



SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 9

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

March 1, 1967



FOR HEROISM—Marine Cpl. Patrick Gallagher, of County Mayo, Ireland, is congratulated by General William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, for receiving the Navy Cross.

Operation Scholarship launched by 1stMarDiv

By: MSgt G.E. Wilson
OPERATION SCHOLARSHIP, a 100,000 dollar educational fund drive, will be launched March 1 by the 1st Marine Division, according to an announcement by Major General Herman Nickerson Jr., commanding general of the division.

"The money will be used for the future education of children of the 1st Division Marines and Navymen killed in action," said the drive chairman, Sergeant Major J.H. Johnson.

"All units under the operational control of the 1st Marine Division are being given the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile project," Johnson said. He noted that any child of any Marine or Navyman who has served with the 1st Marine Division—including attached units—are eligible to receive the scholarship funds.

"We are not confining the drive to Marine and Navymen in Vietnam," the sergeant major pointed out. "Anyone, anywhere in the world, may contribute."

"Civilians who may wish to help the Marines help themselves may take part in the campaign," he pointed out.

In Vietnam sergeants major and first sergeants of all units in the division have been designated as drive chairmen and collection agents for their units.

All money collected will be turned over to the Custodian

of OPERATION SCHOLARSHIP, and banked in Saigon until the drive is completed.

OPERATION SCHOLARSHIP funds will then be turned over to the 1st Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund Committee which administers the distribution of the funds to deserving children who apply for the money.

Membership in the 1st Marine Division Association is open to any Marine or Navyman who has served in or been attached to the 1st Marine Division in the past or present.

"That means," Sergeant Major Johnson said, "that members of the Ninth, Fourth, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiments now under the operations control of the division are eligible to participate in the drive and—if they wish—join the 1st Marine Division Association."

Any money donated to the fund drive may be sent by check or money order to the Custodian, OPERATION SCHOLARSHIP, 1st Marine Division, C/O FPO San Francisco, California, 96602.

Marines in Vietnam may contribute through their unit representatives or direct to the custodian, Sergeant Major Johnson pointed out.

Collection boxes have been planned for all clubs in the 1st Marine Division area for anyone wishing to make contributions

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Wins Navy Cross

Marine drops on grenade to save comrades' lives

By GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—A citizen of Ireland, who threw himself on an enemy hand grenade to save the lives of two fellow Marines and lived to tell about it, was awarded the United States' second ranking medal for heroism, the Navy Cross, Feb. 19.

The combination of raw courage and the traditional "luck of the Irish" was too much for the odds-makers as not only was no one killed—there were no injuries resulting from the Viet Cong grenade attack.

Corporal Patrick Gallagher, 22, of County Mayo, Ireland, was a member of "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, taking part in Operation Hastings when the action occurred.

Early on the morning of July 18, 1966, his company was set in defensive positions near Can Lo. Gallagher, along with three other Marines, was in a foxhole near the company's perimeter.

Suddenly, one of several enemy soldiers who were attempting to infiltrate the position, threw a grenade into the hole. Gallagher kicked the grenade out of the area where it exploded harmlessly.

Another grenade followed and this one landed between two of Gallagher's fellow Marines. Unhesitatingly, he threw his body on the grenade to absorb the expected explosion and save his comrade's lives. It failed to explode and the three Marines with him were ordered out of the hole.

While they were scrambling to safety, two more enemy grenades landed in the position and exploded—still no one was injured.

Gallagher then rolled off the grenade he was lying on, picked (Continued on Back Page)

DA NANG—Navy Captain Harry H. Dinsmore, the doctor who removed a live 60mm mortar shell from the chest of a Vietnamese soldier, was awarded a Navy Cross here Feb. 19 for that operation.

Chief of Surgery at the U.S. Naval Support Activity hospital here, he volunteered to perform the operation, knowing full well the dangers to himself should the round be detonated.

The patient, Private First Class Nguyen Luong of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, was medevaced into the hospital on the night of Oct. 1, 1966.

When X-rays showed the danger of the situation, Dr. Dinsmore immediately took charge and performed the delicate operation—successfully removing the round.

New FLSG-A CO

HOA KHANH—Colonel George C. Schmidt, Jr., assumed command of the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha", February 8.

He succeeds Colonel Robert R. Weir, who will assume duties as the 3d Marine Division's Supply Officer, a post formerly held by Schmidt.

Present at the ceremony was Brigadier General J. E. Herbold, Jr.



Marine casualty on Operation Deckhouse VI

A Marine wounded during Operation Deckhouse VI, is medevaced by a helicopter of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263. During D-Day operations, the Marines confirmed 48 VC killed, many from supporting weapons fire.

(Photo by Sgt. James Boyd)

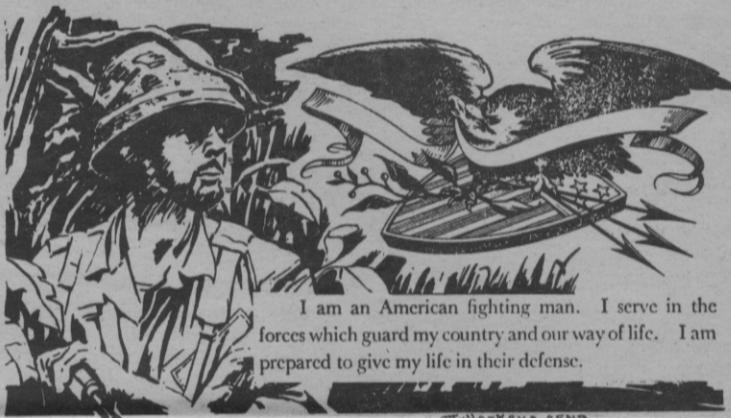


SEA TIGER

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Major General Wood B. Kyle
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
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Published each Tuesday by the III Marine Amphibious Force. The SEA TIGER complies with Marine Corps Order P5690.31 and MCO P5720.44 and is printed with appropriated funds, by The Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. The SEA TIGER subscribes to and receives material from the Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB) whose material herein may be reprinted provided credit and no other copyrights are involved. All photographs are official U.S. Marine Corps Photos unless otherwise credited. Photographs submitted from other sources outside the Marine Corps for publication in The SEA TIGER become the property of The SEA TIGER. Material submitted for publication in The SEA TIGER must reach the Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force, FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602, on Tuesday of the preceding publication week. Statements, views and opinion expressed in The SEA TIGER are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps and should not be interpreted as directive in nature.
Circulation This Issue 38,000 Copies

Added armament



Possessing the most modern and efficient weapons and equipment known; superbly trained by skilled, dedicated leaders, the men of our Armed Forces today are better prepared to combat enemies of our way of life than ever before.

But weapons and training are not enough. Each fighting man must also be armed with determination, confidence and dedication. These additional factors guide and govern the behavior of the serviceman in combat. They are the foundation for the Code of Conduct of the U.S. Fighting Man.

The Code is a reflection of the lives, deeds and valor of Americans who have faced the horrors of war in every conflict in which this Nation has been engaged.

The Code is built with individual faith in our Nation and upon each individual's knowledge of the fundamental precepts of our democratic system and institutions. It is held together with pride in service and respect for national, military and unit history and traditions.

Encompassing all this is the determination to defeat our country's enemies no matter what hardships must be overcome; the confidence that we are morally right to succeed in our cause; and the dedication to pay whatever price necessary to safeguard our country.

These are the things that have, throughout our history, made our Armed Forces the finest in the world and have stirred our men, despite overwhelming odds, to defend a position or gain an objective; given them strength to survive the harsh treatment of POW camps with honor and dignity, care for their fellow prisoners and make miraculous escapes. They have faced death bravely and with honor, firm in the belief their cause is just.

Citizen-soldiers and professionals alike have given meaning to the words, "I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which safeguard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense." (AFNB)

FLSG-A wins Bond flag

DA NANG — If Savings Bonds build futures—a good future lies ahead for most of the 2,675 Marines of the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha," Force Logistic Command, northwest of Da Nang.

More than 96 per cent of the support group Marines are currently participating in the U.S. Savings Bond program.

Leading the FLSG-A units in the program is Headquarters and Services Co. who, manned by 723 Marines, have acquired 100 per cent participation.

"I believe we are the largest military unit in Vietnam to obtain 100 per cent in the Savings Bond program," states Lieutenant Colonel J.L. Carter, com-

manding officer H&S Co.

Only 13 per cent of the company's personnel had purchased bonds last August, but by November, this percentage had risen to nearly 90 per cent.

A Minute Man Flag was also presented to Truck Company, FLSG-A Feb. 12, for outstanding participation in the program.

The flag, highest honor given by the U.S. Treasury Department, is awarded to military units who have more than 90 per cent participation in the Savings Bond program. That percentage of Truck Company personnel have purchased bonds since July and the company was the first FLC unit to reach this percentage. Presently, 253 of the 255 men who make up the unit are purchasing bonds.



Rice paddy rhapsody

An impromptu band relieves tension during a break in the action. At the drums using a helmet, helmet liner, ammunition box and canteen is PFC Dennis J. Brown (left). The guitar is manned by PFC Eddie A. Slusser (right). The Leathernecks are from "F" Co., 2d Bn., First Marines.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

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Nancy Sinatra

DA NANG — Nearly 5,000 Marines, all sporting boots that have done some walking, were in attendance Feb. 8 at the 7th Engineer Battalion for the Nancy Sinatra show.

And the "boots gal" didn't disappoint her audience.

Clad in a crowd-pleasing red, white and blue mini-skirt and pink boots, Nancy immediately got the show rolling by romping through, "These Boots are Made for Walking."

She followed with two of her additional hits, "Sugar Town" and, "How Does That Grab You Darling," then walked through the audience, much to the delight of the 1st Division Marines, singing "Call Me" and "That's Life."

