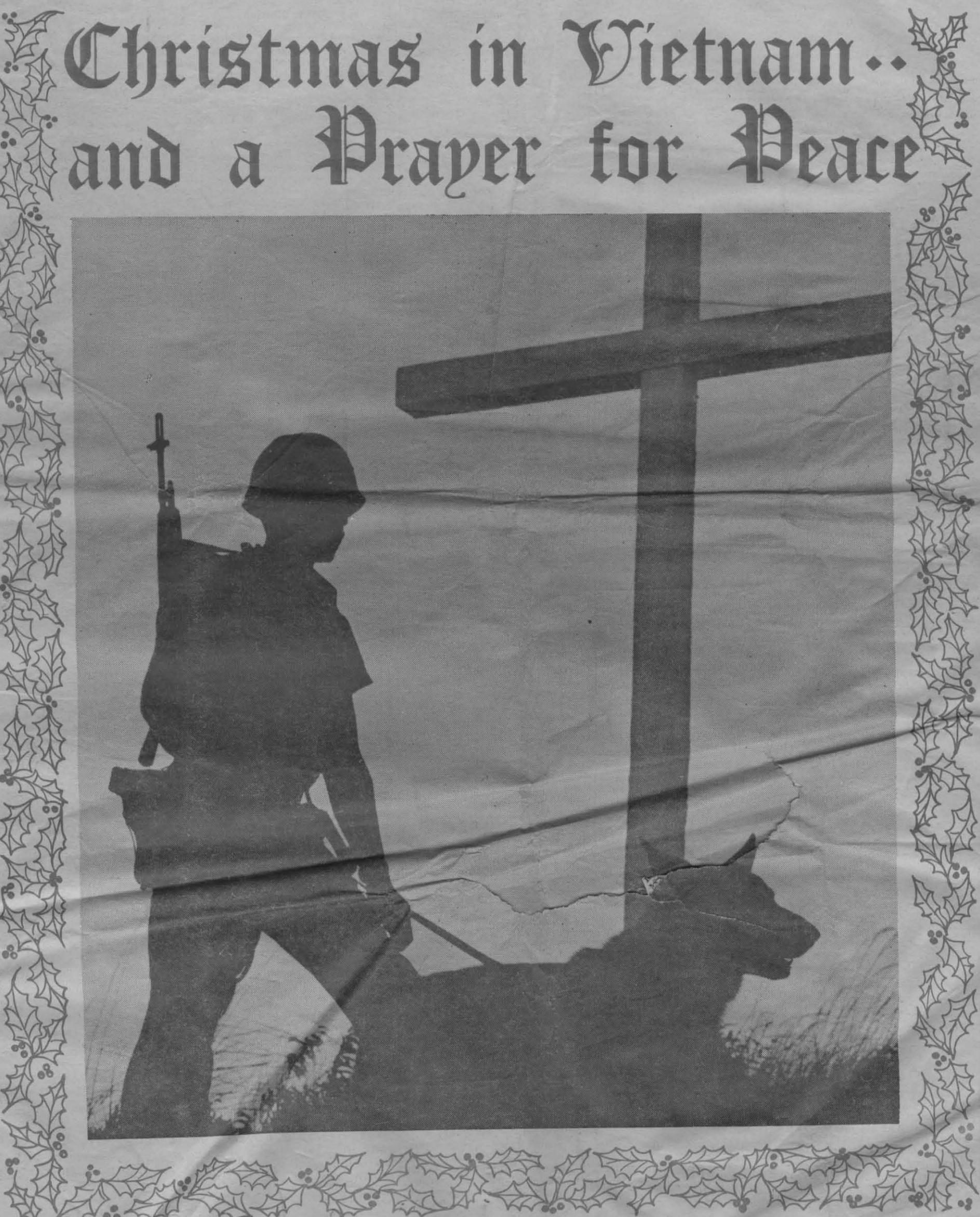


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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

December 21, 1966

Christmas in Vietnam... and a Prayer for Peace





SEA TIGER

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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
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Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

Force ISO
Editor

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Christmas 1966



Christmas means different things to different people. A lot depends on where we are. Many are fortunate this Christmastide to be with family and friends. We are far away from home on this, the happiest of holidays.

But there's one thing about Christmas—its spirit is so infectious no one except a modern-day Scrooge can hide from it.

Under normal conditions we know Christmas as a day for carolers, holly, poinsettia and mistletoe. We know it as a family day of feasting and exchange of gifts.

Most important, however, we know it as the day hearts

are gladdened and spirits lifted by the story of Christ's birth.

We need not be in the comfort of our home to be filled with the spirit of Christmas. It happens everywhere, to everyone.

Sure, it would be great if the Christmas spirit could engulf all men and change the world. No more envy, fighting, bickering for power. Just peace to all men.

Unfortunately, there are some nations, and men, in the world today who don't see it that way. They thirst for power. They would conquer all men—if they could. They would enslave free men.

That is why we cannot be home for Christmas—1966.

Eskimo

DONG HA—Sergeant Albert L. Agibinik is a full-blooded Eskimo with an urge to stay a Marine.

The infantry platoon sergeant took his latest "plunge" Nov. 30, reenlisting for six years at his battalion position at Camp J. J. Carroll. He is attached to "E" Company, Ninth Marine Regiment.

The 3rd Division Marine was born in Unalakleet along the Bering Sea coastline in western Alaska. He served four years in the Alaskan National Guard before a Marine recruiter at Anchorage interested him in the Corps. He enlisted at Kodiak in 1958, the year before Alaska was admitted to the Union.

Agibinik found climate at the San Diego (Calif.) Recruit Depot "bearable."

"I went through during the 'winter' there," he said.

Summertime high temperatures in his native country average around 60 degrees, winter brings 40 degrees below zero readings.

Mass for Marines

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (two Masses) will be offered for the intentions of the U.S. Marine Corps on the occasion of the Vietnam Campaign. With sincere best wishes from the children of the Star of the Sea School, Marblehead, Massachusetts.

—Rev. Wm. J. McCarthy

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

Dear Editor:

We appreciate very much the story about our project published on page four of your Nov. 23 edition. We have many letters on hand from Americans throughout the U.S. who would like to express their thanks and support of the men there. Many would like to write on a regular basis and send packages.

We received over one hundred requests for mail from the story in the SEA TIGER. However, we have hundreds of letters coming in from all parts of the country each day and would be very grateful to you if you will please mention our project in SEA TIGER from time to time.

Company commanders and other officers are invited to send their name, rank and service number with complete address if they are interested in receiving boxes of these letters and greeting cards for morale building among their troops. There are no paid workers connected with this project.

We have been thinking of making up a standard package of most needed and hard to come by items for mailing to troops in Vietnam. We are also thinking of including a few items of clothing for children in each package so that each man receiving one could give them to a child of his choice. A small toy for the child would also be included.

Best of everything to you and all your men there.

Paul Stewart
Project Coordinator
VIETNAM MAIL CALL
Post Office Box 3104
Columbus, Georgia 31903

Dear President Johnson:

We are students who are very proud to be Americans, and we are also proud of the American servicemen who have laid and are still laying down their lives for their Country. We feel that we would like to do something to boost the morale of some of the Marines in Vietnam.

Is there any possible way we could go about adopting a small Marine Corps platoon or company so that we might write letters and tell them what is going

on at home?

This means a great deal to us, so if you could find a spare moment in your busy day to help us in this project, we would greatly appreciate it.

Proudly,

Noemie Stewart
Jean Kirkpatrick
East Hall
Northfield School

E. Northfield, Mass. 01361

NOTE: The letter above was forwarded to the SEA TIGER from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Dear Editor:

We would like a storm of letters. Anyone desiring a pen-pal has only to write to us, we'll do the rest. We are working in cooperation with "Operation Mail Call". Our object is to show our men over there that people back at home do care about them. We have heard enough from protest groups, etc. Let's hear from the MEN!

Mrs. Santa Claus
OPERATION MAIL CALL
P. O. Box 5459
Buena Park, Calif. 90620



BOND AMBASSADOR—Joan Berry of Lusk, Wyo., has been chosen "Mrs. U.S. Savings Bonds, 1966." Here she receives a regal sendoff on a national tour from Mrs. Joy Noufer, the new Mrs. America.

Chaplain Speaks

Here in Vietnam, Christmas may seem a long way off. At this season of the year our thoughts inevitably turn to our homes, friends and the happy memories we have always associated with the Christmas season. In a way, the Christmas message of "Peace on Earth and Good Will Among Men" seems a bit incongruous in the middle of conflict. There is no peace and not enough good will. It almost seems as though Christmas belongs to another age or to another part of the world. We hear no angels singing. The sounds of the night are more likely to be that of artillery. There are no miraculous stars to lead us in the night—just illumination flares.

Christmas does have a profound meaning for us. It marks an event which established a unique relationship between man and God. God stepped into the human scene to pick up the broken pieces and to preserve and conserve what appeared to be hopelessly lost. The message of Christmas is that God salvages human life. Man's dreams of peace on earth are not lost, no honest effort to build a better world of good will ever fully dies. God brings our best dreams to unexpected birth.

The circumstances of Christ's birth were unimpressive. Born in a stable in a relatively obscure village there was very little to indicate the impact of his life on the course of human events. His birth, however, is a reminder that God has not deserted his world. He has neither rejected nor forsaken it.

Christmas is a significant event. Here in Vietnam, away from the tinsel and festivity usually associated with the holiday season, it is possible for the true significance of Christmas to reach us clearly. God, as always, is in the hearts of all who will have him there.

—Chaplain E. Vaughan Lyons, Jr.

Sgt. Robert E. O'Malley first U.S. Marine to win Medal of Honor for Vietnam service

WASHINGTON—Sergeant Robert Emmett O'Malley, the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor since the Korean War, was decorated December 6, 1966 by President Johnson.

A native of New York City and a former newspaper carrier, he earned the highest combat award while serving as a squad leader in Operation Starlight on August 18, 1965, in the vicinity of Chu Lai. A corporal at the time of the action, he led his Marines in repeated assaults against entrenched Viet Cong who were inflicting a heavy toll on a nearby Marine unit. Wounded three times during the action, he refused evacuation until the mission was accomplished and he had covered the evacuation of the survivors of his squad, each of them wounded.

Sergeant O'Malley is now a Marine reservist on inactive duty and was a member of Company "I", Third Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division at the time he displayed his courageous action.

The citation accompanying his Medal of Honor states:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the communist (Viet Cong) forces at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as squad leader in Company 'I', Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division (Reinforced), near An Cu'ong 2, South Vietnam on August 18, 1965. While leading his squad in the assault against a strongly en-

trenched enemy force, his unit came under intense small arms fire.

With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Corporal O'Malley raced across an open rice paddy to a trench line where the enemy forces were located. Jumping into the trench, he attacked the Viet Cong with his rifle and grenades, and singly killed eight of the enemy. He then led his squad to the assistance of an adjacent Marine unit which was suffering heavy casualties. Continuing to press forward, he reloaded his weapon and fired with telling effect into the enemy emplacement. He personally assisted in the evacuation of several wounded Marines, and again regrouping the remnants of his squad, he returned to the point of the heaviest fighting. Ordered to an evacuation point by an officer, Corporal O'Malley gathered his besieged and badly wounded squad and boldly led them under fire to a helicopter for withdrawal.

Although three times wounded in this encounter, and facing imminent death from a fanatic and determined enemy, he steadfastly refused evacuation and continued to cover his squad's boarding of the helicopters while, from an exposed position, he delivered fire against the enemy until his wounded men were evacuated. Only then, with his last mission accomplished did he permit himself to be removed from the battlefield. By his valor, leadership and courageous efforts in behalf of his comrades, he served as an inspiration to all

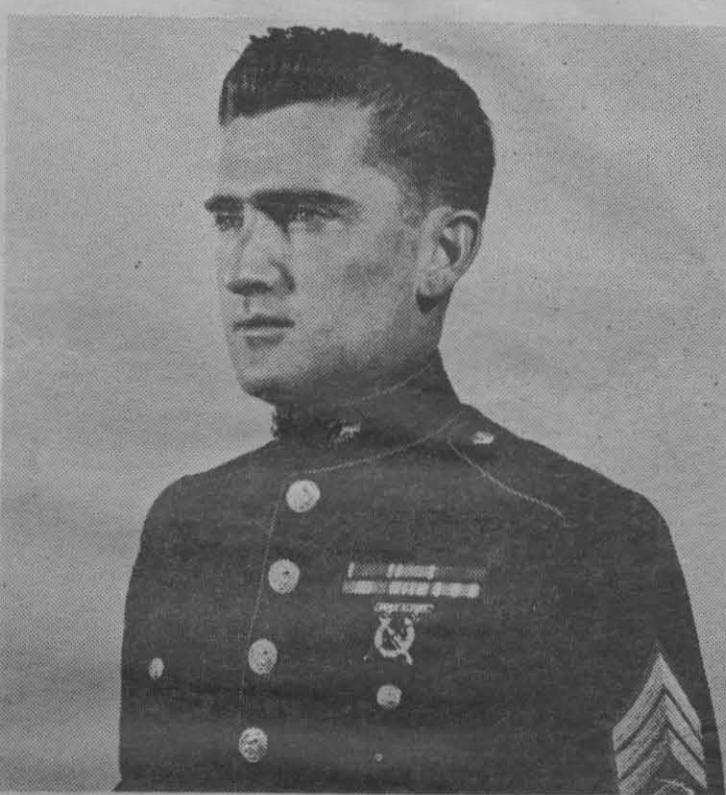
who observed him, and reflected the highest credit upon the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Sergeant O'Malley was born June 3, 1943 in New York City, the son of John and Catherine O'Malley of New York. After completing high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines on October 11, 1961. He completed recruit training at Parris Island, S.C. and then served with the Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was promoted to private first class in May 1962.

The following year, he arrived in Okinawa as a member of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division. While there he was promoted to lance corporal in March 1963 and to corporal in November 1963. He returned to Camp Pendleton in 1964 as a member of the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division.

He was transferred overseas again the following year and took part in combat in Vietnam with Company "I", 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. He was promoted to sergeant following "Starlight" and was assigned to Marine Barracks, Yokosuka, Japan, after fully recovering from his wounds.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Sgt. O'Malley has been awarded the Purple Heart (WIA Aug. 18, 1965), the Good Conduct Medal, Navy Unit Commendation (Starlite), the National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.



Sgt. Robert E. O'Malley

Silver Star

Ambassador Lodge decorates crew chief

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—Marine Gunnery Sergeant Donald Beaver was awarded the Silver Star during ceremonies at III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters, Dec. 1.

United States Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., presented the decoration to the former Marine drill instructor.

Beaver was flying as crew chief of a CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopter on Sept. 2. The chopper was landing to insert Marines into an enemy infested area southwest of Da Nang when it was hit by an explosive shell and crashed in flames.

Although wounded in the left arm during the crash, Beaver immediately began carrying wounded Marines from the burning aircraft. He re-entered the plane three times through a break in the fuselage.

