



SEA TIGER



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ANGER AND DISBELIEF register on the face of SSgt. Clarence Lafferty as he and other Marines arrive at the site that minutes before had been the village of Hoa Cuong, filled with its sleeping families. Lafferty holds part of an enemy rocket. More than 50 of these hit the village and the Da Nang airfield after 3 a.m., Feb. 27. (Photo by Sgt. Ron Hathaway)

11 Americans killed

VC stage rocket attack on Da Nang Air Base

By MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—The launching site used by the Viet Cong for the rocket attack on the Da Nang airfield, Feb. 27, has been found and 30 live 140mm rocket rounds picked up by Marine search parties sweeping the area.

Two launchers, simple four-foot "pipes" mounted on a five-foot 1" by 12" board, were also discovered. The launch site was located about five miles southwest of the airstrip, at the junction of the Tuy Laon and Yen rivers.

Approximately 130 of the positions have been discovered in batteries of five or six each. The positions were scooped out areas in the ground with mounds of dirt in the front of the pits.

The rockets have been identified as a type used in several Soviet bloc countries.

The markings on the equipment has, so far, given no indication as to the manufacturer.

Apparently the rockets were fired in five or six round bursts from several pads during an estimated three minute period early Feb. 27.

The launch site was located by a company from the 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, shortly after noon the same day.

Marines in units between the launch site and the airstrip heard the rockets screaming overhead and some on watch were able to pinpoint their launching point.

First Sergeant Carl R. Hallgren of the 9th Motor Transport Battalion, said they "sounded like 600 freight trains going overhead. It sounded like they were coming from all sides straight at you."

Along with the launchers, the Marines found a crude rope and carrying stick. At the front of

the board on which the launcher is mounted was a simple elevating mechanism and on the rear an equally simple deflection device. The tube is 5 3/4 inches in diameter.

The launchers were set in place with the front on a mound of dirt and the rear in a shallow ditch.

Despite the large number of launching positions, damage to the airfield was slight.

(Continued on Back Page)

Fourth Marine winner

Medal of Honor won by Capt. H. Barnum

WASHINGTON—A Marine artillery officer in combat on temporary duty, and who took command of a rifle company under fire when the company commander was mortally wounded, became the fourth Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam.

On Monday, February 27, Secretary of the Navy, Paul H. Nitze, presented the nation's highest award for valor to Captain Harvey Curtiss Barnum, Jr., of Cheshire, Connecticut. Ceremonies were held at 11 a.m. at the Marine Barracks at Eighth and "I" Streets, Southeast, in Washington, D.C.

At the time of his heroic action in Vietnam on December 18, 1965, Captain Barnum, then a first lieutenant, was serving as an artillery forward observer attached to Company "H" of the Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division (Reinforced). This company of the Ninth Marines regimental landing team was then on an operation as a part of the Second Battalion, Seventh Marines. Barnum himself was permanently assigned to Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor, and was in Vietnam on temporary additional duty orders. Such temporary orders to Vietnam were issued to a few Marines during that period as a means to augment the combat forces, and to provide combat experience to Marines who volunteered for such temporary duty.

The citation accompanying his award reads in part: "When the company was suddenly pinned down by a hail of extremely ac-

curate enemy fire and was quickly separated from the remainder of the battalion by over five hundred meters of open and fire-swept ground, and casualties mounted rapidly, Lieutenant Barnum quickly made a hazardous reconnaissance of the area seeking targets for his artillery. Finding the rifle company commander mortally wounded and the radio operator killed, he, with complete disregard for his own safety, gave aid to the dying commander, then removed the radio from the dead radio operator and strapped it to himself.

"He immediately assumed command of the rifle company, and moving at once into the midst of the heavy fire, rallying and giving encouragement to all units, reorganized them to replace the loss of key personnel and led their attack on enemy positions from which deadly fire continued to come. His sound and swift decisions and his obvious calm served to stabilize the badly decimated units and his gallant example as he stood exposed repeatedly to point out targets, served as an inspiration to all.

"Provided with two armed helicopters, he moved fearlessly

through enemy fire to control the air attack against the firmly entrenched enemy while skillfully directing one platoon in a success-



Capt. Barnum

ful counterattack on the key enemy positions. Having thus cleared a small area, he requested and directed the landing of two transport helicopters for the evacuation of the dead and the

(Continued on Back Page)

'Street Without Joy' author

Bernard Fall killed on Chinook operation

By: SSgt. Norman W. MacKenzie

PHU BAI — Fourteen years ago the "Street Without Joy" made national headlines when 30,000 French troops were battling the Viet Minh.