Accompanying Nancy and emcee of the 90-minute show was Jimmy Boyd.

The Gordian Knot combo provided the instrumental entertainment.



MONEY TO BURN—This could have been the thoughts of SSgt. Earl N. Wilder (left), communications technician chief of 2d Bn., Ninth Marines as he receives his \$10,414 re-enlistment bonus from WO A. V. Julian, disbursing officer.

Decorations and awards

DA NANG—Led by their commanding officer, 9 members of the 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marines, 1st Marine Division, were decorated for heroism and meritorious service for their gallant actions during Operations Hastings and Prairie.

Lieutenant Colonel Arnold E. Bench, the battalion commander, was awarded both the Silver and Bronze Star Medals during the ceremony.

Sergeant William E. Wright, a radio operator, was decorated with the Silver Star.

A Bronze Star Medal was presented to Corporal Dale L. Inman, and Navy Commendation Medals were awarded Staff Sergeant Randolph W. Fast, Sergeant Michael E. Owens, Corporal Larry A. Sturdivant, Lance Corporals William L. Howe, and James Sandoval and Private First Class Willie W. Gainer.

Silver Star

The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Col. Bench for a series of courageous actions during Operation Hastings from July 18 to 24, 1966.

Sgt. Wright was decorated for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action during Operation Prairie, Aug. 23 and 24.

Bronze Stars

The Bronze Star Medals were awarded to Bench and Cpl. Inman for their bravery and coolness under intense enemy fire on July 16 and July 23 and 24 respectively.

Navy Commendation

The Navy Commendation Medals were awarded to the remaining members of the battalion in the ceremony for heroic achievement during the two 3rd Marine Division operations south of the demilitarized zone.

Bench

Bench's Silver Star was awarded for a series of courageous actions during Operation Hastings from July 18-24, 1966.

His battalion was clearing the Song Nam Valley ahead of the 3rd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment, when a force estimated at 1000 North Vietnamese enemy soldiers attacked the 3rd Battalion.

During the attack, the column became divided and disorganized and required reinforcements.

"Quickly and skillfully," according to the citation accompanying the Silver Star Medal, "Bench organized a relief force of two companies and led his force into the flanks of the enemy located on both sides of the valley.

"Taking the pressure off the beleaguered column, the colonel continued to direct the attack until the column was reorganized in a secure zone."

Again on July 21, Bench's position was attacked by a North Vietnamese force estimated between 40 and 50 soldiers. Under fire the colonel calmly directed the evacuation of his staff and several civilian correspondents

who were in the process of leaving the area at the time of the attack.

Later

Later, when Company "H" became heavily engaged on July 23 by a numerically superior force Bench, "with complete disregard for his own safety braved deadly enemy fire to advance 200 meters from his position to assess the situation."

He contacted and personally directed air support and even when two 250 pound bombs fell short of the target landing near his position, "he fearlessly continued to expose himself to the intense enemy fire to direct the air strikes."

On July 24 the colonel was wounded during a heavy enemy mortar attack on his battalion.

He, with complete disregard for his own wounds, repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire and continued to direct counter battery fire on the enemy.

Wright

Sergeant Wright earned his Silver Star during Operation Prairie, Aug. 23 and 24 when he volunteered to accompany a rapid reaction force going to help a company under attack and surrounded by a North Vietnamese force.

Arriving after dark, Wright, then a corporal, immediately set up positions to relay timely and accurate information between the command post, reaction force and the beleaguered force.

At dawn the enemy launched a fierce attack on the Marines.

"Courageously, Wright calmly continued his reporting, despite intense enemy fire that took the life of his platoon leader, severely wounded the platoon sergeant and

twice wounded the platoon guide," according to the citation.

Throughout the vicious 14 hour battle he courageously, with his comrades, and in complete disregard for his own safety, repeatedly exposed themselves to the heavy enemy fire, to direct the supporting arms onto the enemy fortified rock bunkers.

Wright's calm action resulted in the death of several enemy snipers, enabling the wounded to be evacuated safely.

When reinforcements arrived to relieve his platoon, he selflessly remained at his position until the enemy had been forced to retreat and members of his unit evacuated.

Ceremonies

During the same ceremonies Bench was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism on 23 and 24 July during Operation Prairie. During a briefing the command post came under an enemy mortar attack. Bench, with complete disregard for his own safety, located the enemy battery, ordered counter mortar fire, and then continued the briefing.

Again, when one of his company command posts was in danger of being overrun, he quickly organized a reaction force and led the attacks which broke up the North Vietnamese attacks.

Inman

"Corporal Dale Inman, Bronze Star winner, was decorated for his heroism on July 16. When his machinegun was damaged by hostile fire, he exhibited outstanding presence of mind and technical skill by disassembling the weapon in the midst of withering fire, carrying the parts to another damaged gun, putting the two together and continuing the fight."



Sgt. William E. Wright, a radio operator with 2d Bn., Fourth Marines, is decorated with the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry in action by MajGen. Herman Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st MarDiv. The ceremony was held recently south of Da Nang.



Love Jayne

A permanent record of her visit to the Ninth Marines is recorded in concrete by Jayne Mansfield during her visit to Da Nang. The buxom blonde also visited the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines and the 1st Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marines, posing for photographs and talking with the Marines.

(Photo by Cpl. J. J. Williams)

Lost or late mail could be stopped

CHU LAI—When a Marine's mail fails to get through, it's likely to be his own fault, postal officials said.

The 1st Marine Division Post Office finds that letters and packages arriving in Vietnam or sent to the United States often never reach their destination. Incorrect address information and inadequate packing and wrapping procedures are the most common reasons.

According to Second Lieutenant H.F. Roberts, assistant division postal officer, attention to a few simple suggestions will greatly increase post office efficiency and insure more Marines will get more mail sooner, and in better condition.

1. All personnel checking in to a unit should contact the unit mail orderly immediately and give him correct and complete address information. Personnel being transferred should inform the mail orderly and repeat the process on arrival at their next unit.

2. Personal correspondents in the United States or elsewhere should be notified immediately of any change of address. The same applies to newspapers and magazines the Marine desires to have forwarded: send change of ad-

dress cards (available through the mail orderly) to the publishers.

3. Adequate packing containers and wrapping will prevent damage to the contents of any package. The contents should determine the type of packing required, and sufficiently strong boxes, paper, twine and tape must be used. C-ration cases make excellent packing boxes, for example, but a shoe box will seldom withstand overseas shipment.

4. No firearms, grenades, rockets, flares or explosives are mailable under any circumstances. This has been a serious postal problem in the past. Remember: The aircraft carrying a Marine home from Vietnam may never arrive due to the explosion of illegally-mailed material in the mail compartment.

It may take a little more time to find a stronger box, and that extra twine and write out the complete address, but it can insure that the souvenirs get home and the letters get here.

Texas Marines note

The State National Bank of El Paso, Texas publishes a weekly "Home Town News" newsletter for members of the Armed Forces from the El Paso-Fort Bliss area.

Marines from this area who would like to receive the free weekly newspaper should send their names and addresses to: Mr. C. P. Box, The State National Bank, Drawer 1072, El Paso, Texas 79999.

New Tanks CO

DA NANG—Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Norton assumed command of the 3d Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Feb. 14 in ceremonies at the battalion command post near Da Nang.

He received the unit's colors from Lieutenant Colonel William R. Corson, the outgoing commander, in windswept ceremonies.

Corson, under whose direction the tank unit's civic action program matured from a give-away program into one which is helping the villagers of Phong Bac gain economic self efficiency, will continue to work in the civic action field. Corson is now with G-5 III MAF.

Keep eyes open

By LCpl. Guy E. Cornwell

DA NANG—With the ever present danger of booby traps, enemy mines and hidden caves, Marines learn to keep their eyes open.

Sergeant C.E. "Pete" Vanvleet Jr. like a good detective put two and two together and uncorked a large cache of Viet Cong medical supplies hidden in false walls and flooring of a house during a recent search and destroy operation 25 miles south of Da Nang.

The clue was a insignificant glass bottle top lying on a dugout inside of a house.

His curiosity aroused, Vanvleet, whose unit was guarding the hamlet while the remainder of "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines sweeping the area, kept poking around until he found the cache, one of the largest uncovered in the area.

"We had swept through the area several times previously," he said, "and didn't expect to find anything like this."

Among the supplies found in the hamlet of An My by the 1st Marine Division unit was a large amount of penicillin.



CAC NEWS



A Sea Tiger Monthly Supplement of News About Combined Action Companies

Vol. 1, No. 2

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

March 1, 1967



Line up

HM3 Dennis A. "Doc" Quinlan tells some young Vietnamese villagers to "line up" before he passes out chewing gum to each child. The CAC E-2's corpsman takes weekly trips to hamlets in the area to carry out his medical program. (Photo by GySgt Ron Harwood)

Corpsman bathes child to illustrate cleanliness

DA NANG—Hospitalman 3rd Class Dennis A. Quinlan, corpsman for CAC E-2 located at Red Beach has found that personal hygiene and sanitation will solve the majority of the natives' ills.

The 24-year-old corpsman is admired and respected by the villagers he treats. Quinlan often gives the children a bath himself to illustrate his point of cleanliness.

On a recent trip to Mieu Thach San, "Doc" took one look at a youngster that was brought to him. Carrying him to a nearby stream, he waded in to his knees, and proceeded to give the lad a thorough bathing—much to the delight of the villagers.

Some "chop chop" in the form of chewing gum brought a big smile to the newly scrubbed Vietnamese and "Doc" now has a new friend.

A bandaid from the American is a badge of honor among the children of hamlets he visits. Like other CAC corpsmen, Quinlan can treat most of the cases himself, but when he suspects more serious illnesses, he sends the patient to the clinic at FLSG-A where a doctor takes over.

"I really think there is an improvement from one visit to the next," said Quinlan, "and more people decide they can trust me each time I make calls at their villages."