After all the Marines had been removed, he helped set up a de-

fensive perimeter to fight off attacking Viet Cong. When a second chopper arrived to evacuate them, Beaver manned one of its machine guns.

He remained in the aircraft during the two trips required to extract everyone from the crash scene. At the hospital, he refused treatment for his own wounds until the others had been cared for.

According to the citation:

"His many acts of heroism were an inspiration to all who observed him and contributed immeasurably to the accomplishment of the mission."

Beaver has also been awarded a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam.

"Operation Mississippi" lands solid blow to VC breadbasket

By Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—Marines on Operation Mississippi landed a solid blow to the Viet Cong's breadbasket with the discovery and capture of some 30 tons of VC rice.

Discovery of the rice, hidden high in the mountains surrounding a VC controlled valley some 40 miles south of Da Nang, came on Dec. 4, the sixth day of the search and destroy operation.

Led by two Popular Forces (PF) soldiers, members of 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regi-

ment, 1st Marine Division, made their way up an almost vertical jungle trail.

There, hidden from aerial view by dense jungle canopy, was the cache, in five buildings. Each of the buildings, which served as bins, contained about 750 cubic feet of grain.

The rice had been collected by the communist insurgents as tax from the farmers living in what is known as "Antenna Valley" to Marines.

The PFs said the first building found by the Marines was a "way-station," where villagers would drop off the rice. From that point, Viet Cong laborers and guerrillas would haul the rice to the storage bins.

Viet Cong in the area put up only a brief battle before fleeing into the dense jungle.

The battalion, aided by engineers, cleared a helicopter landing zone atop the mountain so the rice could be removed and distributed to civilian refugees.

Only occasional contact was made with Viet Cong during the operation, as the insurgents chose to evacuate the area rather than stand and fight. Marine casualties were light.

Eight Viet Cong were killed, 19 captured, and six rallied to the government's side during the operation. In addition, 13 suspected Viet Cong were apprehended.

The Marines also freed some 1,400 civilians from Viet Cong control, and evacuated them for relocation in the An Hoa area.

The operation, under control of the Ninth Marine Regiment, included elements of four Marine regiments.

Dependent's housing

WASHINGTON—Headquarters Marine Corps has published a list of 13 military installations where the dependents of overseas personnel may apply for government quarters.

Both officer and enlisted quarters are available in most cases. Interested personnel who qualify for such housing should address their queries to the Housing Officer of the following stations:

MCB, 29 Palms, Calif.; NAD, Crane, Indiana; Ft. Riley, Kansas; NAS, Olathe, Kansas; Schilling AFB, Salina, Kansas; Loring AFB, Maine; K. I. Sawyer AFB, New Mexico; White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico; Plattsburgh AFB, New York; and James Connally AFB, Texas.

Listings reveal that Crane, Indiana, has only enlisted quarters available; Sawyer AFB in Michigan and Holloman AFB in New Mexico offer only quarters for officers.

Billy Graham to visit

DA NANG—World-renowned evangelist Dr. Billy Graham is scheduled to be in the Da Nang area to conduct a service on Christmas Day.

Chaplain E. Vaughn Lyons, III MAF Chaplain, officially announced the plans for Dr. Graham's service. Dr. Graham has just completed an evangelistic crusade in Berlin, Germany.

He has repeatedly expressed the desire to speak in Vietnam and now will have the opportunity to do so before thousands of servicemen from Saigon to Da Nang. Tentative plans have been in progress for weeks, and now that it is definite that Graham, along with Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea are going to be in Da Nang, arrangements are progressing at full pace, according to Chaplain Lyons.

Lieutenant General L. W. Walt, Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force, along with Chaplain James W. Kelly, Chief of Chaplains, will be participating in the service with Billy Graham.

The service will be held at the Amphitheater at 2 p.m. on Christmas Day, December 25.



Right here

GySgt. Donald Beaver points to the place where his Sea Knight helicopter broke apart upon crashing, Sept. 2. (Photo by Sgt. Rich Grosco)

Bonus

CHU LAI—Corporal Norman M. Curtis, a member of Marine Air Control Squadron-7, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, had a big celebration on his birthday—and collected more than \$7,000.

Curtis was born Nov. 10, the Corps Anniversary and always enjoys the celebrations Marine associate with that day. This year he outdid himself by reenlisting for six years on Nov. 10.

Under the variable reenlistment bonus program he received a bonus totaling \$7,688.88—more than enough to pay for a new car and down payment on a home. He also chose radar school as an option.

6,000 pounds mail daily at post office

By Sgt. Dave Sturgeon

PHU BAI—With 6,000 pounds of mail and packages arriving at 3rd Marine Division headquarters daily, the seven postal clerks might be expected to fudge a mite on their motto, "we move today's mail today."

Not so with Staff Sergeant William E. Arnold and his crew—even though the amount is expected to triple the next few weeks with the Christmas rush. The crush of outgoing mail with Marines sending gifts to the folks

back home has also increased tremendously.

This of course entails round-the-clock work, because not only must the incoming mail be sorted and delivered, the outgoing mail is also treated in a like manner. "It's sort of like a merry-go-round," said Arnold. "If you're not working one, it's the other."

The huge load is also evidenced in the finance section. The purchase of money orders, registered mail, stamps and insured mail has increased proportionately as Marines try to beat the Christmas shopping deadline back home.

So far the section hasn't missed on the daily mail calls.

As soon as the mail plane comes in, the section begins sorting the letters and packages for pickup by units in the area. Several hours later, the valuable missives are in the hands of anxiously waiting Marines.

Arnold and his crew know what it means to the troops to get their mail promptly—so they came up with the motto—and live by it.



Sighting in

Cpl. Arnell Hovis, Jr., of 1st ANGLICO Det., FMF-Pac, examines a sighting device used by Viet Cong guerrillas for shooting at American helicopters. The VC who used this improvised sight was killed by an armed Marine helicopter south of Chu Lai.

(Photo by Sgt. Earl L. Lewis)

From Marine to Seabee

PHU BAI—Harvey Glines is fighting this war in a different way than he did in Korea.

Fourteen years ago he was battling North Koreans in the Punch Bowl area as a sergeant with the Seventh Marine Regiment.

In Vietnam he is a Navy Equipment Operator 1st Class.

He supervises a 15-man team of Mobile Construction Battalion "Seabees" supporting the 1st Battalion, Third Marine Regiment which is fighting Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers near Khe Sanh.

He and his crew have built roads, bunkers, fighting holes and maintained an airfield for Marines at the important outpost just a few miles south of the DMZ and only five miles from the Laos border. The Marines patrolling the surrounding area deny the enemy access to infiltration routes into Vietnam from Laos.

Glines was discharged from the Marine Corps shortly after the armistice in Korea to become a construction engineer. When the war broke out in Vietnam, he enlisted in the "Seabees" and was given his present rank because of his experience with construction equipment.

Pago Pago Marine 'digs' natural foods

By: Cpl. Dan LuBell

DONG HA—The clouds were thick and a heavy mist obscured everything on the ground. A cold driving rain continued to fall.

This could be bad news for two companies from the 3rd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment as they slogged through ankle-deep mud on a search and destroy mission.

They had one ration meal two more days was required to sweep the large village complex ahead of them.

If the cloud cover did not lift, helicopters would be unable to resupply them; belts would have to be tightened.

When the units stopped for the

day, fires were quickly lighted. In the few hours left before dark, they dried out their wet clothes. One Marine wasn't too worried about food resupply.

Sergeant Taifuh Lecato (Pago, Pago, American Samoa) saw plenty of natural food around him.

He dug up some plant roots which baked over hot coals tasted just like sweet potatoes. He soon had a canteen cup full of green bananas cooking in boiling water. Other bananas were wrapped in palm leaves and baked in hot coals from the fire. Wild onions make a delicious soup.

Everyone soon realized that even if the resupply helicopters couldn't make it, there would be no hungry Marines.

Lecato knew as a young child that some day he would be a Marine. He had heard many stories about the Corps from his father who was a Samoan Marine in World War II.

After this operation is finished he plans to make a study of the types of food the jungles of Vietnam offers.

His squad will never go hungry in an emergency.

Lucky man

CHU LAI—Private First Class Leonard Roberson considers himself a very lucky man.

The 19-year-old Marine from Weapons Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division, was on an operation when his platoon was hit by sniper fire from two sides.

"We were crossing a rice paddy when they (snipers) opened up on us. The bullets were hitting all around me and were pretty close," Roberson said.

An hour later the Marine opened his pack for a meal of C-rations and discovered a hole in one of the cans. A sniper's bullet had gone through the side of his pack, into the can, and out the back of the pack.



First of many

Cpl. James H. English (left) of 3d Shore Party Bn., watches Sgt. Harold J. Berlin of the 3d MarDiv personnel office, type the papers that will extend his Vietnam overseas tour for six months. English will get a 30-day leave at his home in Alexandria, Va. He already has 17 months in Vietnam and is one of the first of 210 Marines from the Division who will be taking advantage of the DOD "Free leave" policy.

(Photo by LCpl. W. R. Degnan)

Point Comfort citizens live up to their name

FORT POLK, La.—An extra special Christmas is in store for Calhoun County, Tex., servicemen in Vietnam. The expansive holiday spirit stems from a map of Vietnam, a Marine's mother, a five-cent stamp and a Fort Polk soldier.

A good deed by Specialist 5 Leo A. Taylor, assigned to Fort Polk, was the stimulus for the formation of a group of Calhoun County residents. The group, "Those Who Care," was organized to provide aid and comfort for their servicemen stationed in Vietnam.

Mrs. Johnson had written to the Houston POST ACTION LINE asking where she could obtain a map of Vietnam.

Her query was published, signed Mrs. J.R.J., and the next day she received a most unusual letter postmarked Fort Polk.

The letter was addressed to Mrs. J.R.J., Point Comfort, Tex. A handwritten note on the cover said, "Postmaster, Point Comfort, Tex. Her son is a Marine. Initials were all I had."

A brief note inside read, "Saw your question in the morning issue of the Houston Post. I just happened to have some copies of a map of Vietnam—so here you are."

The letter, signed by Specialist Taylor, also contained a small illustrated handbook about Vietnam.

The postal clerk had no trouble finding the addresses as Mrs. Johnson had told him about her son's progress in the Marines each time she stopped to pick up her mail.

When Mrs. Johnson opened the letter and found the map from Taylor, she said, "I think everyone should know there are still people like this man in the world. If we would all have more consideration like this for other people, and work together in a spirit of cooperation, this would certainly be a better world to live in."

The Port Lavaca Wave newspaper, serving Calhoun County and Point Comfort, printed an article about the request and prompt answer. The pebble dropped in the pool began to make waves. Several people read the article, called Mrs. Johnson and expressed interest in doing

more for the servicemen in Vietnam.

As a result of the calls, the residents held a meeting, elected Mrs. Johnson president, and "Those Who Care" became a working organization.

Membership in the organization is unlimited and there are no fees.

The list of servicemen has been expanded to include friends and relatives outside Calhoun County.

The group assures a constant stream of news from home in letters to the servicemen and their friends.

A touching letter from a friend of Mrs. Johnson's son read, "It came as a shock when I got your letters, because most mothers only take time to write their own sons. The first thing I want to say is, thank you for writing. A letter to a guy over here means so much." The letter was signed, "Sincerely thankful you wrote, Joe."

Taylor's spare map of Vietnam and note of kindness, following the route of compassion he knows so well, helped comfort a worried mother and started a Christmas cheer heard in the Orient.

The note only had initials to identify the addressee but arrived at the correct destination.

A long time ago three wise men also carried gifts and arrived at their destination with only the help of a star.

Air strike

CHU LAI—A mission, flown by two Marine fighter attack pilots netted four Viet Cong killed and an automatic weapon position destroyed.

Major Eddie R. Nagg, flight leader for the mission flown in support of the III Marine Amphibious Force, led the F4B Phantom jet attack on a Viet Cong trenchline.

The two destroyed 80 per cent of the trench line and a four cave complex from which communist troops were firing on friendly forces.

Captain James P. Faulkner was wingman for the flight.

Captain William T. Bridgeman, and Second Lieutenant Bobby D. Cole flew as Naval flight officers during the strike.



Two nation team

U. S. and Korean Marines team up Dec. 1 to plot air strikes at a forward combat base south of Chu Lai. Left to right are: Lee Kil Boo, Lee Jun Muring, LCpl. Thomas Dwyer II, Pvt. James W. Jones and Capt. Lee Thoong Kyoo, CO of 1st Co., 1st Bn., 2d ROK Marine Brigade. The U. S. Marines are forward air controllers with 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Co., FMFPac, attached to the 2nd Brigade.

(Photo by Sgt. Earl L. Lewis)

Gen. Elwood named as replacement for Chief of Staff Post

Brigadier General Jonas M. Platt, Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force, has been transferred to the United States awaiting further assignment. He has been replaced by Brigadier General Hugh M. Elwood, former Assistant Commanding General, 1st Marine Air Wing.

General Platt arrived here last November to assume command of the newly formed Task Force Delta at Chu Lai. While commander of the force, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" during Operation Harvest Moon, conducted south of Chu Lai. In the operation, he commanded a 4,000 man combat force which scored a "smashing victory" against the enemy.

In Korea, he won the Legion

of Merit with Combat "V" while serving as commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and Assistant G-3, 1st Marine Division.

He won his second Legion of Merit with combat "V" for "outstanding service as Commanding General, Assistant Division Command Group" from Nov. 10, 1965 to March 15, 1966. During that period, Gen. Platt organized the defense of the Chu Lai airfield; was instrumental in gaining the trust and confidence of officials of the Vietnamese Army's Second Division; and led combined U.S. Marine Corps and Vietnamese troops into battle against the Viet Cong. He was cited particularly for his role as commander of Task Force Delta during Operation Utah last March.



BGen. Jonas M. Platt, Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force, chats with LtGen. L. W. Walt, CG, III MAF and the Bishop of Da Nang, His Excellency, Peters Chi, at a farewell party at the III MAF Officers Club.

Operation Pawnee III

VC attack dispersed by mortars, rockets

By SSgt. Norman MacKenzie

PHU BAI—Expert employment of 60mm mortars and 3.5 rockets were instrumental in dispersing a VC attack last week during Operation Pawnee III. The Leathernecks killed seven Viet Cong.

An estimated 70 to 80 VC opened up from a bombed-out pagoda and brush along the beach line just before dusk. More VC fired from a mountain on the Marine positions.

Captain Waverly E. Sykes, Jr. a company commander with the 2nd Battalion, 26th Regiment said, "My supporting arms had never been fired in anger before, but when the company came under heavy automatic and small arms fire from the blanks, the troops set up their weapons and were on target with the second round."

"I had just picked out good firing positions for my mortars when we were hit on the left flank," said Corporal Ronald H. Southworth.

Southworth said he spotted about 10 men in a pagoda 300 yards to his front. As section leader, he immediately directed his men to adjust for a 300 yard range.

Meanwhile, the 3.5 rocket section, also under pressure from the flank and rear, had its guns

in action. Corporal Perry P. Marino squad leader, directed the fire.

"I saw five men running from the pagoda where the mortars were landing," said Marino. "They headed for a rock formation to the right, so I spotted my fire there," he said.

"Corporal Southworth's leadership in directing accurate mortar fire was instrumental in routing the VC from that position," said Capt. Sykes. "And Marino's pinpoint fire into the rock formations around the pagoda kept the enemy on the run," he said.

When the VC hit, they centered their fire on the machine gun and rocket positions, but once the mortars were in action the enemy started to run and the rockets convinced them to keep going.

The company was blocking a valley between two hills while another company was sweeping through a village.



Across the rice paddy

LCpl. Michael L. J. Gibbon, scout for "B" Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, leads a group of Marines across a rice paddy during a search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai. Gibbon, who has been wounded three times during a previous Vietnam tour, received orders to a Marine unit stationed on Okinawa.

(Photo by SSgt. R. E. Wilson)

3/1 Holds County Fair

By Sgt. Jerry Simmons

DA NANG — Two Viet Cong were killed and two others captured during a County Fair Operation held by the 3rd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

The operation began Dec. 6 as two companies of Marines surrounded the village of Tra Khe (2). At 6:45 a.m. elements of the 59th Regional Force of Vietnamese moved through the village.

As the national forces checked villagers, Marines set up a dispensary, kitchen and other tents. By noon, 400 Vietnamese were at the collection point.

New VMO-2 CO

DA NANG — Lieutenant Colonel William F. Harrell took command of Marine Observation Squadron-2 from Major Robert A. Plamondon during informal ceremonies at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, Dec. 1. Major Plamondon will remain with VMO-2 as special projects officer.

While the villagers gathered at the collection point, Tra Khe was searched by an ARVN unit for Viet Cong—two were captured.

That evening the villagers remained at the collection point in tents. During the night Viet Cong, who remained hidden in the village, tried to escape and a fire fight began.

Lance Corporal Richard A. Funelli heard a noise on the trail directly to his front. Three Viet Cong popped up only 20 meters from his fighting hole at his challenge.

Funelli killed one and wounded two others. Later, one of the wounded was found dead.

In addition to the kills, five hand grenades and several rounds of ammunition, two M-14 magazines and pouches were taken. Two cartridge belts and documents were also captured.

Captain Joseph W. Gibbs, civil affairs officer, said 400 Vietnamese were given medical treatment and fed during the operation.

Before the villagers returned to

their homes, soap, rice and other items were distributed.

The county fair ended at noon, Dec. 7.

Lamplighters

CHU LAI — The song "The Old Lamp Lighter" may bring fond memories however, to four Marines of Marine Aircraft Group-13 it is more than just a song because their job is keeping lamps lit.

In this case it is smudge pots used to light the runway in case of power failure or bad weather.

Each morning 304 pots are collected, cleaned and refilled. During the afternoon they are distributed along the runway and taxiways and lighted at dusk.

At intervals during the night each pot is checked to make sure it is burning and hasn't run out of fuel.

"It isn't the cleanest job in the world," said Private First Class Robert D. Conners, "but if the runway lights fail for any reason the pilots can depend on our lamps."

Bronze Star

PHU BAI—Staff Sergeant Wallace D. Lloyd was presented the Bronze Star Medal last week for heroic achievement against enemy forces.

He was cited for his actions last August when two companies of North Vietnamese soldiers attacked his "G" Battery, 2nd Battalion, Twelfth Regiment artillery position near Cam Lo.

During the battle, Lloyd supervised ammunition resupply to the howitzers in his battery while exposed to enemy fire.

When Marines were wounded, Lloyd gathered other men and rushed to their aid despite hand grenades, and small arms fire sweeping the area. He supervised the first aid and evacuation of wounded.

His citation reads in part: "His courage and bold determination, along with his complete disregard for his own safety throughout the action, served as an example to all."

The medal was presented by Major General W.B. Kyle, 3rd Marine Division commander.



In the middle

Village children crowd around PFC Allen R. Sells of 1st Bn., Seventh Marines after Marines of the 1st Bn., rescued two Vietnamese families from VC guerrillas in Van Thong, south of Chu Lai.

(Photo by PFC Keith Hall)

Short Rounds

Three timer

DA NANG—Sergeant Edward L. McFarland, a member of Marine Aircraft Group-11's utilities section, is in Vietnam for the third time.

His first introduction to Vietnam came as a member of a five man assistance team in July 1964. From then until November of that year he worked on the construction of heavy field fortifications and bridges. Prior to construction, it was often necessary for him to clear the area of mines.

Completing this assignment, his team was reassigned to Okinawa and then to a Marine Unit afloat off Vietnam coast.

In early spring 1965 he arrived again in Vietnam with his unit. He supervised and installed a gin pole for moving heavy loads from amphibious landing craft to land. A gin pole is a hand operated crane comprised of a large piece of timber on a pivot guided by three rope lines. A block and tackle is used as the gin pole's lifting device.

During this assignment he was also called upon to use explosives in the construction of roads.

May 1965 found McFarland at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he finished first in the 13-week combat engineers' school. He was meritiously promoted to corporal for this achievement.

Upon completing school he received his orders to the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Liberated

CHU LAI—Two new families arrived in Phuoc Thuan village Nov. 29. Tired but happy, they told of their liberation from Viet Cong captivity by Marines of "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

The Viet Cong carried out a long-standing threat in the hamlets of Van Tuong (1) and (2) by kidnapping the families of Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) soldiers stationed in Phuoc Thuan. They hoped to use the captives as hostages in an attempt to end cooperation between the PFs and the Marines, who have worked well together against the communists.

Reports of the capture reached the Marines on Nov. 28.

A rescue operation was organized and the company moved out at midnight toward Van Tueng.

After a night march of 5,000 meters, search and blocking elements were set up; the search was under way before dawn.

Two VC were killed as the Marines moved through the area—one armed with an American rifle.

When the hamlets were secured, the people were assembled. As the PFs identified their families, hamlet officials explained the rescue operation to the villagers.

"B" Company escorted the liberated families back to Phuoc Thuan, where a civic action program is underway to aid the people.

DFC

CHU LAI—Captain Gordon R. King was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "exceptional gallantry in aerial flight" Dec. 2, at Marine Air Group 12 Headquarters for his actions last July.

On July 24, King and two other pilots flew their A4E "Skyhawks" to a target 60 miles north of Da Nang.

The target, an anti-aircraft weapon, poured heavy fire at the incoming jets, and King noticed his wing taking additional fire from another site.

King, although aware of the Viet Cong firepower, made another run on the initial target. Flying through the intense fire he destroyed the target.

Another flight appeared over target. King, the only one aware of the second Viet Cong gun position, immediately took command of the new flight.

He exposed his plane to the weapon to draw its fire so his wing man could observe the source.

King then remained in the area to control the air strikes until the gun was destroyed.

Two days later, after the area had been checked, it was discovered that four anti-aircraft guns had been destroyed on the mission.

New record

CHU LAI—When Major Joseph J. Kane set down his "Skyhawk" on the runway, it marked the airfield's 100,000th A4 operation.

Although the landing was made at 2:30 a.m., it was followed by a celebration cake-cutting ceremony.

The Marine Expeditionary Airfield at Chu Lai is the first combat airfield of its type in the world. Located on a Vietnam beach, it is a pre-packaged 8,000 ft. airbase.

Its runways and taxiways were built by "Seabees" and made of interlocking panels of aluminum matting. The airfield was operational 24 days after the Marines' arrival at Chu Lai in May, 1965.

The tower control, lighting system, radar, maintenance vans and fuel system are all-self contained and portable.

Rare chaplain

PHU BAI—To say that Eastern Orthodox chaplains are at a premium in the Republic of Vietnam would be an understatement—especially since there are but two in country, and one spends considerable time out of it.

One is Chaplain Boris Geeza of the 3rd Marine Division. The other is Air Force Chaplain Louis Pirozzi of Tan San Nhut Air Base near Saigon.

Chaplain Geeza conducts services for all national church groups of Orthodox faith (Greek, Russian, Syrian, Roumanian, Ukrainian and American) in the I Corps area. Chaplain Pirozzi handles the task in the II Corps area.

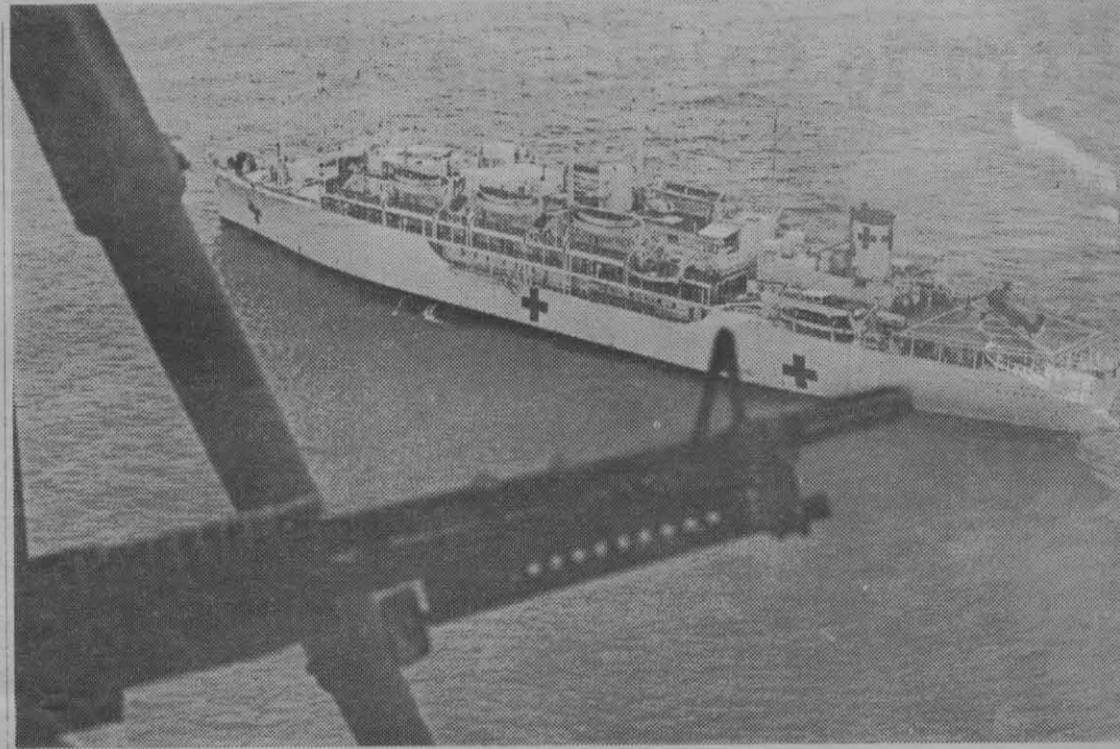
In I Corps, Chaplain Geeza conducts services at Da Nang, Chu Lai, Dong Ha, and at his home base at Phu Bai. He serves not only the 3rd Division, but the 1st Air Wing and 1st Marine Division as well.

The 13-year Navy veteran doesn't confine himself to Vietnam. Every two weeks he makes the 1,500 mile trip to Okinawa to conduct services at Marine installations at Camp Hansen, Camp McTureous and Futenma Air Station.

The arrival of Chaplain Geeza brings representation of the fourth major religious faith to the country of Vietnam. All personnel of the faith are urged to get in touch with their unit chaplains to be advised of Chaplain Geeza's schedule of services in his far-flung parish.

More Sgts.

According to a recent issue of NAVY TIMES, for the second time in four months, the Marine Corps will be promoting a sizable number of corporals to sergeant. Effective Dec. 1, the Corps is expected to promote more than 6700 corporals to sergeant.



Hospital at sea

The U. S. Navy Hospital Ship REPOSE, cruising off the coast of South Vietnam, as seen from a UH-34D helicopter of HMM-361. Another 1st MAW chopper is on the flight deck. The REPOSE boasts modern hospital facilities, staffed by highly trained doctors, nurses and corpsmen. With the aid of helicopters, emergency medical treatment is only minutes away for casualties of the Vietnam conflict.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

There's always tomorrow

By MGySgt. C. M. Akey

PHU BAI—The 10-man patrol slogged through mud and rain as it left base camp at Khe Sanh. "Keep the interval 15 meters," was the word passed down the line by each man as he headed out through a gate in the barbed wire concertine surrounding the area.

Shoulders hunched against the rain, Corporal Mike Kent, on the point, checked his compass before plunging into the elephant grass through which a foot-wide trail led into enemy territory.

The patrol's mission: to check out all trails in a 3,000 meter area which might be used by Viet Cong or North Vietnamese soldiers, and to locate possible fording sites for future use by Marine patrols in crossing one of the many rivers near the base camp just five miles from the Laotian border.

Kent is an old hand at the game. He's been on so many patrols, he's lost count of the number.

The 20-year-old squad leader is on his second tour in Vietnam.

He first landed at Da Nang with the Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade in July 1964. He also made the landing at Chu Lai when that area was secured by Marines.

Kent voluntarily returned to Vietnam in August and was assigned to the Third Marine Regiment.

The trail he took winds through fairly open territory for a short while then ends up splitting 15-foot high elephant grass.

Visibility is limited to just a few feet to each side. The trail varies in width from two-feet to a tangled mass of underbrush that has to be hacked with a machete to permit passage through it.

"First fire team up," is passed along the line by Kent. (There's a trail leading down to the river, and it has evidently been used recently).

"You, you and you, spread out and cover this area," Kent says. "If you hear shots or we're not back in 30 minutes, get down there on the double," he continues, pointing down towards the river, which cannot be seen from where the fire team is standing.

The trail plunges into bamboo thickets and heavy underbrush at a 60 degree angle. Kent, with one rifleman, disappeared from view. The rest of the patrol waits in silence, scanning the area with anxious eyes.

Another routine patrol by men of the Third Marine Regiment is ended.

Tomorrow Kent will lead his men out again—this time they might find the enemy.

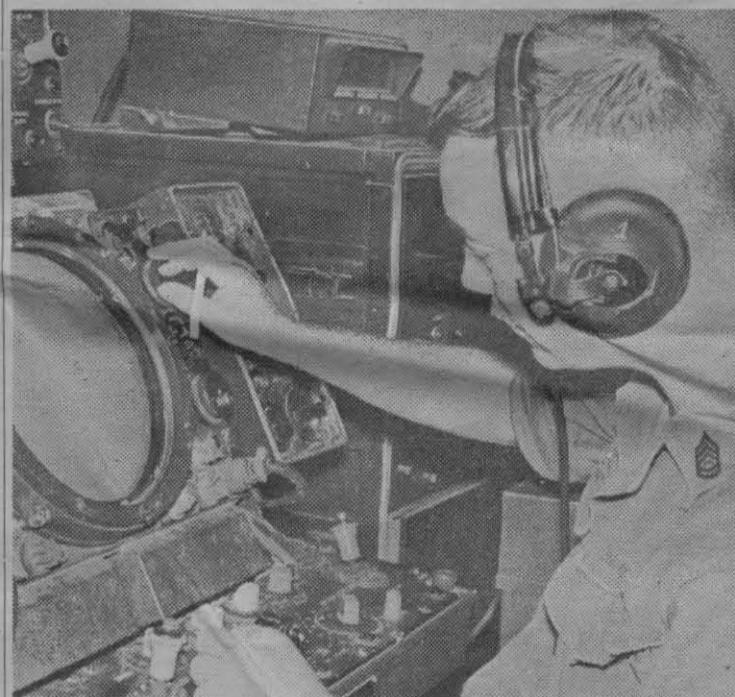
Floating home

DA NANG — Five pilots and five crew members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164 will have a "floating home" during the Christmas season.