"Sooner or later we will win these people to personal hygiene and good sanitation," added Quinlan.



Big game

SSgt. Gary L. Smith, platoon sergeant of CAC E-2, located at Red Beach, helps cement relations with one of the villagers of Nam O by playing a game of table tennis, the village's chief sport. Smith lost. (Photo by GySgt Ron Harwood)

'Work yourself out of a job' graduates of school are told

PHU BAI—A graduating class of 30 Marines was told last week to, "work yourself out of a job," by Colonel J.B. Sweeney, the 3rd Marine Division chief of staff.

The Marines are the newest members of the Combined Action Companies that dot the villages and hamlets in this northern area of Vietnam. They commenced work the next day.

The graduates were told they will represent the United States as diplomats, and as such are "Mr. USA" in their primary mission of winning the hearts and minds of the local village and hamlet residents.

The class attended eight days of orientation ranging from military subjects, to in-depth discussions of Vietnamese religions and government from the hamlet to national level.

As the new CAC members report to their companies for duty they will become part of an integrated unit containing a squad of Marines and two squads of Vietnamese Popular Forces. They will move into a hamlet at the request of the Vietnamese people and begin training the village residents in self-protection.

They will establish health and sanitation programs for the hamlet which includes a medical civic action program and work in connection with United States Agency for International Development programs to help the Vietnamese residents in rebuilding an educational system and other general aid which will improve the living conditions of the hamlet.

The CAC graduates practice speaking Vietnamese to enable them to converse readily with the people. They remain in the hamlet with the Popular Forces to insure the residents of their friendship and for hamlet protection.

The goal of the program is the same of all self-help programs;

to relieve the Vietnamese people of the burden of communist oppression, then let them take over their own affairs and work toward a better future through self determination, confidence and national pride.

Once the CAC Marines have succeeded in proving their friendship and training the popular forces to the degree where they

can protect themselves from the Viet Cong, they will move to another area where the same project is started anew.

While stationed in the hamlet, the CAC Marines work closely with the Vietnamese Revolutionary Development program which carries the National Vietnamese aid program to the most remote areas of the country.

President's advisor pleased with CAC

By: Sgt. T. A. Kraak

DA NANG—A County Fair, conducted by "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Twenty Sixth Marine Regiment, recently came under the close observation of Mr. Robert Kemer, Special Advisor to the President of the United States, on Vietnam.

Mr. Kemer visited the 1st Division Fair Feb. 16, accompanied by Henry L. T. Koren, Director, Region One, U. S. Office of Civil Operations, and Al Francis, Political Advisor from the Office of Civil Operations in Hoe An.

The purpose of Kemer's visit

was to "see the way the Marine Corps was handling pacification, and particularly some of the Marine Corps provisional innovations involving Combined Action Companies."

While touring the County Fair, the visiting officials witnessed more than 125 villagers from Bich Bac hamlet taking advantage of medical and dental treatment.

As Marines got volleyball and soccer games started with the Vietnamese children, the village

(Continued on Page 4)

Wing Marines, Viets build road

DA NANG—Transformation of a cow path, which connects two hamlets and a village into a one lane road, began Feb. 21 in the hamlet of Ap Bo Dong.

It will be constructed by Marines of Marine Wing Support Group-17 as part of their civic action program.

The hamlets, located in the northeastern corner of Hoa Vang district, in which the Da Nang airbase lies, are at the south end of the runways.

The only road presently connecting the two hamlets to Hoa Cuong village, site of the district hospital, is unsafe for travel at night due to Viet Cong sniper fire. The new road will take a northern course into the village through a more secure area.

Working side by side, Marines and Vietnamese will construct four culverts under the road to allow for flow of irrigation ditches. Heavy equipment will then be used to widen the narrow path, which runs across the top of rice paddies dikes, adding fill where needed. Although the majority of the mile long path is across open terrain, some of the new road must be hacked out of dense vegetation.

SSgt Smith runs FLSG-A CAC

DA NANG—"I wondered what I, as an 03 (infantry) trained Marine, was going to do in a supply outfit. Now I know, and I couldn't ask for a better job," said Staff Sergeant Gary L. Smith.

Platoon sergeant of Combined Action Company E-2 "owned and operated" by Force Logistics Support Group "A", Smith, 25, has spent most of his seven years in the Marine Corps with reconnaissance units. He is a qualified parachutist and was an instructor at the Corps' Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., before his transfer to Vietnam in November.

As "number one honcho" of CAC-E2, he leads 15 other Marines, a Navy Corpsman, and a 50-man Popular Force unit of Vietnamese.

While CAC-E2's basic mission is similar to all such units — to train and work with the PF's — it is unique in many other ways.

It was the first of its type to be formed by a supply unit and the majority of the Marines assigned to it are not in the infantry field.

The assistant NCO in charge, Corporal Philip Sylvester, was a truck driver with FLSG-A until a month and a half ago.

Now he leads patrols and sets up ambushes in search of Viet Cong. Sylvester is called "indestructible" by his fellow Marines and the PF's watch him with awe.

He earned his name during the building of the command bunker. He fell from the tip of the tower (about 30 feet) onto a barbed wire fence supported by concrete posts. He got up and walked away, leaving two of the posts broken from the impact of his fall.

"The main thing that bothered me was the cactus plant I landed on," laughed Sylvester. "I spent the next couple weeks pulling needles out of my backside."

Corporal Ronald Goff, who extended his tour in Vietnam six months for this assignment, was in the mechanized accounting department of FLSG-A.

Following a 30-day leave at home, he returned to Vietnam and jumped right into the routine

at CAC-2. After his regular duties are completed, he spends as much free time as possible in the village of Nam O where he is carrying out his own "people to people" program.

There are other drivers, accountants, clerk-typists, and a variety of skills among the Marines in the unit. All have volunteered for the duty and all are fully trained in the basic business of war — to meet and defeat the enemy in combat.

"These Marines are great," says Smith. "They can do anything I ask and do it well. In fact, most of the time they perform better than I could hope to expect."

Marines host village chiefs

DONG HA — Officials of surrounding hamlets and villages were hosted by Third Regiment Marines and supporting units from Camp Carroll at a luncheon held at Cam Lo District headquarters.

The noontime social affair was intended to help spur "Tet", (the Vietnamese lunar New Year) to a spirited start.

The hamlet and village chiefs from Cam Lo District represented their people.

Commanding officers and civil affairs personnel of each unit sponsored the event.

Also attending were 3rd Division civil affairs officials and Army advisors from the Cam Lo sub-sector.

Colonel John P. Lanigan, Third Marines commanding officer, presented gifts to several village chiefs and to Vietnamese captain Nguyen Nhium, Cam Lo District Chief. In turn, the colonel received a lacquered cross-bow souvenir from Montagnard representatives.

As tokens of their good intentions in the coming year, Marines presented sacks of salt and bars of soap to the village chiefs for further distribution to members of their villages.



Graduation

English school graduates from Hoa Cam training center display their diplomas after completing a seven week course. The students are made up of selected PFs assigned to Combined Action Companies in the Da Nang area. BrigGen. Hugh Elwood, chief of staff III MAF was guest speaker.

(Photo by LCpl. H. L. Romine, III)

Something of significance

Editor's Note: The following story is a five part narrative on Combined Action Company L-1, located at Fort Page, near the Song Tra Bong River, some eight miles southwest of the Chu Lai airfield. The article was written by Captain F. J. West, Jr., who was recalled to active duty at his own request while on leave from Princeton University. Fort Page was singled out for attention not because it was a "show" CAC singular in a spectacular way; rather, the author selected it for his study over half a year ago precisely because it was ordinary and untouched by fame or unusual attention. Its story could be that of a score of other CACs.

The Beginning

fast.

No one was sure at first, not in the early summer of 1966. Binh Nghia village was a battleground, hardly a pacified area. The district chief at Binh Son (in Quang Ngai Province) estimated 750 young men from that village had joined the main-force VC units during the past several years.

Two independent VC companies and one full battalion were roaming the district. Of the 4,575 persons in the village, 122 families were known VC sympathizers.

So the decision by the Marine regiment to establish a Combined Action Company in Binh Nghia was not made without an acknowledgement of the hazards involved, still; something had to be done. The morale of the local PF platoon was low and ebbing

raise the fighting spirit and ability of the 28 PFs who stayed at the fort. Originally, the Marines were commanded by a Corporal Beebe, who took things nice and easy, getting his feet on the ground and allowing the PFs to be accustomed to sharing watches and making short patrols with the Marines.

When Corporal Beebe rotated home in late June, Staff Sergeant Joseph Sullivan replaced him and the presence of Marines had been generally accepted by the villagers and the PFs. Sullivan thought the time had come to remove the fear the PFs had of night contact with the VC and to show the villagers that darkness did not have to be a time of dread.

(Next issue "Night Skirmishes")

Betel nut smile

DA NANG—American personnel serving in the Vietnam countryside will quickly notice the "Betel Nut Smile" which is obviously different from the "Ipana gleam." The lips and mouth of the betel nut chewer are very red, and the teeth appear to have been coated with black enamel. While "betel chewing" seems to be found largely among the middle-aged and older people, it still is seen frequently enough to create interest in its nature and purpose.

The betel nut is the small fruit of the areca palm. The nut along with a leaf or leaves of the betel climber, a vine which is usually found growing with the areca palm, and a bit of raw limestone are mixed into a paste. In places such as Da Nang, you may see the user preparing this mixture in a rather small mortar bowl with a small pestle. Usually only one "chew" is prepared at a time. Sometimes in order to prolong the chew, tobacco is added.

This mixture creates a red stain which colors the mouth as well as any spot where sputum is projected. Unless forewarned of this colorful habit, when you first see it, you may think the chewer has a serious chest wound or, at the very least, is spitting up excessive blood.