Departing from the Marble Mountain Air Facility Dec. 6, they flew to the USS Point Defiance, a landing ship dock. They will spend the rest of December flying two of the squadron's CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopters from the ship along the coast of Vietnam.

All 10 Marines volunteered for the assignment.

Marine pilots are trained to make landings on ships at sea, but most have had little opportunity to do so in Vietnam.



Radar scope

GySgt. Richard E. Billings keeps a close watch on the flight of a friendly aircraft, on a radar scope in the control center of MACS-7 at the Ky Ha airfield, South Vietnam.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

Born to be Marine

By: Cpl. Dan LuBell

DONG HA—The Marines moved like a well-oiled machine as they forged their way through dense hedgerows on a search and sweep mission.

North Vietnamese soldiers (NVA) were hiding somewhere in the village complex which spread in front of them.

The platoon commander was everywhere directing his squad leaders' movements. It was important that the squads

remained linked together. To be separated in this hedgerow maze meant trouble. The Marines, not knowing which direction it was safe to fire, would give the NVA a big edge.

Automatic rifle fire blasted out from houses across the rice paddy to the front. With the sound of the first shot, Second Lieutenant Edward McCourt went into high gear. He quickly got his men into position to attack.

As the "I" Company, Third Regiment platoon prepared to assault the enemy position, one of the men was hit and fell across a rice paddy dike in line with enemy fire.

McCourt ran forward to pull the wounded rifleman off the dike but was too far away to reach him.

The platoon radioman left his position to go to the wounded man's aid.

The North Vietnamese gunner sent another stream of bullets

out—the radioman was wounded. By this time the lieutenant had reached them, and with the help of another Marine pulled them off the dike. They carried them back to medical aid.

Within seconds, McCourt returned to direct his men in the attack.

The Marines rushed forward pouring out a terrific volume of fire which drove the NVA into the dense jungle.

When the village sweep was over, the 3rd Division platoon had accounted for three enemy killed; and five packs, two automatic weapons and three semi-automatic rifles captured.

Securing the village was just part of McCourt's second war. At the age of 15 he was large enough to fool a Marine recruiter. By the time the Corps found out his true age, McCourt was a rifleman in Korea.

He was discharged immediately. As soon as he reached 17 he enlisted again.

This marks his second tour in Vietnam. During the first he was a staff sergeant. As soon as he was commissioned, he voluntarily returned for a second tour.

He was discharged immediately. As soon as he reached 17 he enlisted again.

DA NANG—When Hospitalman



300 pounds of appreciation

LtCol. P. G. McMahon (right), CO, VMA-311, passes out Christmas decorated coffee cans containing cakes and cookies to members of the squadron. The sweets, weighing approximately 300 pounds, were sent as a Christmas present by the Simi Valley High School home economics class, Simi, Calif., in appreciation for the squadron's service in Vietnam.

Chow relief ducks bullets

By Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—When Hospitalman Third Class Brian Gooch relieved the duty corpsman for lunch at a Marine helicopter squadron he expected to spend less than a hour on the flight line. Instead, he spent more than

three hours flying medical evacuation missions and ducking Viet Cong bullets.

Gooch had just arrived at the squadron area at noon Dec. 5, when the medical evacuation chopper was called to rescue a wounded Marine several miles

southwest of here. The plane launched as soon as the corpsman was aboard.

When the aircraft landed to pick the Marine up, the landing zone was receiving fire from enemy positions 50 yards away. Gooch leaped from the chopper and assisted the casualty inside while bullets rang overhead.

The Marine had been delivered to a naval medical facility and the plane was on its way home when it was called back.

A Vietnamese boy who had been treated for a broken arm, and his mother, needed transportation from the hospital to An Hoa, 15 miles away.

No sooner had the second mission been completed when the chopper was diverted to an area north of Da Nang where South Vietnamese forces had suffered casualties in a battle with the Viet Cong. The plane stood by until it ran low on fuel and returned to base.

It was after three p.m. when Gooch relinquished the "med evac" plane to the man he had relieved for lunch.

Thanksgiving Day award

DA NANG—"As mortar rounds exploded near his position," Private First Class Alan L. Rau "continued firing on the enemy until the attack was repelled . . ."

It was Aug. 17, when Rau was on guard duty.

For his heroic achievements that night the young Marine was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" on Thanksgiving Day near Da Nang.

According to the citation accompanying the medal, Rau "boldly opened fire" on "heavily armed elements of the Viet Cong attacking force who had penetrated the wire near his position."

He killed three of the enemy in the darkness, and by his actions contributed in a large measure to preventing destruction of essential fuel supplies and averting casualties among his fellow Marines.

Colonel George C. Schmidt, commanding officer of rear elements of the 3rd Marine Division, pinned the medal on Rau's chest during ceremonies at the 3rd Motor Transport Battalion command post.

The unit is currently attached to the 1st Marine Division near Da Nang.

Good eating in store

By LCpl Philip Hamer

CHU LAI—There's good eating in store for the people of Trung An. American-style vegetables are growing in the hamlet.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of local residents and a 1st Marine Division civil affairs team, Trung An may soon be the garden spot of the Chu Lai area.

Seed, fertilizer and advice contributed by the Americans have been combined with Vietnamese land, labor and enthusiasm to start a unique project.

On Nov. 23 Army First Lieutenant James C. Davis and Army Sergeant Jerome L. Baker, both attached to the Civil Affairs Section, 1st Marine Division, supervised the planting.

Less than a week later the plants had broken through the soil and were growing rapidly.

"We expect a fine crop of vegetables," Baker said, "things really grow in this climate."

The experimental garden features a variety of common vegetables, most of them new to the Vietnamese. Turnips, okra, peas, radishes and carrots are growing with rows of corn, beets, cucumbers, squash and chili peppers.

If all goes well, the pilot project will lead to another garden large enough for the entire hamlet. "This is something new in the area. We hope the program works out and can be spread to other hamlets down here," Davis said.

Big man

PHU BAI—He's just a little guy (his health record reads: height: 64"; weight: 135), but to men of the Marine artillery unit at Khe Sanh, he's a mighty "big" man.

He's their corpsman, "Doc" to all hands.

Navy Hospital Corpsman First Class Jerry Griffith is in Vietnam for the second time. He took care of the aches and pains of Marines in Marine Air Group 16 from Sept. 1965 to May 1966 before returning to the U.S. Griffith flew in helicopters on 134 medical evacuation hops, bringing wounded Marines from battle areas to battalion aid stations during the period. The 26-year-old Corpsman was awarded five Air Medals.

Griffith voluntarily returned to Vietnam in August. He has been at Khe Sanh since September.

Amphibian tractor

By Sgt. Dave Small

PHU BAI—It weighs 35 tons, carries six more of men and equipment and is equally at home on land and sea—even though mathematically it isn't supposed to float.

The versatile amphibian tractor is being used by Marines for river patrols, search and sweep operations that require rapid movement through delta country, over rice paddies, and through marshy terrain in Vietnam.

In addition, it transports 34 combat-equipped Marines ashore on amphibious landings.

For Corporal Ronald D. Shaffer the huge steel monster is home.

"We don't have to worry about shelter or carrying our gear on our backs while in the field. We've got plenty of room to carry a cot, food, and other necessities," the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion Marine said.

On sweep and search operations the amtrac will sometimes drop off a platoon when contact is made. Then it will slide around the enemy flank and drop the remainder of the troops as a blocking force. By foot the particular maneuver would be difficult—if not impossible—to pull off in the rain inundated terrain.

Add to this ability the firepower provided by a .30 cal. ma-

Volunteers

DA NANG—Marine ground troops serving in Vietnam are often curious as to how they can become helicopter gunners. Many of them are not aware that flying, while important, is merely one of the jobs performed by most gunners.

For example, the five-man paraloft section of Marine Observation Squadron-2 are all volunteer gunners on the squadron's "Huey" helicopters. Their primary job, however, is that of flight equipment men.

To date, the five Marines have earned 13 Air Medals.

chinigun mounted high enough to get a clearer view of the enemy position than can be gotten from ground level, and the Marines have a formidable weapon.

Around the Thuan An peninsula near Hue where Shaffer's "A" Company, is operating, rivers and rice paddies make travel by

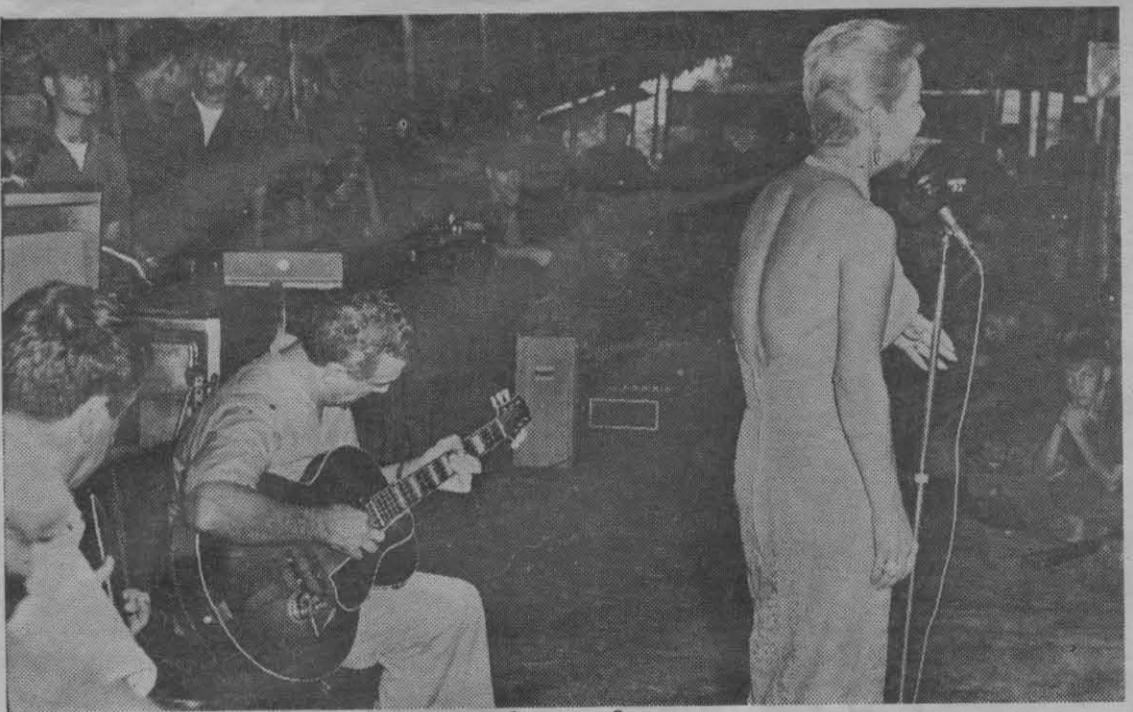
foot extremely difficult.

"We can patrol all of the area despite uncharted sandbars, obstacles in the rivers, and muddy terrain," said Shaffer. "Our tractors can cross a 30-foot trench or climb a 70 per cent grade, so we don't run into too much that can stop us," he said.



BRIEFING—Cpl. Ronald D. Shaffer talks over the day's river patrol with his driver, LCpl. James W. Laslo. The 1st AmTracBn. Marines operate from Thuan An peninsula near Hue in support of 3d Marine Division infantrymen.

(Photo by Cpl. Ron Mahoney)



A song for the troops

Singer Frances Langford entertains Marines of the 2nd Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division at Chu Lai during a USO-sponsored tour of Vietnam. Accompanying the well-known entertainer are singer-guitarists John Cousins and Tony Romano.

(Photo by PFC John T. Lloyd)

New Assistant Wing Commander

DA NANG — Brigadier General Robert G. Owens Jr., holder of the Navy Cross and a Marine Corps 'ace,' assumed duties as Assistant Wing Commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, here December 2.

He relieved Brigadier General Hugh M. Elwood who has been reassigned as Chief-of-Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force.

The 49-year-old native of Greenville, S.C., graduated from Furman University with a BS degree in 1939. Enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve in August of that year, Gen. Owens was assigned to the aviation cadet program at Pensacola, Fla., and on June 12, 1940, was designated a Naval Aviator and commissioned a Marine second lieutenant.

Ice maker

DONG HA—Marine units fighting near the demilitarized zone have a Birmingham, Ala., gunnery sergeant to thank for a unique and welcome gift—2,000 pounds of ice daily.

Gunnery Sergeant W. L. Holcomb of FLSU pulled the first blocks of ice from a machine destined for the scrap heap, on Nov. 10, the 19th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

The heavy machinery mechanic took the "junked" machine apart and used parts from scrapped vehicles and machines to rebuild it. He worked for 12 straight hours to meet a self-imposed deadline—the birthday celebrations.

He beat the deadline.

The first 2,000 pounds were delivered to Marine messes along the DMZ in time for the traditional Marine birthday dinners.

His reason sufficient

PHU BAI — He's a company commander in the Third Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

Tall, whipcord thin, with a serious face and deep-set eyes that never stop moving, he's responsible for the actions of more than 150 fighting men operating only a few miles from the demilitarized zone and just five miles from the Laotian border.

His men aggressively patrol the jungle and canopied forest near Khe Sanh, in search of elusive Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers attempting to infiltrate into the Republic of Vietnam from the DMZ and Laos.

He is Captain C. G. Jordan, Naval Academy graduate class of '63. He has been in Vietnam since Sept. 1965 and has volunteered for his second tour of duty here.

Why? Fighting is his business and this is where the action is right now. This is where a career officer will make his mark, now.

The general was serving with a Marine bomber squadron at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

During the Pacific fighting he commanded a Marine fighter squadron flying missions in the Solomon Islands, New Georgia, and Bismarck Archipelago areas, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross with four gold stars, and 12 awards of the Air Medal. He earned the Navy Cross when downing three enemy aircraft, and is credited with a total of seven enemy planes kills.

The Purple Heart Medal was awarded to him for wounds received in action over Rabaul. Despite his wounds he succeeded in landing his crippled aircraft in the water where a rescue plane picked him up.

His post-World War II Marine Corps career includes command of two fighter squadrons, operations officer and executive officer of a Marine helicopter group, commanding officer of a carrier air group, and commanding officer of a composite Marine air group. In addition he has had two tours of duty at Headquarters Marine Corps and served for two years as Air Officer, 2d Marine Division.

A graduate of the National War College and the Air War College Gen. Owens also served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, first as a member of the Pacific Division Operation Directorate, and, following his promotion to brigadier general on July 1, 1965, assumed new duties as Deputy Director for Commands Areas, J-3, the billet he filled prior to assuming his present duties.

In recognition of his duties with the Joint Staff, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.



BGen. Owens

Scholarships available

The New York Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation was incorporated five years ago with the objective of assistance to children of Marines who desire to further their education.

The organization has awarded thus far 17 scholarships and anticipates awarding 15 more at their Fifth Annual Leatherneck Ball which will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria on February 17, 1967. The theme of the ball will be "Uncommon Valor—from Guadalcanal to Vietnam."

The Foundation has a unique interest in children whose parents have rendered significant patriotic service. In honor of such parents and in faith that the country will be strengthened by the educated intelligence of their children, the Foundation awards trade school and college scholarships to sons and daughters of U.S. Marines—with primary consideration being given to those children whose parent was killed, wounded or maimed in action.

At present there are over 150 children of Marines who have applied for either trade school or college scholarships.

This year's guest of honor at the Ball will be Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, who will be representing the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Ten wounded Marine Vietnam veterans will also be guests of the Foundation at the Leatherneck Ball.

Navy Cross winner

By LCpl. Fred Mihelic

MCAS CHERRY POINT, N.C.—This nation's second highest award for valor was presented here Nov. 30 to a 20-year-old native of Concord, Massachusetts, who alone and armed only with a bayonet fought his way through the enemy to capture a Viet Cong bunker.

Lance Corporal Alvin S. LaPointe is an unassuming young man barely out of adolescence, but he played a hero's role on March 28, 1966 about 25 miles south of Chu Lai. Ask the survivors from his 30-man platoon who were harassed by the enemy he finally tamed.

Or ask Alvin LaPointe himself, who continued under fire after protective covering had vanished. If you could, you might ask the now dead Viet Cong who saw him coming seemingly right through their hurried bullets.

Alvin was 19 in March of this year. He was two years out of high school and two years a Marine. After being sent to Vietnam in July of 1965, LaPointe was attached to "C" Company of the 7th Marines, serving as an automatic rifleman.

Charlie Company took part in Operation Indiana, March 28-30, 1966 in the Province of Quang Ngai, Vietnam. On the morning of the 28th, Alvin LaPointe was dropped by helicopter, along with 150 other Marines onto one of the hills dotting that region.

The Marines didn't expect too much opposition, and they swept through a rice paddy and village with little trouble. But an opposing hill beyond was something of a bee's nest; as Alvin states, "All hell broke loose."

According to the citation, "LaPointe's platoon came under an intense volume of well aimed automatic weapons fire."

Alvin by this time had crawled out ahead of the rest of the platoon. He doesn't know how he got out there. As he puts it, he was simply too "busy shooting back at the enemy" to realize his position.

LaPointe's citation continues, "While engaged in vicious hand to hand combat, LaPointe observed an enemy anti-aircraft weapon raking his squad with a murderous volume of accurate fire. Facing almost certain death, he heroically crawled across the fire swept slope toward the en-

emy bunker armed only with his bayonet and hand grenades."

Alvin says that halfway to the bunker he ran out of ammunition and had to play "dead" while the Viet Cong took repeated shots at him. Then suddenly the enemy's anti-aircraft weapon was also out of ammunition, and the VCs worked furiously to reload it.

Alvin worked furiously too, shedding most of his equipment so as to crawl faster. As the citation states, "within ten feet of the emplacement, he fearlessly and aggressively leaped into the position, and landing astride the gun, stabbed and killed the gunner."

"Seeing his comrade killed, the second Viet Cong fled into a tunnel within the position. Courageous and oblivious to the imminent danger, LaPointe unhesitatingly followed and killed him."

"Through his extraordinary initiative and inspiring valor in the face of almost certain death, he saved his comrades from injury and possible loss of life and enabled the platoon to seize and hold the vital enemy position."

Lance Corporal Alvin LaPointe has been a member of the Station Operations and Engineering Squadron since July. He works in the weapons section.

While in Vietnam, the Navy Cross winner participated in six major combat engagements from August 1965 to May, 1966.



LCpl. Alvin LaPointe

Honored for heroism at Guantanamo Bay

By: SSGt. Lyn Parnell

CHU LAI—A Marine gunnery sergeant was honored for his heroic action more than four years ago during a ceremony Dec. 5.

Gunnery Sergeant Melbern L. Boutilier group guard chief of Marine Aircraft Group-13, was presented the Navy Commendation Medal for his action on Nov. 3, 1963, while serving at Leeward Point, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Gunny Boutilier, when serving with the 2nd Battalion Second Marine Regiment, learned of three men who had been injured by an accidental mine field detonation.

He directed the vehicle he was riding to the mine field. Upon reaching the injured men the trailer of the vehicle detonated another mine, wounding Boutilier with shrapnel.

His citation reads in part: "Disregarding his own wounds, Boutilier continued to assist in the evacuation of the injured men. He played a major role in extracting them from this peri-

lous situation, contributing substantially in so doing to their rapid removal to medical facilities and their ultimate recovery."

Boutilier is a veteran of more than 20 years Marine Corps service and has been the group's guard chief since its arrival in Vietnam in Oct.

The award was presented by Lieutenant Colonel Owen L. Owens, commanding officer, Marine Air Base Squadron-13.

Farmer Marines

DONG HA—Marine and Army units are helping Vietnamese farmers harvest a late rice crop before monsoon rains flood paddies around the air base here.

Area farmers are gambling on the extra harvest due to unexpectedly light rains during the early part of the monsoon season.

Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment and 3rd Shore Party Battalion Marines, and soldiers of the 1st Howitzer Battalion, 14th Artillery Regiment, are working the fields alongside Vietnamese harvesters.

Boy discovers tales of American cruelty difficult to swallow

By Cpl. Russ Hurley

DON HA—N. X. Kiem is a 14-year-old Vietnamese boy from Dong Ha who in coming years may well observe Nov. 24 just as Americans do—a time to be thankful.

Thanksgiving day he was brought to the command post of the Twelfth Marine Regiment with a deep laceration below the calf of his left leg. Nineteen stitches were required to close the large gash.

It was hard for the lad to believe the Americans were helping him, according to an interpreter.

The Viet Cong had told his people stories of American cruelty.

He was taken home after the operation where his mother expressed her appreciation. Two days later a slight infection developed and he was brought back to the regiment's aid station where he would be close to medical care.

Kiem's shyness toward the Marines and Navy corpsmen slowly disappeared. Men from the regiment began bringing him gifts of candy and toys. A soft, warm bed was provided Kiem by the regiment's corpsmen.

"I think the men are a little envious of him," grinned Hospital Corpsman Second Class Robert W. Ausbon. "He's the only one around here that sleeps between two white sheets."

Physical therapy is the final step on Kiem's recovery schedule.

"We have him walk unaided as much as possible," said Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman Edgar D. Galbraith. "He's a little reluctant to move right now, but he'll soon be running and playing with only a slight scar to remind him of the jagged gash," Galbraith said.

Match this family!

By 2nd Lt. Mike Pitts

DONG HA—Few can match the Godwin family of Pelham, Ga., in patriotism—they have six sons in the service for a total of 54 years.

Two of the brothers, Lawrence and Wallace, are in Vietnam.

A third, Jack, will be heading back soon for his third tour here.

Lawrence is a Marine sergeant serving with the 3rd Marine Division at Dong Ha, 12 miles south of the demilitarized zone.

Wallace, a technical sergeant in the Air Force, is stationed at the port facility of Cam Ranh Bay.

Jack is in the Navy aboard the USS Point Defiance, a landing ship dock (LSD) which will soon be carrying supplies for the troops in Vietnam.

Combat Connoisseurs

By LCpl. Guy Cornwell

DA NANG—Marines do many things to add new taste to rations—the better "cooks" are called "combat connoisseurs".

Marines of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, have come up with a variety of tasty variations to rations.

Lance Corporal Michael E. Gregerakis says a cheese omelet is his favorite concoction. The Headquarters and Services Company Marine simply mixes cheese with the chopped eggs from his B-3 unit.

Another favorite is chicken casserole.

Private First Class Leon Howard puts boned chicken, cheese, two chicken soup cubes (sent from home) and white bread together for his "home-cooked" meal.

Lance Corporal Paul E. Griffin just happened to stumble on his recipe for chocolate bread pudding.

"I stumbled and knocked my hot chocolate into my white bread can" Griffin said, the outcome was bread pudding. His buddies still thank him for the discovery.

Lance Corporal Gary Douglas is a little old fashioned with his concoction called appropriately, Mulligan stew.

Just mix everything together he says.

The battalion's favorite is the simplest—fried ham covered with pineapple jam.



Free leave to travel

Many III MAF Marines are taking advantage of the new six-month extension of tour for a free 30-day leave to the destination of their choice. The First Marine Aircraft Wing reports that 115 Marines have requested extension for the month of December, and an additional 123 have requested extension in January.

The 3d Marine Division reports that four of its Marines seeking extensions desire to travel during their free leave. Corporal Hugh G. Spence, 4th Marines, wants to go to Frankfurt, Germany; Sergeant Jorge V. Gildelatore also of the 4th Marines, wants to go to Mexico City, Mexico; Corporal Charles S. Hightower, 3d Engineer Battalion, wants to take his extension leave in Bangkok, and Lance Corporal Robert E. Lyon, Headquarters Battalion wants to travel to Stockholm, Sweden.

The leave period does not begin until the Marine arrives at his destination, and the travel cost is paid by the government.

Capt. Emmett S. Huff, CO, "B" Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, reports back to the command post, contact with the VC during a search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai. His radioman, LCpl. John W. Wyatt watches pursuit of the enemy troops by a Marine squad across a stretch of rice paddies. (Photo by SSgt R. E. Wilson)

Veteran CO extends to get married

DA NANG—A 1st Marine Division battalion commander is one of the first Marines to take advantage of the new special 30-day leave recently authorized by Congress to servicemen who extend their tours in Vietnam for six months or more.

Lieutenant Colonel Van D. Bell, Jr., the colorful commander of the 1st Battalion, First Marines, plans to use his free 30-day leave to get married and honeymoon in Florida.

Memorial Club

Marines returning to the U.S. from Vietnam are invited to make use of the facilities of the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco.

For room rates and reservations write to: Marines Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California, 94102.

Bronze Star

PHU BAI—The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to Sergeant Alvin K. Winters last week for heroic actions when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Cam Lo.

He was cited for his actions last August when two companies of North Vietnamese soldiers breached the perimeter near his "G" Battery, 2nd Battalion Twelfth Regiment position.

After an hour of furious fighting he leapt from his position and ran across fire-swept terrain to obtain a supply of ammunition.

Although wounded, the 3d Division Marine returned and distributed ammunition all the while shouting encouragement to his fellow Marines.

He then ran to a seriously wounded Marine through heavy enemy fire and carried the man to safety. When he made another trip he found an enemy soldier sneaking back to the wire and killed him.

His citation reads in part: "When daybreak came, 13 enemy personnel lay scattered about his position. His courageous actions clearly blunted the enemy attack in his area."

Major General W.B. Kyle, 3d Marine Division commanding general, made the presentation.

Awarded DFC

By Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—Major Ray F. Smith, a Marine helicopter pilot, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross "for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight," Dec. 1.

United States Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., presented the decoration at Third Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters, Da Nang.

Smith was cited for his actions on Sept. 4, while piloting one of four CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopters assigned to retract a Marine ground unit southwest of Da Nang. The landing zone was receiving enemy small arms fire and was large enough for only two aircraft to land at once.

UH-1E "Huey" gunships and fixed wing air strikes were unable to silence the enemy gunners who fired at the choppers on each trip in and out of the zone.

After the planes had picked up the first load of troops, the pilot of the lead aircraft carried wounded to a nearby medical facility, and Smith took over as flight leader.

When he returned for the third and final pick-up, only one plane-load of troops remained on the ground. They were under attack and in danger of being overrun.

Smith ordered the other helicopters to orbit and went down. He stayed on the ground until the Marines could fight their way to the chopper, and lifted off only after all were aboard.

"His calm disregard for his personal safety was instrumental in the successful retraction of all Marines from the zone under harrowing conditions," the citation reads.

New hospital ship

The hospital ship USS Sanctuary was recommissioned in New Orleans after a decade of inactivity.

The Sanctuary saw service at the close of World War II in the Pacific.



Under fire

With enemy bullets flying overhead, these three Marines and a Navy Corpsman rush a wounded comrade to a medical evacuation helicopter. Rapid evacuation of the wounded has greatly decreased combat deaths in Vietnam. This action occurred southwest of Da Nang on Dec. 5.

MAG-36's morale builders

CHU LAI—One of the many things influencing the morale of military personnel the world over is the quality and quantity of food served in their messing facilities. With this thought in mind, six men of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, are working long hours to provide an added morale booster in the form of freshly-baked bread and pastries at the Ky Ha, Marine Air Facility.

When other members of the group are getting off work in the early evening, the bread crew, under the supervision of 20-year-old Corporal Daniel R. Smith, is just beginning its duties.

Corporal Smith, Lance Corporal Richard D. Oswald and Private First Class Charles T. Dills begin work by preparing bread dough for the initial 64 loaves that will bake while they mix additional batches.

With only two ovens that hold 36 loaves each, it's necessary for the crew to work late into the night, in order to produce enough bread for the following day's meals.

A mixer of World War II vintage, converted from gas to electrical operation, is used to mix 72 pounds of dough at one time. In all, more than 650 pounds of bread must be baked to accommodate the appetites of the men of MAG-36.

After baking, the bread is placed in cabinets, to be sliced just before each meal. In this way, freshness is retained until the bread is actually served.

The bread is ready for the next day, but the bake shop will not be closed until much later. At this

time Sergeant Harvey A. White takes control of the mixer and ovens, and begins preparing the day's pastries.

Sergeant White and Privates First Class John C. McMurtie and Kenneth R. Palmer prepare 150 pounds of cake, 120 pounds of cookies, and 80 pounds of breakfast rolls daily. In addition, they turn out fresh pies and as much as 300 pounds of biscuits each week.

The pastry crew remains in the bake shop through the late morning, and sometimes into the afternoon. As Sgt. White says, "The time we spend in the shop is determined by our ovens, because we can't work any faster than the ovens bake."

The success of the combined efforts of the bread and pastry crews is evident in the messhall. The products of the bake shop are quickly consumed, and "seconds" seems to be the standard request to the messmen manning the "chow line."



THE FILLING—PFC Ronald Sampson (left) adds filling to rolled dough for breakfast rolls, while PFC John C. McMurtie (center) prepares additional dough. Cook LCpl. Kenneth Palmer (background) assists in the MAG-36 bake shop at Ky Ha, Vietnam, by mixing fresh ingredients.

2500 Vietnamese freed from bonds of slavery

By: SSGT Ron Fraizer

DA NANG — More than 2500 South Vietnamese refugees, some claiming to have been slaves for the Viet Cong for over three years, are being given safe passage to a new life and freedom at An Hoa, 30 miles south of Da Nang and Nong Son refugee centers.