While the betel nut chew is predominantly a countryside, vil-

lage, and low-economic-class affair, occasionally more affluent and better-educated individuals will be seen participating. Continuation of this practice—which seems to be a habit forming—turns the teeth black.

Doctors indicate that this chew may have some pain-killing effects. But a natural question at this point might be, "Which comes first, the betel nut or the pain?" Still, where dentists are so few, this was perhaps an original pain-killer.

The use of the betel nut chew, incidentally, is also found in a number of South American countries, particularly among the jungle and mountain people there.

While the use of the betel nut is dying out in the cities, at almost every non-Christian wedding party, along with the cakes, sweetmeats, tea, etc., the betel chew will be found.



Tet boat ride

Marines of CAC D-2, at Hai An, team up with leathernecks from "C" Co., 1st Bn., 1st Marines to conduct a routine security patrol during the TET truce period. The patrol was conducted to let any VC in the area know the Marines were still around.

(Photo by GySgt. Lee Witconis)



Col. Fred Haynes, chief of staff, Task Force X-ray and commanding officer, 5th Marines inspects a Popular Forces Honor Guard during a two day "County Fair" conducted by 1st Bn., 5th Marines. (Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)

ROK Marines kill 243 VC

By SSgt. George Howe

CHU LAI—It was Valentine Day in Vietnam and all was peaceful at "Chung's Little Acre," 16 miles south of Chu Lai.

Surrounded by 1,000 meters of barbed wire and with an inner-trench roughly 800 meters in circumference, "Chung's Little Acre" belonged to the 11th Company, 3rd Battalion, Second ROK Marine Corps "Blue Dragon" Brigade commanded by Captain Chung Kyung Gin, of Chul Ra Book Do, Korea.

Shortly before midnight the Viet Cong probed the position putting the Korean Marines on full alert.

Four and a half hours later the VC launched a 65-minute barrage of 82mm mortar, recoilless rifle, 66mm mortar small arms and automatic weapons fire. Then came a three pronged attack by an estimated regiment of VC.

Bangalore torpedoes were used in an attempt to breach the barbed wire. Once inside, the VC, using flame throwers, tried to burn and destroy an ammunition dump.

They were repelled at the trench line by Korean Marines in hand-to-hand combat, by Korean bayonets and karate.

In the midst of the Kaleidoscope of sound and fury were two U.S. Marines, forward air controllers with the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Co., Lance Corporals James L. Porta and

David H. Long. "When they hit us Jim woke me up," Long said. "When I saw what was happening I established radio communication with ROK Brigade Headquarters and asked for a flareship."

While the combination flare/gunship made passes at the attacking VC both Long and Porta used their rifles against the VC.

"Actually, I didn't fire too much," said Long. "I was busy directing traffic upstairs."

At 7 a.m. when the VC began to break contact Long called in aircraft to pursue the fleeing enemy.

"The jets did a good job," Long said.

Porta was content to let Long do the talking but did admit he cut down a few VC when they tried to make it to the woods

about 250 yards from his observation post.

"Everyday I want the enemy to attack my company. Always I am ready to fight," the Korean Marine captain said.

The fight cost the VC 104 dead inside the trenchline. All told 243 VC bodies were counted inside the defense perimeter.

Rain probably saved the ammunition bunker from blowing up. A day later many 4.2 inch mortar rounds were found that had been blackened by flame throwers. The area was covered with VC equipment and ammunition, including grenades and rubber-tire sandal.

Resting in the museum at the 2nd ROK Marine Corps Brigade Headquarters are the spoils of war collected when the fire fight was over. Included are 17 Chicom and Russian rifles, five anti-tank weapons, a radio, 11 Chicom automatic rifles, six submachine guns, three rocket launchers and three flame throwers.

Official emblem

DA NANG — Staff Sergeant Bill F. Westmoreland, Combined Action Company operations NCO, recently pinned the official CAC emblem on the jacket of Ky Bich village chief Duong Van Ky, commander of the Vietnamese Popular Forces troops stationed at the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CAC base near Tam Ky. Only Vietnamese personnel assigned to the new unit are authorized to wear the CAC shoulder patch.

Voice

The CAC newspaper is the voice of the Combined Action Companies in the "I Corps" area. If you or your units have any material or stories for the paper please contact your local Information Services office.

If you desire to write any articles on your experience in CAC and would like to have them published contact ISO office.

Children of Nam O to get new school

DA NANG—The design and building of a school for the children of Nam-O is a natural for Corporal John B. Large, a member of CAC E-2.

John, a construction engineer by trade, attended Texas Christian University and is a partner with his father in a Texas construction firm.

There are no blue prints as such for the building. Large has them all in his head and is supervising every inch of the construction.

Until the school is complete, he has been excused from all other duties. It definitely isn't a soft job. His working day starts shortly after daylight and runs until it is dark. This will be repeated seven days a week, until the school stands completed.

"The school will have four classrooms and an office for the principal," he said. "It will be 110 feet by 28 feet overall and have an eight-foot porch running its entire length."

Materials are being furnished through FLSG-A's civic action program while the actual construction is being done by Vietnamese workers.

Money for the project is coming out of donations by Headquarters and Service Co., FLSG-A, personnel. They decided to use their Christmas contributions to the civic action fund to build the school. The H&S Co. commander, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny L. Carter is "100 per cent behind the program" and visits the site daily.

Cultural exchange

PHU BAI — The people-to-people program took a change of pace for the Vietnamese of Dim Tu village due to the talents of some 3rd Marine Division troops.

The Leathernecks didn't distribute food or clothes, or help build schools or shelters. They just brought themselves and a little bit of American entertainment to the villagers and children.

The village Catholic priest dismissed school children for the afternoon so they could attend the show. About 300 gathered around the stage, set in the shade against a wall of the school.

Private First Class James A. Carter performed feats of magic, making things appear and disappear which astounded everyone—including his fellow Marines.

Another big hit with the chil-

dren was Lance Corporal Charles B. Keifer and his circus clown act.

A rock and roll combo included Lance Corporal Donald C. Flaherty; Private First Class Gary G. Allen; Lance Corporal James B. Keffler; Lance Corporal Stephen A. Green; Corporal Cheats J. Brown and Sergeant Jim W. Hulbert.

All of the performers in the afternoon's entertainment are members of the 2nd Bn., Ninth Marine Regiment.

When the Marines finished, Vietnamese school girls in dance costumes sang and danced for the Leathernecks. Following the entertainment exchange the village priest invited the Marines to his home for refreshments.



Sling-shot

LCpl. Ronald Steponick demonstrates his prowess with a sling-shot to a trio of Vietnamese youngsters while on a Medcap patrol with CAC E-2. The lad in the background, who made the weapon, proved to be the best shot.

(Photo by GySgt. Ron Harwood)

Visit by Gen. Stiles highlights County Fair

CHU LAI—Visits by Brigadier General William A. Stiles and Colonel Fred Haynes highlighted a two-day "County Fair" conducted by Marines of the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines Combined Action Company and local Popular Forces at Ky Bich.

General Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-ray, 1st Marine Division, assured the villagers of the continued friendship of the Marine Corps when he visited the hamlet during the first day's activities.

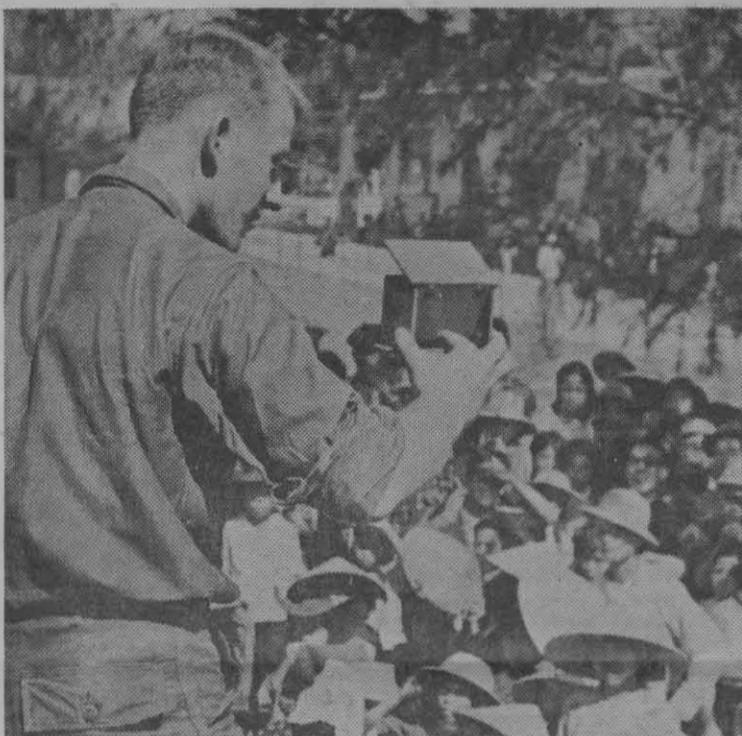
While lunch was being prepared by 1st Battalion cooks, doctors, dentists and corpsmen attached to the Fifth Marines began medical and dental treatment of the villagers. At the conclusion of the two-day Medical Civic Action Program phase of the "Fair," dentists had extracted 147 teeth and the doctors had examined and treated several hundred men, women and children. The village youngsters were also given tooth

brushes.

On the second day of the "Fair" Colonel Haynes, Chief of Staff, Task Force X-ray and Commanding Officer of the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, presented Dai Uy Loc, the district chief, with a Vietnamese flag for the village and expressed the desire that the flag fly in peace forever over the hamlet.

The district chief then explained the reasons for the "County Fair" and assured the villagers the Marines and PF's were their friends. Other Vietnamese officials informed the populace of the government's concern for their welfare.