On Dec. 1, 200 families fled from the VC in Son Phuc hamlet, Duc Duc District, turning themselves in to Leathernecks of the Fifth Marine Regiment, who were conducting a search and destroy operation in the area.

After a meeting with the district chief at Duc Duc District headquarters, it was decided that the refugees should march to the Nong Son coal mine area seven miles to the west.

Marine helicopters carried aged and sick to An Hoa, in conjunction with other missions.

As the march progressed, hun-

dreds of refugees began pouring out of the surrounding hills, carrying with them much of their belongings.

Two platoons of Regional Force (RF) and Popular Force (PF) provided security for the march to freedom, as U.S. Marines continued with Operation Mississippi in the area.

From the Nong Son coal mines, most of the refugees are choosing to settle in the refugee hamlet of Thang My, where they will begin building new homes and a new life, protected from VC harassment and terrorism.

The Marine operation ended Dec. 7, but the refugees are continuing to pour into the Marine's lines.

During the 10-day operation named Mississippi, 1st Marine Divisions Marines killed eight Viet Cong and captured 18 more.

In addition, the Marines found a VC rice cache of 44 tons. The rice is being distributed among the refugees.

MACV asks for cut in spending

SAIGON—General W.C. Westmoreland, commander of United States Armed Forces in Vietnam, this week called for a sharp reduction by all personnel and agencies in the spending of piasters.

Citing the economic hazards which result from continued uncontrolled flow of piasters into the Vietnamese economy, General Westmoreland directed his staff and component commanders to institute an aggressive and dynamic program directed toward the reduction of piaster expenditures. Specifically the program will lessen the inflationary impact of our presence upon the economy of Vietnam.

Programs are to be aimed specifically at controlling the official-rate piasters spent by DOD agencies and their contractors, "Assistance in Kind" (AIK) expenditures, and personal spending by the military and U.S. and third country employees of contractors.

While there are no plans at present to limit the number of piasters individuals may purchase at the accommodation rate of exchange, MACV has called for a personal, self-imposed limitation on piaster expenditures.

Leading the list as the most painless way to reduce personal piaster purchases is to increase deposits with the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit System. This program, especially designed for men overseas, pays the individual 10 per cent on deposits up to \$10,000. Also high on the list of positive controls on personal spending are the 5 per cent interest, no-cost checking accounts of the Bank of America and the Chase Manhattan Bank now operating in Vietnam. In addition, the United States Savings Bond program continues to offer another painless way to put money to work while increasing personal savings. The objective here is to have the soldier get his money out of Vietnam into one of the savings programs or through the allotment system.

Among the personally less desirable suggestions being considered are earlier curfews, reduction in passes and increased use of the "off limits" designation.

It is recognized by officials that personal efforts alone will not completely achieve the desired level of reduced piaster expenditures. For this reason officials have directed all contracting agencies to take a close look at operating methods and establish effective programs to reduce piaster expenses. Among areas under consideration are increased logistical and special services support for laundries, PX, movies, hobby shops, USO, Red Cross and supervised athletic programs.

Numerous other proposals for controlling expenditures of piasters are under consideration. These will be reported on if and when they are adopted. In the meantime, Chairman of the MACV Piaster Expenditure Control Working Group, Colonel Paul A. Wedlan, stated that his group welcomes constructive suggestions, from individuals or agencies, which contribute to the success of the program.



Walking the dog

Cpl. J. D. Kaplan and his scout dog "Sandy" patrol with the 1st Marine Division during Operation Mississippi, south of Da Nang. Kaplan, a member of the 2nd Marine Scout Dog Platoon participated in the operation which saw 2500 South Vietnamese flee from VC dominated territory to new lives behind Marine lines. (Photo by Sgt. John Osterman)

Marine combat writers' views of war in book

"DATELINE: VIETNAM", a 191-page paperpack edition published by Challenge Publishers, is the story of the Vietnam war as seen by Marine Corps Combat Correspondents.

The book is based on official news releases issued by the Command Information Bureau of the III Marine Amphibious Force and was edited by Jack Lewis. Mr. Lewis is a former Marine Corps Information Officer and is now co-owner of Gallant Publications in Covina, Calif.

In an introduction to DATELINE: VIETNAM, Brigadier General Robert L. Denig, founder of the famed World War II Marine Corps Combat Correspondents organization, says:

"This book has no plot; at this time it doesn't really have an ending. The reports contained herein were written by Marine Corps Combat Correspondents. None of these Marines have gained any lasting fame; none are wealthy—by any military standards they are underpaid for the risks they take—and in any combat situation, there never is enough time."

The stories contained in DATELINE: VIETNAM are not concerned with politics or the history of the Vietnam conflict. Instead, these stories tell of the combat heroism of individual Marines and the units with which they serve. It also tells a story of the effort of Marines to rebuild the war-torn country of Vietnam and of efforts to help the people

Seabees

DA NANG—The Commanding Officer of a Navy Seabee Battalion and four of his men have been awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Honor.

The award, given for meritorious service, was presented to the men by Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General III MAF and General Hoang Xuan Lam, I Corps Commander.

Commander James C. Day Jr., CO of Mobile Construction Battalion Six, and two of his officers, Lieutenant (jg) J. R. Lutz and Lieutenant (jg) R. Pou, each received the Vietnamese Medal of Honor 1st Class.

Chief Petty Officer L. Pividori, BUCS and Petty Officer 1st Class Stanley E. Hunsinger, BU1, received the Vietnamese Medal of Honor 2nd Class.

The men were honored by the Vietnamese government for their unit's achievements in building a new detention area for Viet Cong and North Vietnamese prisoners of war. The POW camp near Da Nang that will house some 500 war prisoners, is considered a modern facility.

SPORTS

Friday Night EAST

Hunter 66	Brandeis 65	Colorado St. 89	DePauw 60
Muhlenberg 59	Albright 56	Loyola 60	N.C. State 53
Pace 115	Maritime Coll. 64	Humboldt St. 92	Cal. Western 67
N.Y. Tech 97	Castleton St. 68	Hayward St. 76	Ore. Tech 86
Syracuse 77	Penn St. 72	C. Wash. 85	Whittier 71
NYAC 94	ABC Freight 85	G. Fox 91	St. Martin's 80
Oswego St. 50	Buffalo 48	E. Wash. 63	Alaska Meth 68
Fairfield 88	St. Joseph's 68	L. & Clark 97	Ore. College 85
Upstate 82	Clark 69	Portland St. 106	S. Oregon 77
Yale 76	Cornell 67	Utah St. 76	Fresno St. 64
E. Strouds. 77	F. Dickinson 64	*	*
D.C. Techs. 77	S. Jersey 72	*	*
Montclair St. 70	Paterson St. 63	*	*
Geneseo St. 73	Cortland St. 68	*	*
Monmouth 80	Pratt 77	*	*
Johnson St. 87	Williamst. 74	*	*
Merrimack 104	Norwich 89	*	*
Alfred 88	Br. Stratton 85	*	*

SOUTH

Duke 98	Virginia 82	LaSalle 99	Nebraska 76
Beckley 109	Nat. Bus. Coll. 77	Vanderbilt 93	Portland 63
Gettysburg 80	J. Hopkins 70	*	*
S. Dak. St. U. 87	Jacksonville 69	*	*
Tennessee 73	Auburn 49	*	*
Brown 87	Jacksonville 69	*	*
Transylvania 83	Berea 61	*	*
W. & Lee 64	N.C. Wesleyan 63	South Carolina 63	Marquette 61
N.C. (Charlotte) 102	Greensboro 79	Wisconsin 67	Fordham 66
Erskine 84	Charleston 48	*	*
M. Harvey 106	A.-Broadus 76	*	*
Bridgewater 76	D. & Elkins 73	*	*
H. Sydney 112	E. Mennonite 63	*	*

MIDWEST

Carnegie Tech 72	Wooster 61	Clemson 73	Miami (Fla.) 64
Juniata 77	Ind. (Pa.) 71	*	*
Midwestern 87	McMurry 62	*	*
St. Edward's 105	Tarleton 60	*	*
Doane 33	Dana 31	*	*
Wis. (Mil.) 85	Dubuque 83	*	*
St. Cloud 70	N. Michigan 65	*	*
So. Ill. Techs. 80	Ill. Tech 78	*	*
Carthage 105	Elmhurst 71	*	*
Oberlin 81	Lake Forest 78	*	*
Eureka 89	Hammond 78	*	*
Valparaiso 95	Wash. (Mo.) 82	*	*
Peru St. 75	So. S. Dakota 70	*	*
Murray 99	Emporia St. 91	*	*
Hiram 100	Fredonia Tech 59	*	*
Aquinas 94	Detroit Tech 59	*	*
Det. Bus. Coll. 98	Ohio No. 91	*	*
Wittenberg 90	Ill. Wesleyan 68	*	*

SOUTHWEST

Anarillo 94	Dodge City 77	Long Is. Colleges Tourney	Arkansas 36
Hard.-Simmons 124	Idaho St. 91	Adelphi 80	Queens 67
New Mexico 71	Texas Western 62	C.W. Post 95	Kings Point 76
*	*	*	*
FAR WEST	*	*	*
Southern Cal 79	Arizona St. 77	Puget Sound 50	Pomona 44
Wyoming 78	Cent. Missouri 56	Irvine 87	Hastings 55
Western St. 85	Saskatchewan 72	*	*
Seattle 85	Brig. Young 83	*	*

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
New York	12	7	6	30	81	80
Toronto	11	6	7	29	71	67
Chicago	13	7	3	29	84	60
Montreal	11	10	1	23	54	55
Boston	6	14	5	17	67	94
Detroit	7	16	2	16	66	87

Saturday

Chicago at Montreal.	Arizona St. 77	Clinton 6	Johnstown 5
New York at Toronto.	Cent. Missouri 56	Greensboro 9	Jacksonville 0

Sunday

Montreal at Boston.	Wash. (Mo.) 82	Nashville 4	Charlotte 3
Toronto at Chicago.	So. S. Dakota 70	*	*
New York at Detroit.	Emporia St. 91	*	*

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Hershey	15	8	3	33	119	80
Quebec	14	10	3	31	102	97
Baltimore	14	7	1	29	79	61
Springfield	9	12	3	21	89	88
Providence	2	18	5	9	59	116

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	15	6	3	33	92	76
Rochester	16	9	1	33	118	80
Cleveland	9	10	3	21	85	84
Buffalo	5	19	4	14	77	132

Friday Night

Rochester 5	Providence 0	Friday Night	Houston 2
Baltimore 3	Buffalo 1	*	*

Saturday

Providence at Cleveland.	Wash. (Mo.) 82	Saturday	Memphis 7
Buffalo at Hershey.	So. S. Dakota 70	Oklahoma City at St. Louis.	Omaha 11
Baltimore at Pittsburgh.	Emporia St. 91	Tulsa at Houston.	Houston 2
Quebec at Springfield.	St. Louis 13	*	*

Sunday

Pittsburgh at Buffalo.	Wash. (Mo.) 82	Sunday	Memphis 7
Hershey at Cleveland.	So. S. Dakota 70	Oklahoma City at St. Louis.	Omaha 11
Quebec at Providence.	St. Louis 13	Tulsa at Houston.	Houston 2
Baltimore at Rochester.	St. Louis 13	*	*

EASTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Northern Division						
	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Clinton	22	9	0	45	*	*
New Jersey	18	13	0	36	*	*
Johnstown	15	16	0	30	*	*
New Haven	11	21	0	22	*	*
Long Island	7	20	1	15	*	*



Marine Observation Squadron-6 pilot, 1st Lt. Bruce J. Ross (right foreground) holds a board filled with Air Medals which were awarded to VMO-6 Marines Dec. 7. During the ceremony, the lieutenant received his second silver star and eighth gold star in lieu of his 12th through 21st Air Medals. Taking a close look at one of the medals is 1st Lt. David A. Ballantine, a holder of 21 Air Medals.

To crew and pilots of VMO-6

281 Air Medals awarded

KY HA—"In the name of the President of the United States, the Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, takes pleasure in presenting the second silver star and eighth gold star in lieu of the 12th through 21st Air Medals to First Lieutenant Bruce J. Ross."

These words were spoken to many members of Marine Observation Squadron-6 by Marine Aircraft Group-36 Executive Officer, Colonel A. L. Phillips, during an Air Medal awards ceremony Dec. 7 at the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station here.

During the mid-afternoon ceremony Col. Phillips awarded 281 Air Medals to the enlisted crewmen and pilots of the squadron. They had earned them flying hundreds of combat missions against the Viet Cong during September and October of this year.

First Lieutenant Ross is a Huey pilot. Since coming to Ky Ha last April, he has flown 573 combat missions, more than any other pilot presently serving with VMO-6. He is presently being recom-

mended for his 28th Air Medal. The medal is the ninth ranking Naval Service personal decoration award.

Among the other Marines cited was Lance Corporal James I. Collum. He had flown more combat missions, 550, than any enlisted Marine presently with the squadron. He has been recommended for his 27th Air Medal and is up for meritorious promotion.

Colonel Phillips chose December 7, 1966 as the day to present the award in remembrance of the day Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese.



DESPERATE—A Vietnamese woman casts a pleading glance over her shoulder as she and other villagers are helped aboard Marine helicopters. She and other refugees took advantage of a Marine operation in the isolated mountains and valleys southwest of Da Nang to flee the Viet Cong who have terrorized their homeland for years. They were carried to a secure area where they were met and cared for by the Republic of Vietnam forces. (Photo By: Sgt. Rich Groscoft.)

New school

DA NANG—Lance Corporal Thomas E. Van Fossen was one of the prime movers in a self-help project undertaken by his unit, 1st Amtrac Bn., 1st Marine Division, to provide a new school for the hamlet of Cam Bac, south of Da Nang.

The two-room structure was dedicated Nov. 11 in ceremonies attended by some 150 of the 400 youngsters who will use the school.

The project began in August, when members of Van Fossen's battalion discovered that the youngsters were being taught in an old, one-room building.

Everyone got into the act. Seabees mixed and poured concrete, Marines and Navy corpsmen provided materials and advice, and the villagers did the actual construction.

Actual supervision of the work fell to Van Fossen and Staff Sergeant C. N. Richard, who worked almost daily on the structure.

Short Rounds

Red Cross

CHU LAI—"Service to the military is our mission," said Williams J. Burtscher, field director of the Chu Lai Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Since their arrival last March, the five-man Red Cross team at the home to Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, has handled approximately 750 cases weekly, including processing of domestic problems, incoming and outgoing emergency measures and telephone calls, and correspondence.

"Most of our work deals with emergency leave," Burtscher said. "We are not authorized to grant leave, but we make certain unit commanders are notified and given a complete rundown on the situation."

Staff members also make frequent trips to outlying units for Marines who are unable to make the trip into Chu Lai.

The Chu Lai Red Cross also distributes packages and mail from the U.S., marked "To any Marine in Vietnam."

"It is gratifying to know that so many Americans want to show our fighting men that they are behind them all the way," Burtscher said.

More than a fifth of the 250 Red Cross workers in Vietnam are women. Twice a week, two of the ladies from Da Nang visit 1st Marine Division units in Chu Lai, where they serve food and talk with the troops.

Hot shower

CHU LAI—"A little thinking goes a long way," Staff Sergeant Willie L. Golden, Maintenance Chief, 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 1st Marine Division, proved recently.

One evening last month, Golden headed for the showers.

As he turned the water on, the cold spray chilled his spirits. Then and there he decided cold water showers "had to go."

Recruiting two volunteers, he set to work on project "hot shower."

Using a saw here, and welding there, a 55-gallon drum and seven feet of 3/4 inch copper tubing were converted into a hot water system. Dripping diesel oil is ignited and the tubing becomes a heating coil.

"When our troops come in from the field they look forward to a hot meal," Golden said, "and now they also have a hot shower to come home to."

Hanukkah

DA NANG—1st Marine Aircraft Marines of Jewish faith, along with those of other units in the Da Nang area, celebrated the festival of Hanukkah during December 7-14 with services in various chapels including a special holiday celebration at the USO on Hill 327 on December 11.

For Jews serving in Vietnam aiding oppressed South Vietnamese, the Festival of Hanukkah has a special significance. It tells the story of military valor and epic bravery, focusing attention upon a dramatic crisis in Jewish history when freedom cried out for protection by dedicated men.

Purple Heart

DA NANG—A Marine Lance Corporal was the recipient of a Purple Heart award here Dec. 8 during ceremonies he'll probably never forget.

Lance Corporal James L. Scott, 19, Headquarters Company, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was awarded the medal during ceremonies conducted by Lieutenant General Leonard F.

Chapman, Marine Corps Chief of Staff.

At the same instant, the ceremonies were being recorded for television in his hometown area by Mr. John Hlavecek of KMTV in Omaha.

General Chapman, on a tour of 1st Marine Division units, was at the First Regiment when the award was readied for presentation. Mr. Hlavecek was also at the regiment interviewing Marines from the Omaha area.

Scott was awarded the Purple Heart medal for being wounded by a Viet Cong sniper while on a platoon-sized patrol Sept. 16. Fully recovered, he is now a member of the company's security platoon.

In addition to General Chapman, Major General H. Nickeron Jr., 1st Marine Division commander and Major General Raymond L. Murray, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, USMCR, were also on hand.

Busy sgt.

CHU LAI—Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361's administrative chief, Gunnery Sergeant David Puiszis, is as proficient with his M-60 machine gun as he is with his typewriter. He has kept both of them busy since arriving in Vietnam last May with HMM-361.

When the 35-year-old Leatherneck is not supervising his administrative action, he is in the air flying combat missions as a volunteer gunner on one of the squadron's UH-34D helicopters.

He spends a lot of time working with award recommendations in his admin duties. "A Silver or Bronze Star Medal means a lot to a Marine," explained the veteran of more than 15 years service.

Though his administrative tasks are time consuming, Puiszis still manages time to ride "gun" on the 34's.

"At last count I had flown 115 combat missions and had been recommended for my fifth Air Medal and my Combat Air Crewman's Wings," Puiszis said.

Opn. ends

DA NANG—Operation Mississippi, a multibattalion search and sweep operation south of here ended Dec. 7, but refugees fleeing from the Viet Cong are still pouring into refugee centers at An Hoa and Nongson.

More than 2500 refugees from "Antenna" Valley have checked in—most of them choosing to settle in the refugee hamlet of Thang My.

First Division Marines killed eight Viet Cong and captured 18 during the 10-day operation.

A Viet Cong rice cache of 44 tons was found and moved by Marine helicopters.

The rice will be distributed among the refugees.

Marines casualties were light.

Medcap

CHU LAI—MedCap, the abbreviation of Medical Civil Affairs Program, is a very important part of the war in Vietnam.

Upon their arrival in the Republic of Vietnam, the men of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-13 took on the program already begun in the village of Ah Tan.

Members of the group's medical section set up a dispensary in the village maternity hospital. It includes an examining room, treatment room and a dental office.

Navy Lieutenant Andy E. Kirk, the group's flight surgeon, heads the team of medical personnel. They visit the village once a week.



PROGRAM PROVIDER—SSgt. Samuel P. Holtry civil affairs non-commissioned officer for Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, passes out programs printed in Vietnamese describing the events scheduled for the Elders Day Festival, Dec. 3 in Hoa My hamlet.

(Photo by: LCpl. John J. Williams)

First Elders Day Festival greeted with enthusiasm

By MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—Togetherness was the theme of the first Elders Day Festival, Dec. 3, in tiny Hoa My hamlet near Da Nang.

The festival brought together the adult members of the community, their government, and Marines in a two hour get-acquainted party.

It was the first in a series of festivals designed to graphically portray to the Vietnamese that freedom and democracy offers a better way of life.

The 1st Marine Division, borrowing the festival idea created by the 2nd Korean of the 6th Platoon, 29th Civil Affairs Co., U.S. Army attached to the 1st Marine Division.

"We plan to hold parties for mother, children, and elders again, in a series of moves designed to build up the peoples' confidence and trust in the legitimate government of South Vietnam."

The Captain credits the Koreans of the 2nd ROK Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade, operating south of Chu Lai, for conceiving the idea of an Elders Festival.

The Koreans have been particularly successful in winning former Viet Cong to the side of freedom with these parties. "Mothers and elders convince them to defect," he said.

"It is a privilege to be with you, the elders of Hoa My," Gen. Nickerson said, "I'm looking forward to working with you. I ask you for your friendship and cooperation."

Major Hau, a professional Army of the Republic soldier and District Chief of Hoa Vang, mounted the speakers' platform to welcome Marines to the hamlet. He said the party would help bring the people closer to their government and the Marines.

A solid wall of children pressed tightly together outside the green to hear the 1st Marine Division Band under the direction of Warrant Officer E.W. Elfes, serenade the elders with a program of Vietnamese and American arrangements.

After the speeches, in which General Nickerson promised to provide the security for the hamlet "while you (the people) win the war," U.S. Marines and Army men joined the hamlet chief in passing out Vietnamese flags, calendars and cigarettes.

The Elders Party was the first in a series of parties planned to keep the people in constant contact with their own leaders and the Marines, said Captain Michael E. Sammon, USA, and one of the chief architects of the Elders Day Festival. Capt. Sammon is the Platoon Commander

Amphibious 'Otter' proves its versatility

DONG HA—One of the more unusual pieces of machinery to be found at this northern Marine base is proving its versatility even before being committed to its primary duty.

The Otter, a personnel and cargo carrier with amphibious capabilities, has come to the rescue of several 2½ ton trucks mired in mud.

Six of these stub-nosed, tracked, box-like vehicles from "A" Co., 3rd Motor Transport Battalion will be used to carry supplies from command posts to forward elements of units on Operation Prairie.

First designed for use in snow, the Otters were sent to Vietnam for resupplying when helicopter flights are hampered by weather.

The Otters thrive on wet, muddy terrain. Though it weighs 9,000 pounds, it's lighter than other tracked vehicles. Its 30-inch wide tracks prevent it from sinking in mud or soft earth.



Unknown benefactor

Person or persons unknown added the flowers to this manger scene at the 1st Marine Division chaplain's office near Da Nang. Looking at the contributions are (from left to right): Sgts. Leon B. Parkinson, and Richard A. Lastner, who built the display; Capt. David J. Casazza, division chaplain and Lt. Robert Weeks, Headquarters Bn. Chaplain.

(Photo by Cpl. J. J. Williams)

Chu Lai Marines Christmas early

By GySgt James J. Oggino and LCpl Philip Hamer

CHU LAI—Christmas came to 1st Division Marines in the Chu Lai area, thanks to the division chaplains and to the citizens of America.

Chaplains held special Christmas services for all 1st Division units here Dec. 14. Marines in the field, many of whom spent their first Christmas away from home, were able to join in traditional Christmas worship.

A busy schedule of religious services kept chaplains moving from the thatch-roofed chapels in headquarters areas to improvised altars on the front lines. They carried with them the true spirit of Christmas.

Marines here also enjoyed the fruits of the spirit of good will towards man. These were in the form of packages received at III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters in Da Nang from private citizens, religious and other organizations throughout the United States.

One group of packages was gathered by residents of Long Beach, Calif., under the name of Operation Friendship. The VFW of Muscatine, Iowa, contributed, as did two church organizations in Seattle, Wash., six Indiana Candie (sic) and Cookie Packs. A chapel at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland also sent packages.

In all, some 30 packages were forwarded from III MAF to the chaplain's office here with the request they be distributed to "combat Marines." This does not

include packages sent by the Girl Scouts of America.

Once received at Chu Lai, the packages were forwarded to chaplains at outlying units for further distribution.

Also early at Dong Ha

DONG HA—Christmas came a little early this year for 3rd Division Marines operating here just a short distance from the Demilitarized Zone.

Each Marine in this northernmost combat area received a gift of a handsome pigskin wallet and five specially engraved Christmas cards, plus writing kits and cigarettes.

The wallets, cards and writing kits were gifts from the division's special services. Cigarettes were donated by various civilian firms and organizations.

Each wallet has a gold-embossed Marine Corps emblem stamped on the outside. On the inside, also stamped in gold, are the words "Merry Christmas, 1966, 3rd Marine Div. FMF, Vietnam."

The Christmas cards are decorated in scarlet and gold with season's greetings in both English and Vietnamese, and the Triad, the symbol of the 3rd Marine Division.

According to Captain John Angil, division forward G-1 officer, 45,800 Christmas cards, and 4400 writing kits were distributed to Marines participating in Operation Prairie.

Cardinal Spellman to say Mass

His Eminence, Cardinal Francis Spellman, will celebrate a Christmas Mass on Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. at the Division Amphitheater on Hill #327.

Chaplain's Birthday

PHU BAI — Chaplains from throughout the 3rd Marine Division gathered at division headquarters to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the Naval Chaplains Corps.

The celebration followed close on the heels of the Marine's anniversary which took place Nov. 10. The two services are the same age.

Included in the ceremony was the traditional cake cutting with honored guest Major General Wood B. Kyle, 3rd Division commander, assisting Navy Captain H.T. Lavin, division chaplain.

Colonel J.B. Sweeney, and Colonel J.R. Rhoades, the division's chief of staff and deputy chief of staff respectively, were guests at the celebration.

Gen. Kyle addressed the assembled chaplains, some who had come from units located at Dong Ha, near the demilitarized zone. He praised the chaplains for their devotion to Marines fighting the war in Vietnam. He also paid tribute to all chaplains that have served with Marines since the beginning of the Corps.

The general presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroism, to Lieutenant Commander N.W. Hubble, Catholic chaplain for division rear at Phu Bai, to close the ceremony.

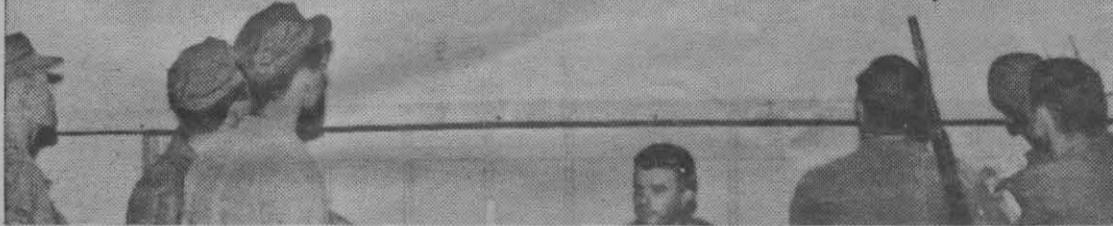


Seasons Greetings

TO OUR FIGHTING MEN IN VIETNAM
from YOUR FRIENDS IN NEW JERSEY

We at home know of the sacrifices you are making on behalf of our country. We salute your valor and appreciate your efforts to bring peace yet anxiously await your safe return home. You are in our thoughts and prayers this day as we send you our Best Wishes for a

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



HELLO FROM HOME—Citizens of New Jersey expressed their support for America's effort in Vietnam with this giant Christmas card bearing the signatures of thousands of New Jerseyites, including Gov. Richard J. Hughes, several mayors, and representatives of many high school classes. The sign is on display in the main exchange near Da Nang.

CG III MAF Message

Christmas 1966 comes at a solemn and uncertain time in the affairs of the world. Two thousand years ago when Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea, that ancient world, much as our world today, was marked by unrest, human struggle, conflict and uncertainty.

This Holy Season is a reminder that God has a stake in our affairs and in the way human history develops. The Lord who entered history to be one of us also molds and shapes our destiny. He remains in control.

We who are on duty here in the Republic of Vietnam, separated this Christmas Season from home and family, are participating in one of history's great ventures in freedom. We believe that our involvement here continues to offer the best prospect of demonstrating to the world that free men can govern themselves responsibly and decently. To accept responsibility, to engage in struggle, and to endure sacrifice is not new to people of faith. Our participation in this conflict provides hope for the people of Vietnam in their

struggle to achieve a more secure and peaceful future.

The message of "Peace on Earth, Good Will among men" is no mere idealistic dream. Faith, hope and love are part of our religious heritage, but every generation must struggle to achieve and safeguard them. Assured that God is interested in human affairs and is active in our midst, we participate in this drama of history in the sincere hope and prayers that our participation will help lay the foundations for international understanding.

During the past year you have demonstrated your continued loyalty, dedication, perseverance and patience in fulfilling your duties. In addition to conveying my personal greetings to you, I sincerely hope the blessings of this Christmas Season will provide you with spiritual resources to continue to serve God and Country in whatever capacity may be necessary in the coming year.

L. W. Walt
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General



CMC's Message

To Marines, to all Free World fighting men, and to your families I extend my warmest wish for a joyous Christmas. May the promise of Christmas, which your service and sacrifice provides for all, be yours through the coming year.

Wallace M. Greene, Jr.

WALLACE M. GREENE, JR.
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



Taking the place of Santa Claus are (left) Lt. Vincent R. Capadonna, (CHC), USN, and (first from left) LCdr. John A. Baxter (CHC) USN, 1st Medical Bn., assistant chaplain and chaplain respectively. The two chaplains distributed the contents of Christmas packages received from the U.S. to patients on the wards at 1st Medical Bn. Standing in line to receive the goodies forwarded from II MAF Headquarters are: (left to right) HN John M. Chila, LCpl. Nolan W. Coffee, HM2 Ronald E. Thomas and Cpl. Carlos Ashlock.



MOUNTAIN OF GIFTS—
SSgt William F. Keyser of the 1st Tank Bn. sits among some 1500 pounds of gifts donated by citizens of Waukegan, Ill., to Operation Keyserstown. The gifts will be distributed to villagers in the hamlet of Tich Tay near Chu Lai.

Short Vietnam Christmas Scenes

With Fourth Marines

DONG HA—Christmas trees, blinking lights, holly wreaths and Santa Claus have become part of Fourth Marine Regiment life here.