Other guests at the "County Fair" were Col. Charles C. Crossfield, Commanding Officer, Seventh Marine Regiment; Maj. Peter L. Hilgartner, Commanding Officer, 1st Bn., Fifth Marines and 1st Lt. Alan C. Mullinax, Commanding Officer, Combined Action Company, Fifth Marines.



Baffling illusions

PFC James A. Carter has amused and bewildered more than a thousand adults and children throughout the hamlets and villages of Phu Loc District with sleight of hand tricks. Carter, a magician for 12 years, was performing at the Lunar New Year festivities in the area. He is attached to Combined Action Company A-2 in Loc Bon hamlet.

(Photo by GySgt. Lew Owens)

Pied Piper of Dong Ha

DONG HA—If the local children here knew European folklore, they might christen Staff Sergeant John J. Esrey of Dearborn, Mich., the "Pied Piper of Dong Ha."

Esrey is a member of the civil affairs team of the Fourth Marine Regiment here. His easy going nature and willingness to laugh make him a natural for the role of emissary to village children.

Within minutes of entering a village or hamlet, the Michigan bachelor is surrounded by the local children and delights in taking them for piggy-back rides and playing games. The children in turn usually take the sergeant to meet their friends or parents or confidentially show him their most prized possessions.

"I just like the kids I guess" he said after a hectic afternoon entertaining children of Dong Ha.

Advisor—

(Continued From Page 1) chief and military personnel from the Army's psychological warfare unit spoke to the villagers about local problems.

One project which met with the approval of the village elders was a proposed school to be built in Bich Bac by the local villagers with assistance from the 26th Marine Regt.

Prior to departing the County Fair Kemer expressed his satisfaction with the progress being made by the Marine Corps in the Ninth Regimental area. "Since the last time I was in the Marine Corps area in April, 1966, the improvements have been striking," he said.

Stressing the need for cooperation, Kemer said, "I was particularly impressed with the steadily increasing emphasis on coordination between the III Marine Amphibious Force at all levels, and between Marine Corps and the Vietnamese forces. Pacification operations have to be mutually supported and highly coordinated: My impression is that the Marines are doing an outstanding job in this field."

The Commanding Officer of the Ninth Marines, Colonel Robert M. Richards, Lieutenant Colonel D. E. Colonel Newton, commanding officer of the 1st Bn., Twenty Sixth Marines and Lieutenant Colonel Mentre representing Military Assistance Advisory Group accompanied the civilian representatives.

CAC-G bids Co. farewell

DA NANG—The commanding officer of Combined Action Company "G" marked the end of his Vietnam tour Feb. 17, with a combined "thank you" and "farewell" dinner at the CAC compound in Da Nang East.

Marine First Lieutenant Richard J. Evans, first offered his appreciation to the Vietnamese leaders who had helped him during his seven month tour with CAC.

The dinner was attended by nine village chiefs, the Hoa Vang district chief, police chiefs and other dignitaries from the Dong Giang area, where "G" Co. aids Vietnamese Popular Force soldiers in manning five compounds.

The lieutenant, bound for language school at Monterey, Calif., presented a plaque to Lieutenant Tran Van Lo, an Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldier who commands the PFs in the area.

Then he introduced Second Lieutenant Stephen Valent, the new company commander, who pledged to continue the work Lt. Evans had done.

The company, which belongs to the 1st Military Police Bn., 1st Marine Division, stresses personnel contact between its men and the Vietnamese with whom they live, work, and conduct military operations.

Marine goodwill ambassador starts medical aid station

DA NANG—What began as a small Vietnamese boy's plea for help for his friend, mushroomed into a medical aid station for the villagers of Hoa An hamlet.

The "goodwill ambassador" is a Marine food services technician from Hot Springs, Ark., who devotes his off-duty hours daily persuading some 30 to 45 villagers to receive treatment for minor ills.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Harold E. Lanter, whose family now lives in Jacksonville, N.C., was approached by the Vietnamese youngster while on a rest break as his unit of Force Logistic Support Group "A" was moving from the Da Nang airfield to a Red Beach area.

Lanter looked over the youth's injured foot and promised to come back the next day with medicine to treat the infection.

When he returned he found his one patient had grown into a line of youngsters seeking treatment for minor infections, and "I knew I had to start a medical aid station for them," Lanter said, and with the help of a Navy Corpsman from the FLSG "A", the hospital aid station was born. Lanter has been a member of stateside volunteer rescue squads in his off-duty hours during his past 25 years as a Marine.

The Navy Corpsman and Lanter, a graduate of several advanced Red Cross first aid courses refers out-of-the-ordinary cases to the Red Beach naval dispensary.

The aid station wasn't greeted too enthusiastically by the villagers when he and some Marines volunteers he had gathered began putting up the board and galvanized-sheet building from materials they "scrounged" a little at a time.

As the building was going up, a Viet Cong sniper wounded one of the Marine volunteers.

From then on, the villagers, shocked at the incident, pitched in with a fervor to move the material to a "safer spot" across the street, then completed the building in two days.

During one "sick call" a young Vietnamese girl, Gale Leia, just slightly older than Lanter's 15-year-old daughter came to the dispensary and offered her help.

She was later instrumental in getting the land on which the medical aid station now stands—Leia is the daughter of the village chief.

Between the Marine, corpsman and their Vietnamese helper, the aid station reached a peak of 192 patients the last half of September. They work seven days a week—from Lanter's 4 p.m. workday end until the patient line is gone.

Lanter's reward is the friendship of the villagers and the higher health standard of the village. The villagers need help, Lanter said, and "I will help them as long as I am here."

CAC-31 corpsman quite a baby doctor

DA NANG—Carroll C. Taylor III delivered his eighth baby last month in the hamlet of Tuy Loan.

He's 19 years old.

The Navy hospital corpsman, eight Marines and a platoon of Vietnamese Popular Force militarymen comprise the III Marine Amphibious Force's Combined Action Company-31, protecting the hamlet of 2,000 people.

Along with defense of the townsfolk, the Marines are also charged with helping the Vietnamese help themselves towards a better life in the future. Taylor's role is one the villagers recognize and appreciate most—a better standard of health.

Along with a Vietnamese bac si (doctor) and several native nurses, Taylor treats nearly 100 villagers daily at the small hospital-dispensary of Tuy Loan.

Their ills range from skin infections, broken bones, and toothaches (some of which he fixes with pliers) to wounds received as victims of Viet Cong booby traps, and firefights between the defending forces and the VC.

Many of the rice farmers surrounding the village, walk as much as five miles to see the doctor or bring their wives to the hospital's eight "bed" maternity ward.

"The maternity ward is always full," Taylor said. "We had 50 births in one week awhile back. When I first came the bac si and midwives wouldn't let me attend women in labor. One day there wasn't anyone else around to do it, and you might say I became a 'father,'" the young corpsman said with a grin.

Most of the Vietnamese who do come to the hospital for treatment get impatient if results aren't quick Taylor said. His biggest problem is follow-up treatment.

"The people will come in, be treated, then go home not to return until the sore has been reinfected so much it's worse than it was before," he said.

To counteract their lack of understanding, Taylor once "hospit-

alized" a whole family for 10 days when they showed up with a rash similar to chicken pox.

"You've got to understand too," he added, "if patients can't walk their families have to carry them in, along with food for the time they'll be here. Then one of their relatives or friends has to stay and fix the patients's meals during his stay in the hospital," he said.

Calling his work "rewarding," Taylor said the people are slowly becoming more aware of normal sanitary measures which could "clear up maybe half of all the ills."

The CAC unit just recently had outdoor showers and toilets built for the village. Waste from the outhouses will be used to obtain gas which will run a generator and provide the hospital-dispensary with electricity—the first in the village.

Taylor plans now to screen in the open-air meat stalls of the hamlet's market place.

He's become such a fixture of village life, he's even built up his own clientele. Many of the villagers wait until after daily sick-call to come to the Marine compound for personalized "bedside" manner.

For emergencies, Taylor has been able to get Marine helicopters to "medevac" villagers to larger Vietnamese hospitals in Da Nang, about six miles to the northeast.

Such concern has endeared the Americans in the hearts of the local people.

A graduate of Safford High, Taylor enlisted in the Navy in June, 1965, and came to Vietnam last September.



Protection

Four of these bunkers, one at each corner of the compound, and the command bunker (in background), defend the perimeter of CAC E-2's area. (Photo by GySgt Ron Harwood)



Checking in

2d Lt. J. G. White, a platoon leader with "E" Co., 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, contacts his command post by radio during Operation Independence. Looking on are Cpl. R. T. Robie and PFC J. P. King, the radio man.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

Not all combat patrols filled with fierce action

By SSgt. Ed Grantham

PHU BAI—The Vietnam war is said to be one of small unit actions ranging from five or eight man reconnaissance patrols to Combined Action Companies.

Not every patrol is one of fierce action between enemies. One recently made by eight members of "B" Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division was accomplished without a single rifle shot being fired. But to the patrol members it was still filled with action.

Following the initial planning and briefing, the eight men were forced to wait out five days of rain before they were inserted in a preselected landing zone six miles south of Phu Bai.

When the last helicopter lifted off the zone and the Huey gunship made a final pass the recon team was pushing its way into the low jungle canopy.

Team leader, Staff Sergeant Juan Trinidad Jr., briefly checked his compass, and motioned for his point man Lance Corporal Steven R. Moon to change direction.

The first moments on the ground can be the most dangerous of any patrol if the Viet Cong are near.

Moon quickly pushed his way through elephant grass and scrub brush to reach the protection of the thick jungle canopy. Following in Moon's path was Corporal Earl K. Cannon, assistant patrol leader and an expert in cutting a trail in the tough jungle. The 19-year-old Marine made quick work of the entangling vines.

As soon as the patrol began moving into the brush, radio operator Private First Class Guadalupe Garcia began sending situation reports by radio relay to the 3rd Marine Division command post. Every stop of the patrol would be monitored by the division in case help was needed by the small group.

As the group moved deeper into the canopy the going was slower and harder.

As late evening neared, Trinidad halted the little band and set out in search of a bivouac for the first night. Finding an area well off the known trails and deep in the brush, Trinidad called his men in for night defenses. Claymore mines were set up at the likely approaches and

each man kept his weapon close at hand.

Following a meal of "C" rations, some set a night watch while others curled up in rubber ponchos for a restless sleep on the wet ground. Throughout the night each man awakened his relief after an hour's watch.

Morning broke clear and warm as the first sunshine in weeks came with the rising sun.

An observation post was estab-

lished overlooking several hun-

dred yards of open terrain. Min-

utes after Trinidad lifted his

binoculars, a team member spot-

ted several figures moving across

a distant ridgeline.

Trinidad scanned the figures to

pick out weapons or packs. He

called an O1E observation air-

craft near the post and asked for

a quick look. The tiny aircraft

flew over the area confirming the

suspected enemy were actually

Vietnamese wood choppers.

The patrol manned the observa-

tion post throughout the remain-

der of the day without sighting

any other suspicious movement.

As some of the team continued

their observation, four others set

up security positions. Privates

First Class Jesus Moneno Jr. and

Jose J. Gonzalez, both automatic

riflemen, kept watch from nearby

concealed positions, while Lance

Corporal Gerald W. Holloway, set

up his radio for air control and

contact with observation and

fighter aircraft.

Private First Class Robert E.

Wetter continued to cover the

team's trail and to keep watch

for attackers from the rear.

"As tail end Charlie," Wetter

is vital to the success of the team.

He takes great pains in covering

every footprint and repairing

broken twigs and bent grass with

perfection," Trinidad said.

Following their second night in

the bush, the team moved out for a new position at daylight.

After several hours of movement, the team was passing through head-high trees when the center man noticed an increase in the number of insects flying around their heads. In a moment he noticed the insects were honey bees. Picking up speed the team moved from the open trees to heavy brush, but the bees followed.

It took the team almost an hour to get away from the bee attack. Several of the members were stung.

"I didn't like the bees," one man said, "but they were better than running into a company of VC."

Late in the third evening the team established another observation post but again did not spot enemy activity.

On the fourth day the team crossed a rain-swollen river and made its way to high ground overlooking a secondary road, where they attempted to set an ambush.

The following morning they called in artillery on a suspected Viet Cong hiding place while awaiting extraction by helicopter.

By the time they were lifted out, they had marched over the enemy's home ground without spotting a man. They had carried ammo, grenades, explosives and hundreds of pounds of other gear for days and they were disappointed.

"It was a good patrol," Trinidad said after returning to Phu Bai. "We did the job, covered the ground and brought back the intelligence report. Now we want to get a little rest, then we'll go back again."

In four days, they were inserted again for another small unit action.

She's called "Lady" but doesn't act part

CHU LAI—By two in the morning the air freight tent at Chu Lai was empty. For the first time in 17 hours, the desk sergeant could sit back and relax.

As the sergeant eased into a more comfortable position, the field phone rang.

"The 'Lady's' on final," said a voice at the other end of the line. "If she can see the lights through this downpour, you can expect her at your place in 10 minutes."

As advertised, the "Lady" arrived 10 minutes later, having flown through weather that in her younger years would have kept her on the ground. At 38, the "Lady," a military adaptation of the famed DC-3, still puts in a 17-hour day.

Official communiques from the Pentagon refer to her as a C-117, but at Chu Lai, she's better known as the "Lady" or the "Ky Ha Tiger."

In addition to the usual tasks that befall an aging cargo aircraft, such as passenger runs, freight, mail delivery and resupply drops, the "Ky Ha Tiger" stands the "hot pad" with her younger nephews, the jets. During darkness, she's frequently called upon to launch with alert aircraft.

Over target, her illuminating flares provide the light for the Leatherneck jets. Her slow speed gives enemy gunners quite a target and she's been hit often. As yet, she's never failed to complete her mission.

The first aircraft of her type, modified many times since, rolled off the production line during the depression years. They were called giants in those days, and lived up to their reputation, trans-

porting tons of cargo and thousands of passengers throughout the world.

During World War II, the two-engine transport was the workhorse of every theater of action—dropping paratroopers, carrying passengers or hauling vitally-needed cargo to otherwise isolated commands. Former Marine aviator and actor Tyrone Power flew a version of the C-117 during World War II.

Chu Lai's "Tiger/Lady" has a weather-beaten log listing more than 15,000 flight hours.

Since last April, when it began making daily hops from her home base to Da Nang, Phu Bai, Dong Ha, Okinawa, Japan and the Philippines, the little 20-seat transport has carried more than 9,000 passengers and countless tons of cargo.

"I compare our 'Lady' with good wine; she improves with age," said Master Gunnery Sergeant Lewis Schrader. Like the "Lady," Schrader is a vanishing breed—he is one of the few enlisted Marine pilots still on active duty.

"She may not be as big and fast or pretty as a lot of transports," said Schrader, "but she's rugged, dependable, and always ready to do more than her share. What more can you ask?"



ALL SYSTEMS GO—SSgt. Billy D. Worrel, Ky Ha Tiger crew chief, adjusts the plane's propeller cables. Worrel is responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the twin-engined aircraft.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

Memorial services at Dong Ha

DONG HA — Men of the 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, gathered for Memorial Services in memory of Lance Corporal Ronald C. Kissinger, the first member of the battalion to be killed in action in Vietnam.

Kissinger was the son of Mrs. Gladys Kissinger, Broadalbin, N.Y., and died of wounds received when his jeep hit a Viet Cong mine near the village of

Quang Xa in Quang Tri Province.

Services were conducted by Chaplain Michael A. Ondo, at the 3rd Marine Division's forward command post here. Lieutenant Colonel R.L. Mulford, CO, and Major H.L. Welch, executive officer, attended.



Gridiron riflemen

Marine infantrymen from "H" Co., Ninth Regiment, take a break from combat operations with a game of touch football. The 2d Battalion riflemen had just returned from a search and destroy operation in the Phu Bai area.

Don Meredith visits here

DONG HA—Don Meredith, seven-year veteran quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys professional football team, visited Marine, Army and Air Force units stationed at this northernmost combat base 10 miles south of the demilitarized zone last month.

The primary topic discussed, naturally, was football.

Meredith is visiting Vietnam with Dick Bass of the Los Angeles Rams and Larry Phillips of the St. Louis Cardinals. The National Football League stars are touring combat outposts under auspices of the USO.

While Bass and Phillips went to other portions of the I Corps area, Meredith spent the day at

No visitors

DA NANG—The Marines of 2d Battalion, Fourth Marines, 1st Marine Division had been conducting a search and destroy mission for four days. The Viet Cong were on the run.

Split into three units the battalion was conducting separate sweeps. They were tired and looking forward to going "home" the next morning.

It was 9 p.m. when the Viet Cong paid a visit to a former French villa occupied by the command group. Their calling cards included mortars and grenades and an estimated 2,000 rounds of small arms fire.

The Leathernecks weren't receiving "visitors" and drove the Viet Cong off. After a long night of waiting they came back and brought along a rocket launcher. The attack failed.

Call home

DA NANG—Now's the time to call home!

An event anxiously awaited for amateur radio operators the world over is here!

It's the beginning of an eleven year cycle in which radio reception will progressively get better and better until the end of the eleventh year when reception will worsen again, according to Corporal Leo W. Apsey an amateur radio operator at the MARS (Military Affiliated Radio Station) near Da Nang.

The cycle coincides with sunspot activity which causes the ionosphere, (the outer layer of our atmosphere) to become denser. Since radio waves reflect off the ionosphere, the denser this layer, the better the "bounce," and the loss of signal is lessened.

The event has special significance to MARS operators for it means better service for I Corps personnel desiring to talk to the folks back home.

There are MARS stations located at Chu Lai, Phu Bai, Red Beach, Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division, and at the 1st Marine Air Wing.

Dong Ha, an experience he said was "most gratifying."

His visit started with a trip to the Fourth Marines regimental messhall, where he met Marine infantrymen who were participating in Operation Prairie. From there he travelled to the 3d Tank Battalion, the 9th Motor Transport Battalion, and the Twelfth Marines, 3d Marine Division's artillery unit.

At each stop, the questions were similar; "How do you think you would have done against Kansas City?" "Who is the best runner in the NFL?" "Is the NFL better than the AFL?"

Meredith fielded the questions as smoothly as his ace pass receiver Bob Hayes fields the long "bombs" he throws.

The din of 105mm howitzers added a grim reminder to the fact that the war is still going on as the ace quarterback talked with scores of men, many of whom had watched him play this

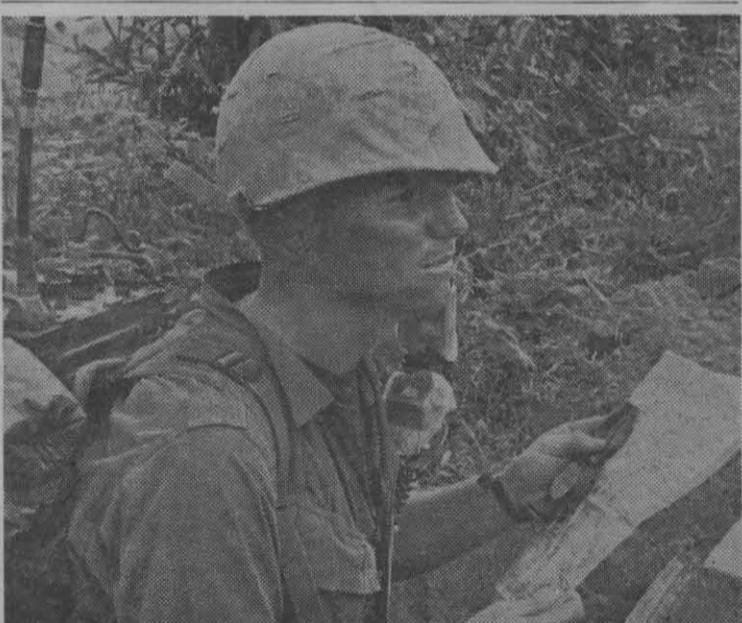
past season.