Marines in the area refuse to have their Christmas spirit dampened by separation from home, lack of a white Christmas, or the monsoon rains that have drenched them for weeks.

At the beginning of December, miniature, gaily-decorated trees began appearing in Marines' huts.

A majority of them have the traditional string of multi-colored electric bulbs around them. Some are decorated with different colored pieces of paper.

The glow of lighted Christmas trees and the sound of Christmas music sort of makes it feel like home.

One young 3rd Division Marine, unable to get a miniature tree, bought wrapping paper with Christmas designs on it and hung it in his tent.

Strange visitors

DA NANG—A manger scene erected outside the 1st Marine Division chaplain's office apparently has the endorsement of Vietnamese workers in the area.

The manger, built by two chaplain's assistants, Sergeants Leon B. Parkinson and Richard A. Lastner, was erected Dec. 10.

The men came to work the next morning to find an unknown passerby had left a contribution—two soda cans filled with paper flowers.

Captain David J. Casazza, 1st Marine Division chaplain, theorized that the flowers were the gift of Vietnamese in the area, since the people of Vietnam traditionally decorate their outdoor shrines in such a manner.

Whatever their origin, the flowers were gratefully accepted, and have become a permanent part of the display.

15-foot petition

DA NANG—A 15-foot petition of support with more than 350 signatures has been received by the 1st Marine Division from the men of Wright Hall, State University, Normal, Ill.

Signed by the president of the university, Robert G. Bone, the petition extended the Christmas greetings of the school saying in part "we are with you in spirit. It is the Christmas season but we cannot feel the fullest joy of Christmas when you, some close friends

and relatives and all our fellow citizens, are so distant doing a thankless job...

"We thank you for doing your job so well. We send you our vote of confidence. We hope that you will find the necessary strength and courage during the Christmas season."

The petition, with appropriate seasonal comments by the students, is being passed to units of the 1st Marine Division.

Chief of Chaplains

DA NANG—Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, Navy chief of chaplains, will dedicate two 1st Marine Division chapels in the Da Nang area on Christmas Eve.

Admiral Kelly will speak at the dedication of the 1st Marine Regiment chapel at 9:15 a.m., and will be the main speaker at similar ceremonies for the 1st Marine Division's new chapel in Da Nang at 1:30 p.m.

The new division chapel has a seating capacity for 200 persons. The first services in the chapel will be held on Christmas day. It replaces a quonset hut which has served as the chapel for members of Headquarters Battalion.

The 1st Marine Division band will appear at the dedication and MajGen. H. Nickerson Jr., the division commanding general, will be present for the ceremonies.

Admiral Kelly will be in the Da Nang area for six days, beginning Dec. 21, to visit Navy and Marine Corps units from Da Nang to Dong Ha.

Christmas spirit added

DA NANG—Marines of Headquarters Company, Ninth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division have added the spirit of Christmas to their enlisted club as they prepare to celebrate their first Yule in Vietnam.

Multi-colored crepe paper hangs from the ceiling in the "plush" plywood and knotty pine club. A red sign greets tired Marines returning from the field with the message "Merry Christmas." A string of twinkling lights adds to the warmth of the holiday atmosphere.

In the background a carol plays from a worn record, over the noise of the scratches.

Centerpiece of the new club is a three-foot silver tinsel Christmas tree. It is draped with colored bulbs and strings of red and green crepe paper.

Four Marines guarantee last paycall for paymaster

By LCpl. Tom Judge

DONG HA—While a reinforced platoon of I Company Third Marine Regiment was moving to a blocking force position for a sweep operation southeast of the "Rock-pile" before first light, point men Private First Class Homer B. Cassada and Lance Corporal Rodney W. Consalvo spotted lights a short distance ahead.

The lights were coming from a campfire and a flashlight in a village believed to be abandoned. The two 3rd Division Marines also heard talking and a cough coming from one of the huts.

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Schrader sent Corporal Frederick A. Tenuto, first squad leader, and machine gunner, Lance Corporal John S. Knight, with the point men into the hut. Meanwhile, the lieutenant deployed the remainder of his men in an ambush formation around the house.

Tenuto, sneaking up to the hut, caught an enemy soldier brushing his teeth, and captured him.

Simultaneously, the others entered the hut from three sides, surprising five uniformed North Vietnamese soldiers within.

The Marines killed all five.

The Marines also captured six weapons, including three sniper rifles with high-power scopes, six field packs with full equipment, and 17 hand grenades.

One of the men in the hut was believed to have been a paymaster—a pay roster and 20,000 piasters was found along with a map indicating positions where groups of five or six of the enemy apparently were to gather.

Reading room at Dong Ha

DONG HA — Fourth Marine Regiment special services has a tropical hut here so Marines can "keep abreast of what is going on in the world."

Books about electronics, science, aviation, photography, sports, construction and even financial periodicals adorn the shelves.

Marines wanting to keep abreast of the world situation find the latest editions of Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, Life and Saturday Evening Post.

Although the reading room is generally a busy place—it's probably the quietest hut in the area.



VC sighted

LCpl. Dennis R. Boucher waits for the exact moment to drop a smoke grenade into a Viet Cong position marking it for ground troops maneuvering in the rice paddy below. He is a helicopter crew chief.

(Photo by Cpl. D. D. Linton)

LCpl.'s first action one he'll not forget

By Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA—It was Lance Corporal David J. Simmons' first big action.

In Vietnam since August, Simmons was an M-60 machinegunner aboard a CH-37C cargo helicopter on a routine resupply mission near the demilitarized zone.

The large double-engine chopper delivered several 55-gallon fuel drums to a 3rd Marine Division unit when

Knight's, flying wing on the disabled 'copter, also set down at Camp Carroll, then flew into Dong Ha with the injured pilot.

Within two days, the CH-37 was repaired and ready to fly again.

"I don't think any other chopper could have absorbed so many rounds and still have been able to lift off of that LZ," said Simmons. "I have a lot of respect for that big bird."

"I looked out my window and saw puffs on the ground where machinegun rounds were walking across the LZ toward my window. We were always told to stay with the plane when possible, so I hit the deck inside the bird," he said.

Just as Simmons ducked, the enemy machinegunner brought his deadly pattern off the ground, into the helicopter, and across Simmons' window.

"I looked up and saw bits and pieces of metal flying all over. Have you ever been in a car when it's hailing outside? Well, it wounded just like that inside the helicopter," said Simmons.

"One big explosion hit about 20 yards from our plane. I believe it was a 75mm recoilless rifle. But we lifted off and they didn't have another chance to hit us with that big gun," he said.

Simmons had a chance to get off return fire at the enemy from the air. "There was all kinds of smoke in the trees they were firing from," he said.

The enemy fire had taken its toll. Several rounds ripped through to knock out all the gauges and instruments and the radio; others had nearly severed a hydraulic fluid line. Most of the fluid from the utility system leaked out. This leakage made only manual operation of the tail rotor by the pilot possible, much like power steering going out in a car.

Crippled and without instruments, the Marine helicopter—with 40 bullet holes and several pieces of shrapnel in it—limped to the nearest LZ at Camp J.J. Carroll five miles away.

A twin-rotor CH-46 "Sea

Soap suds

CHU LAI—In the future, Private First Class David L. Randle a rifleman with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, will check his pockets before heading out on patrol.

About half-way across a river, a steady stream of bubbles started following Randle. When he stepped out of the water on the other side, he found that both legs were engulfed by suds.

He reached into the pockets on his jungle utilities to determine the cause and pulled out two very used bars of soap.



Near the earth

Hospital Corpsman Thomas R. Howe crouches low as the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines draws sniper fire on Operation Mississippi. The action came as the battalion neared a cache of some 40 tons of VC rice which was captured and distributed to civilian refugees.

(Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Togetherness is their theme

By Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA—"Togetherness" is more than just a long word to Marine identical twin brothers here—it's practically a way of life.

Since Merle Ronald and Charles Dennis Capps entered the Marine Corps in July, 1965, they have compiled service records so similar even the most experienced clerk has difficulty keeping their files straight.

The Richmond, Calif., brothers came to Vietnam in January. Since then they have been attached to the radio relay section of Headquarters Co., Third Marine Regiment, first at Da Nang and now in the Dong Ha area.

Their service record books, pay records and identification cards read like erroneous duplications. But for their first two names and their service numbers, there's hardly any difference.

The men have the same radio relay occupational specialty.

They've always been assigned to the same duty station since coming in the Marine Corps.

They were simultaneously promoted to private first class after infantry training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in Nov. 1965; then lance corporal while with the Third Regiment at Da Nang in May.

The twins shot identical scores with the M-14 rifle during recruit training, even though they were 12 targets apart.

They both compiled 399 scores during recruit training's physical fitness test. They did the same number of pushups, pullups, situps, squat thrusts and ran the 300 meter dash in the same length of time.

They wear the same size clothes and boots. They're the same height (6'2") and weight (180 lbs.), have the same blood type, and even laugh the same way.

They're so look-alike that even their own mother has trouble telling them apart, they said. They talk slyly of changing places

with their girlfriends as a prank. The only apparent difference are two small moles on the right side of Dennis's head. To the meticulous, Dennis's jaw is a trifle more square—but not much.

The Capps brothers sometimes find looking alike frustrating.

On paydays the two have to stand side by side and present their identification to the pay officer to prevent mix-ups and embarrassing situations.

Ronnie's high school graduation portrait was discarded because someone thought a duplicate photo had been made of Dennis's picture.

Ronnie (older of the pair by two minutes) and Dennis sent company clerks at Camp J.J. Carroll into their latest tizzy in mid-November. They were simultaneously promoted to corporal.

"We could almost hear the groans from clerks at the company, and disbursing office," said

Ronnie. Chimed in Dennis, "If we keep'em gripin', we know they're happy."

Cross of Gallantry for two pilots

CHU LAI—Two Marine captains of Marine Fighter Squadron-323, Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-13, have been awarded Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Captains Carey B. Connell, and James M. Davis, received the awards for their actions during an operation south of Chu Lai.

Connell was pilot of an F4B Phantom jet aircraft and Davis was his naval flight officer. They flew ground support missions during a search and destroy operation.

Connell received the Cross of Gallantry with gold star and Davis received the bronze star with his award.



Visiting senator

Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, on tour of Vietnam, talks with members of MAG-11 during his visit to the Da Nang airstrip. Left to right are: Col. Franklin C. Thomas, Jr.; Sen. Thurmond; LtCol. Howard Wolf; 2nd Lt. William D. Llewellyn and Charles Kirbow, chief clerk of the Senate Armed Forces Committee.

BOB HOPE COMES "HOME"

Here's a peek at Bob Hope's SRB

Bob Hope's history of entertaining GI's began in May, 1941, at California's March Field. During World War II and the Korean conflict he made many trips to our overseas military bases to entertain troops.

In 1948, he went to Berlin at the request of our Air Force to put on several shows for GI's involved in the airlift. Among those accompanying him on that journey were his wife, Dolores; Air Force Secretary (now Senator) Stuart Symington; and General Jimmy Doolittle.

The following year, Hope ran into Brigadier General Frank Armstrong, who asked him: "When are you going to do a show for GI's in Alaska?"

Bob immediately packed his parka and took off for the frozen North with his wife, four children and a troupe of Hollywood performers.

By then he was "hooked" on the Christmas-performing habit, so in 1949 he went to Alaska, in 1950 to the Pacific, and in 1954 to Greenland, 1955 to England and Iceland, 1956 to Alaska, 1957 to the Orient, 1958 to the Azores, North Africa, Iceland and Europe, 1959 to Alaska for the third time, 1960 to the Caribbean, 1961 to Newfoundland and Greenland, 1962 again to the Orient, 1963 to Africa, Turkey, Italy and the Greek Islands and 1964 to South Vietnam (the first American star to take a troupe there) Thailand, Guam, the Philippines and Korea (where he had performed during the Korean conflict).

Skeptics to the contrary, Hope actually remained on California soil on three consecutive December 25ths, from 1951 through 1953. But on the '51 and '53 holidays he braved the freeways—an act tantamount to facing enemy gunfire, if Californians are to be believed—to bring laughter to patients at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital.

Hope shrugs off compliments about his holiday treks for the servicemen, saying that being away over the holidays is his way of not having "to send Christmas cards." But when he's pinned down, he admits that "the GI's have done a lot more for me than I've ever done for them."

His feelings about the conflict in Vietnam have been stated, however, in perfectly serious terms. "We're fighting a common enemy over there, more than the Viet Cong. It's the Commies. That's our enemy. If we don't win there (in South Vietnam) we'll be fighting in Pomona."

The exact locations of the bases at which the Bob Hope troupe will present shows will not be released in advance for security reasons. The validity of the Department of Defense precautionary measures in behalf of the troupe became sharply apparent two years ago. Delayed when a crew member failed to complete loading of equipment until 20 minutes after the scheduled departure time, the Bob Hope troupe arrived at its destination in Saigon somewhat after they were expected. Twenty minutes prior to their arrival the officers' barracks across the street from their hotel was bombed.



King of Comedy returns to his "combat family" in Vietnam

Bob Hope will pay his third visit to wartorn Vietnam at Christmas this year, as he celebrates his 25th year of entertaining American troops.

Hope's troupe is scheduled to appear in the I Corps area during his stay in South Vietnam during the holiday week, II MAF Special Services Office said.

Individual Marines should contact unit special services officers for specific information on date and location of the show in the Marine area.

Hope, "America's Santa Claus", brings the all-star troupe of entertainers on the 15th annual Yule tour of GI overseas military bases from Dec. 16-30, under co-sponsorship of the Defense Department and the USO.

Films of the shows presented by Bob Hope and his "bundle of Christmas Cheer" at each stop, will be colorcast by NBC television network on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from (9:10:30 p.m. PST & EST; 8:9:30 p.m. CST) when "Chrysler Presents the Bob Hope Christmas Special."

Phyllis Diller ("the Liz Taylor of the 'Twilight Zone'") will be making her first overseas trip when she travels to the Far East.

"I've never even been to Europe!" she says, "but I guarantee one look at me will cure 300,000 cases of homesickness for American girls before I return to the States."

Joey Heatherton first traveled with Bob Hope to Santo Domingo in July 1965 to entertain American troops stationed there during the hostilities in the Dominican Republic. The tiny, blonde dancer-singer was so wildly received by the servicemen, Hope invited her to accompany him on the 1965 Christmas trip to Vietnam.

a "Miss America" contestant, will be making her seventh consecutive overseas trip with Hope this Christmas.

The Korean Kittens, a night-club act which met with enthusiastic acclaim from Singapore to London, from Puerto Rico to San Francisco, was spotted earlier this year by Hope during a visit to Puerto Rico. The three girls dance and sing in every imaginable style — from the Watusi to straight ballet, from rock and roll to traditional Korean folk music.

Les Brown, leader of the Band of Renown, will be making his 13th Bob Hope Christmas trip (he missed one during the 14 years Hope has played GI Santa) this season. He can lay claim to more air miles of travel than any other organized band in the history of the business.



Gorgeous Phyllis Diller



Songstress Anita Bryant