"Sonovagun!" one Marine said, "I've seen him on television but I never dreamed I would get to talk to him in person. And in South Vietnam of all places!"

Meredith also visited "D" Med., where he talked with the wounded recuperating at the forward medical facility. In the hospital he even met one young Marine who lives three blocks from him in Dallas.

The football star wound up his visit to Dong Ha by touring Detachment No. 1 of the 620th Tactical Control Squadron, the Air Forces' northernmost base in South Vietnam.

As he prepared to board an aircraft for his return to Da Nang, Meredith said that it was a "great honor" to be chosen to visit Vietnam, and he was sorry he wouldn't be able to visit with every man, to thank him personally for "the great job he is doing here."



Map check

LCpl. M. J. Nicholas, a radio operator with "A" Btry., 1st Bn., 11th Marines, checks his artillery batteries' positions on the map during Operation Independence Feb. 1-9. The operation, conducted 30 miles south of Da Nang, netted 153 VC killed and 31 captured, and was the largest 1st Marine Division operation since Colorado last August.

(Photo by Sgt. N. J. Broussard)

Short Rounds

Mobile dentist

CHU LAI—A completely self-contained mobile dental unit, the first of its kind to be used by the Marine Corps in Vietnam, has been assigned to the 3d Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Equipped with a built-in generator, a pressurized water system, x-ray equipment, high speed drill and surgical suction unit, it can be set up and used anywhere.

The mobile unit is an experimental project of III Marine Amphibious Force and is officially called Combat Dental Support Unit. Navy Commander Jeff Hardin, 3d Dental Company, 3d Division, was assigned to the unit to evaluate its capabilities.

Originally belonging to 11th Dental Company, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, the unit was modified and outfitted by 1st Dental Co., 1st Marine Division. It will be staffed by the 1st Dental personnel.

During the first three weeks of operation, Hardin and his assistant, DN Randal W. Miller, treated from 25-35 patients per day. Each patient was given a toothbrush, oral hygiene instructions, stannous fluoride preventive services, and had his teeth cleaned.

"Our average day is about 12 hours," Hardin said. "We can do anything here except make false teeth. So far we haven't had any combat injuries, but if we do, we are equipped to handle that too," he added.

The dental-trailer unit was designed by Navy Captain Harvey Webre, at New River, N.C. Modifications have been made since its arrival in Vietnam. It is designed for one dentist and one chair.

Career advisor

PHU BAI—A Certificate of Appreciation was presented Feb. 6, to Sergeant Jack P. Coen, 2d Battalion, Ninth Marines career advisor, for outstanding performance.

For the four months Coen was career advisor, an average of 68 per cent reenlistment rate was held by his unit. During the month of Nov., 1966, the battalion attained a 75 per cent reenlistment rate.

Whenever replacements came to the regiment, Coen would give classes on extensions, reenlistments and bonuses. He personally went through each man's record book, and instructed those qualified on the possibilities and regulations concerning officer candidate programs.

Coen would go into the field to talk to a man when he thought it was imperative to the man's career.

"Career advisors should help the men as much as possible," Coen said, "Whether the man plans for a military job or a civilian job."

Snipers

DA NANG—"See him John? He's walking along this side of the tree line carrying an automatic weapon and wearing a pack."

"Sure do, Chuck; I've got him in my sights now. I figure the range at about 1100 meters but the light and wind are perfect, so here goes."

Shortly after this whispered conversation, there was the sharp crack of an M-1 rifle firing match ammunition and Lance Corporal John Burke, 20, had accounted for the first Viet Cong killed in Operation Independence by a member of the 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines.

Working with Lance Corporal Charles Bowen, 20, Burke was attached to "B" Company, assigned as a "blocking force" during the operation conducted 18

miles south of Da Nang, Feb. 1-8.

The following afternoon, with roles reversed and Bowen doing the sharpshooting, the sniper team accounted for another VC who was trying to observe the Marine's position.

Once again a single shot was fired, this time from about 450 meters, and another VC had learned the hard way to stay clear of the sharpshooters' rifle sights.

In memory

CHU LAI—Four Marines died on a hillside Feb. 3.

Three days later, their comrades of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, paid tribute at memorial services conducted by Chaplain Robert R. Cunningham, battalion chaplain.

The Marines, Sergeant Robert F. Starbuck, Corporal Robert L. Shafer, Private First Class Edward F. Smith and Private Robert L. Armitage, died during an attack on their positions while they were observing Viet Cong during Operation De Soto.

The enemy assaults destroyed the team's radios, but the Marines repelled grenade and small-arms attack throughout the night. Helicopters extracted the team the following morning.

Saves four

DA NANG—The quick reaction of a Marine lance corporal, recently saved four of his buddies and himself from serious injury or possible death.

Lance Corporal William Fillon, a member of the 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was standing watch on the edge of his company's perimeter when suddenly a barrage of rocks was thrown by the Viet Cong at his position. Fillon reported the incident.

"It's an old trick of the Viet Cong," Fillon said. "They throw rocks for awhile and when they think we're getting bored they include a grenade."

Fillon and the rest of the fire team were now waiting for the next round. Amidst the incoming rocks Fillon heard a metallic "clunk."

"I knew it was a grenade," he said, "but it was so dark I couldn't see it."

Searching frantically on his hands and knees Fillon "felt a wooden handle and knew it was a Chicom grenade. I picked it up and threw it as hard as I could," he said.

It exploded only yards from the fireteam's position.

Fillon and his squad leader suffered only minor wounds from the VC "present."

Good nose

DONG HA—Lance Corporal Warren Hatcher's greatest asset in Vietnam is his nose—he literally smells out Viet Cong.

Twice on recent occasions, Hatcher, an infantryman with "L" Company, Fourth Marines, has smelled the presence of Viet Cong nearby and prevented his unit from walking into an ambush.

"I think it's the rice they cook that allows me to smell them," he said. "It has a very distinctive smell."

During one sweep on Operation Prairie, Hatcher whiffed this "distinctive" smell. Alerted now, his unit moved cautiously and discovered a Communist ambush nearby.

The Marine has been in Vietnam for seven months, much of that time acting as a point man for "L" Company during five operations.

"When you are on the point, you sweat a little when you know they are waiting for you. But I feel that you can 'smell' them."

Someone up there smiled down on him

By: Cpl. D.A. Hines

DA NANG — "Someone was smiling down upon us that night," said Corporal Earl M. Cupples as he described one of the closest scrapes with death any Marine could have in Vietnam.

Cupples and Corporal Stanley L. Milburn, squad leaders serving with "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, were saved by what they called "a freak miracle that couldn't happen again in a thousand years," during a recent County Fair operation.

The two Marines had dug in for the night and were standing a fifty-per cent security watch, where one Marine sleeps while the other stands watch.

Cupples had just taken over when he saw movement to his front. He awakened Milburn and popped a flare.

"I saw a figure out in front cock his arm back and knew that he was just about to send a hand grenade our way," Cupples said. "Milburn threw his grenade first causing the VC to duck but it was a dud."

Milburn stuck his left arm

above his forehead to shield his eyes from the flare, when the Cong popped up again.

Before he could do anything, the communist sent the deadly missile on its way toward the Marines' position.

The grenade hit Milburn in the forearm, rolled into the rice paddy to his front and exploded harmlessly.

"I hate to think of the end results if Milburn hadn't stuck his arm up to shield his eyes from that flare when he did," said Cupples.

Ten kills

CHU LAI — Leading a small patrol, Corporal Lee Robinson, crept silently up on a Viet Cong meeting. The VC were sitting in front of a hut in a small village and were almost gray in the half-light of dusk.

As the startled group saw him, Robinson opened up with his automatic rifle, killing ten of them.

Robinson had taken part of his squad from G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division to set up an ambush just a few miles south of Chu Lai.

"We were coming to this village," Robinson said. "We saw this VC. He jumped into the bushes and I shot him. The village was deserted, but food on the tables was still warm," he added, "so we got suspicious that something was about to happen."

"We crossed the paddies to another village—me on the point because I had some new guys with me," Robinson said. "That's when I saw the VC holding their little meeting. There were about 15 of them, and one was standing in front doing all the talking. I crawled to just a few feet of them and then sprayed the place," he said.

Robinson then told his assistant, Lance Corporal Ernest Nunes Jr., to take the rest of the patrol back to a hill they had passed while the squad leader covered the move.

When he was sure the others were safely away, Robinson moved cautiously back along the trail until he joined the rest of the patrol; then he radioed artillery strikes on the VC position.

De Soto has field hospital

CHU LAI—A field "hospital" unit detached from the 1st Medical Battalion has been set up at Duc Pho, 50 miles south of Chu Lai, in support of Operation De Soto.

The unit, consisting of a receiving area, an x-ray unit, laboratory, operating room and anesthesia equipment, was set-up and ready to receive casualties within two hours.

Navy Commander Charles R. Ashworth, commanding officer of the detachment, said, "This is the most complete field medical unit to be used in the Chu Lai area in support of an operation. It is designed primarily to provide better and faster medical aid to wounded Marines."

Ashworth stressed the importance of the anesthesia equipment and the anesthesiologist, Navy Lieutenant Charles Maas, in making possible more complicated surgery.

"With the equipment we have here, we can administer nerve blocks, axillary blocks, spinal anesthesia and all forms of general anesthesia," Maas said. This makes it possible to perform almost any type of surgery which normally could be done only at a medical battalion or the hospital ship, USS *Repose*.

Staffed by three Navy doctors and eighteen volunteer enlisted corpsmen, the hospital has a capacity of more than 50 patients. Critical cases or patients requiring intensive care are evacuated to a medical battalion or the *Repose*.

In addition to treating wounded Marines, the hospital has treated Vietnamese civilians from nearby Duc Pho.

Engineers change

CHU LAI—Lieutenant Colonel George A. Babe assumed command of the 9th Engineer Battalion last month.

He relieved Lieutenant Colonel Richard W. Crispin, who has been assigned duties as Division Engineer Officer, Third Marine Division.

Colonel Chanh Tai Kil, Chief of Staff, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Corps (Blue Dragon Brigade) presented Crispin with a letter of appreciation for effective support of the 2d ROK Brigade. The letter was signed by the ROK Commanding General, Gen. Kim.



Pick and shovel work

PFC Gary R. Parker and PFC Hope Smith, Jr., construct a defensive position in the Operation De Soto area 25 miles south of Quang Ngai city. Elements of the Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st MarDiv, have been operating in the area since Jan. 26.

(Photo by Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

FLSG-A Marine company assists Da Nang orphanage

By Cpl. D. L. Cellers

DA NANG—"It is more blessed to give than to receive," is a Biblical phrase that serves as an everyday reality to the Marines of Maintenance Co., Force Logistic Support Group "A".

More than 10 months ago the unit of the Force Logistic Support Command began aiding the Sacred Heart Orphanage, located six miles southeast of the Maintenance Co. compound at the Da Nang airfield. The Marines donated food clothing and money needed to keep the orphanage progressing.

Last October, the Maintenance Co. personnel began contributing money — to the orphanage. By the end of last year, more than \$4,500 had been — contributed.

The company also donated over \$350 worth of cloth and a sewing machine to help provide children of the orphanage with school uniforms.

During Christmas, the company sponsored a party for the children and distributed 400 gifts — everything from talking dolls to boxes of cookies.

"Without the aid of the Marines, our orphanage would not be as comfortable nor our children as happy as they are today," says Sister Marie Madeleine, director of the orphanage.

Almost daily the company receives a package containing clothing, food and toilet articles from parents of the Marines in the unit who write home telling of the orphanage.

Sacred Heart has a branch at China Beach, a few miles east

of Da Nang and a headquarters downtown.

The China Beach branch consists of an orphanage, nunnery, dispensary and two schools. The Da Nang orphanage consists of a chapel and administrative offices.

There is a mother superior, five sisters and 77 novitiates at China Beach.

There are currently 103 children at the Sacred Heart orphanage, many of whose parents were killed by the Viet Cong. In the past three years, 18 of the children have been adopted by U.S. servicemen and taken to America.

Sergeant Robert E. Silker, a member of Maintenance Co., and father of four, will return to the States in May with another addition to his family — a three-year-old orphan girl.

"My wife and I both like children so I decided to take another back with me," Silker said.

Sick call at Sacred Heart is handled by Sister Rosaire, a native of China. She treats patients at the dispensary each morning and every afternoon works at the East Da Nang Naval Hospital, where she received an honorary nurses' diploma. Last year 34,694 patients were treated at the small dispensary; 2,226 last month.

Each week, Navy Dr. Curtis R. Baker, treats the children at the orphanage for minor illnesses and lacerations.

"The sisters are doing a tremendous job working with the children," he said. "Usually the treatment has already been done, so I merely check the patients," he added.

Many of the nuns and novitiates at Sacred Heart are from North Vietnam. Such as Novitiate Paul Dominique who came from North Vietnam with her parents in 1954.



Three little words

"War is Hell" printed on the back of LCpl. D. R. Anderson's flak jacket, simply but concisely wraps up the life of a Marine infantryman in Vietnam. Anderson is a member of "F" Co., 2d Bn., 1st Marines.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

PFC rallies platoon to successful battle

By Cpl. D.A. Hines

DA NANG—A Marine private first class took charge of a hard hit platoon recently, and rallied them to a successful day-long defense against a large Viet Cong ambush force.

Private First Class Jack V. Rebello, a radio operator serving with "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, was accompanying his platoon on a rapid reaction force mission Jan. 29, when they were brought under intense enemy fire.

Suddenly Rebello realized that he was the senior Marine on the spot.

He immediately took charge and rallied the platoon into a suitable defensive position.

The Viet Cong continued raking the area with automatic rifle fire

and machine-gun fire for the remainder of the day.

Because the artillery forward observer had been killed earlier, Rebello had to call in air strikes.

"I called in UH-1E helicopters (Huey gunships) and they strafed the area for about fifteen minutes," said Rebello.

Then to the Marine's surprise the communists suddenly stopped firing and pulled out.

"It didn't make sense to us at first," Rebello said, "but when I found that some of our troops had engaged them on the other side, it did. The Cong don't stick around once the odds are against them."

One thing is for certain—Rebello and the Marines of the 3rd platoon won't soon forget the date January 29.

Gen. Cushman to duty here

Headquarters Marine Corps announced the pending reassignment of two general officers. To be reassigned are:

Major General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., from duty as Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., to duty with the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam as Deputy Commander about April 1, 1967.

Major General Lewis J. Fields, from duty as Commanding General, Fifth Marine Division to Camp Pendleton as relief for Gen. Cushman about March 1, 1967.

Scholarship—

(Continued From Page 1) when they are in those establishments.

"Any money donated in memory of any particular Marine or Navyman or men killed in action will be acknowledged in the 1st Marine Division publication: the 'Old Breed News,'" Johnson said.

Members of the Association automatically receive a copy of the News, he said.

"I am sure that we all want to have a large scholarship fund as our best means of insuring the Association can assist in the future education of the children of our 1st Marine Division comrades, particularly those who have given their lives in battle," Major General Nickerson said as he officially launched OPERATION SCHOLARSHIP.

VC seem interested in Chaplain's work

DA NANG — Chaplain Eugene Davis is a hard man to find. As chaplain for the 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, his days are long and his nights are longer.

With the help of his assistant Lance Corporal Roger Kanouff, Davis holds services throughout the unit.

Recently on one of his weekly trips to the "G" Company command post, located about 20 miles south of Da Nang, the chaplain's message was interrupted.

Automatic weapons fire had the whole service pinned down. Undaunted the chaplain continued the service.

It's not the first instance this has happened and as the chaplain

says it probably won't be the last.

Not only does he visit all the letter companies weekly but all the CAC (Combined Action Company) units in the area too.

"The Marines really appreciate the chaplain's visits," says Kanouff, "and it builds their morale up too to see him there even when the bullets are flying overhead."

The Cong seem interested too, says Kanouff but the chaplain has the answer.

"It must be the glitter of the cross that attracts them," he says. "I just wish they would come on in. I'm sure I could administer to them appropriately," he said.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

Postage
1 Class 8¢
irmail 16¢
Cass 10¢

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



Observe air strike

Three Marines watch a bomb burst on an area of VC sniper activity during Operation De Soto. The operation is being conducted by elements of the Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st MarDiv., 25 miles south of Quang Ngai.

(Photo by Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

Col. Yunck flying again

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, EL TORO, Calif.—A Marine Corps aviator, who lost part of his left leg during combat operations in Vietnam in December 1965, resumed a 26-year flying career a few weeks ago.

Colonel Michael R. Yunck made the flight in a TA-4F "Skyhawk" jet aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz. In doing so, he proved to Marine Corps officials the truth of his words of Dec. 10, 1965, when he said he would someday return to the flight lines of Marine Corps aviation.

Colonel Yunck, 48, assistant chief of staff, Plans, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., told newsmen at a press conference Feb. 3, that the leg amputated five inches below the knee, "doesn't handicap me—it only inconveniences me."

The veteran of two wars and 1963 winner of the Cunningham Award as Marine Aviator of the Year said he was now qualified to fly when accompanied by an

other pilot.

Colonel Yunck was told by Navy doctors after he was wounded that it was "the last combat mission he'll ever fly."

The colonel, however, had other ideas. After five months at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, Calif., he returned to full duty status at El Toro. His ultimate aim is to be reassigned to Vietnam.

In Vietnam, Colonel Yunck served as Operations and Planning officer, First Marine Aircraft Wing. During Operation "Harvest Moon" he was co-pilot aboard a UH-34D helicopter when he was hit by a 50-caliber round from a Viet Cong ground weapon.

It was the second Purple Heart Medal for the veteran aviator who later requested to return to the wartorn Republic upon his release from the Naval Hospital.

Colonel Yunck saw combat action as a fighter pilot on Guadalcanal during 1942-43 and on Okinawa in 1945. He was a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

In addition to receiving the Cunningham Award in 1963, the veteran aviator received the Kitty Hawk Award from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce in 1966, Armed Forces Award from the Veteran of Foreign Wars in 1966, American Fighter Aces Award in 1966, and Loyalty Award from Loyola University in Los Angeles in 1966.

Colonel Yunck regards his wife as "the perfect Marine's wife," because she respects his feelings in wanting to return to Vietnam. "Still she doesn't want me to leave," he smiled.

His daughters must also be near-perfect in the eyes of a career Marine. It took them only one day to accept the colonel's handicap upon his return from the far-away land of war.

"The children want to tell everyone of my handicap wherever we go — including supermarkets," he laughed.

Navy Cross—

(Continued From Page 1)

it up and threw it into the nearby river, where it exploded on contact with the water.

His courage and unhesitating self-sacrifice in the face of almost certain death saved three other Marines from probable injury and possible death.



Diving for weapons

LCpl. David E. Lake surfaces from a water-filled hole for a breath of air as he searches for hidden VC weapons during Operation Independence. Lake is a member of "G" Co., 2d Bn., Fourth Marines, 1st MarDiv.

(Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)