Three days ago it became nationally known again when Dr. Bernard Fall, author of the book "Street Without Joy" was killed by a mine on the street. He was with the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines participating in Operation Chinook.

Since Fall's book and the departure of French troops, the area has been primarily controlled by the Viet Cong. They also fortified and booby-trapped the 26 hamlets comprising the six villages along the street.

Each hamlet is surrounded by three-foot-deep trenches with fighting holes staggered 20 yards apart on either side of the trench line.

In addition, each house has two large family-type bunkers constructed to withstand mortar and artillery barrages.

All main trails, junctions, rice paddy dikes, entrances to villages and hamlets have been mined and booby-trapped with M16 "Bouncing Betty" mines, 105 howitzer and 81mm mortar rounds, and M26 grenades. The booby-traps are rigged with trip wires.

Punji pits are on either side of trails, dikes and hedgerows, which are also booby-trapped with grenades.

Bunkers, four and one-half feet high, are camouflaged by haystacks placed in different hamlets along the street.

The "Street Without Joy" is living up to its title as embattled 3rd Division Marines encounter these devices on Operation Chinook.

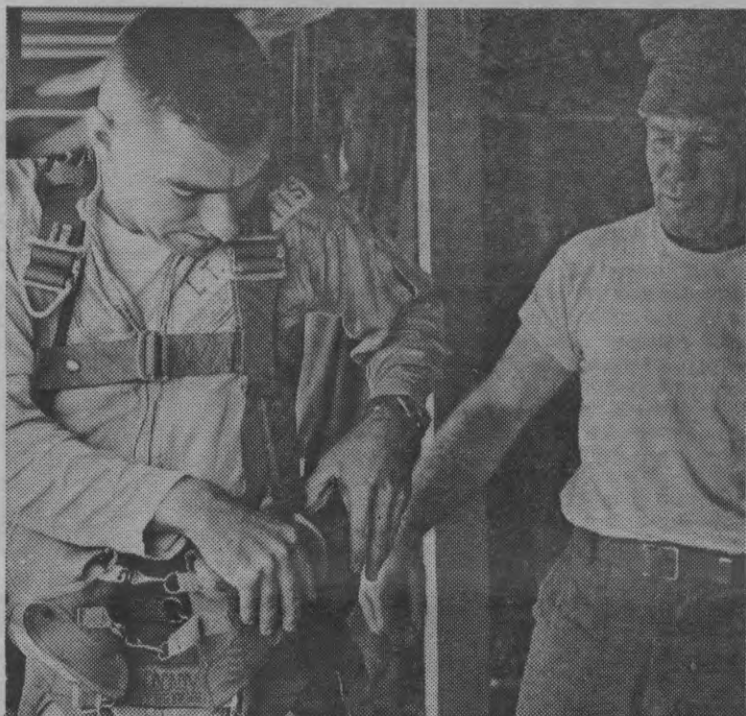


SEA TIGER

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Helping hand

GySgt. Robert H. Cooper helps 1stLt. Ronald J. Curtis adjust his parachute harness and survival vest prior to a mission in Vietnam. Curtis is with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323. Cooper is the NCOIC of the Safety and Survival Shop.

Bamboo curtain built as protective device

By: LCpl. Larry Dalrymple

PHU BAI — Citizens of Pho Trach, South Vietnam, and nearby hamlets have found their answer to the bamboo curtain. They are encircling themselves within a 10-foot-high, five-mile-long bamboo fence.

The fence is being built to protect the villagers and their property from Viet Cong. The fence will enclose Pho Trach and more than 150 newly constructed six-room homes for refugees of nearby hamlets as well as deserted Viet Cong dependents.

Under supervision of Vietnamese Army Captain Tap, Phong Dien district representative, work on the consolidated village should be completed by April 15. It will be named Phong Nguyen.

Members of the 11th Engineer Battalion and the 3rd Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment are assisting with construction by leveling terrain where more housing will be built.

These Marines have also pro-

vided security for the villages. Consolidation of Phong Nguyen will allow Marines to operate in the area without endangering the lives of civilians.

Phong Nguyen is the second village in the Phong Dien district to employ the bamboo fence. It will closely resemble nearby Phuoc-Phu-My-Xuyen which built a similar barrier last year.

"We have had excellent results with Phuoc-Phu-My-Xuyen," said Capt. Tap. "Since its construction, Viet Cong forces are no longer able to steal food from the villagers or return to their previous homes or families," he said.

Twice the Viet Cong have mortared the village. Each time the citizens of Phuoc-Phu-My-Xuyen have repaired the damaged fence.

Two Viet Cong recently surrendered to the Popular Forces protecting the village because they were unable to visit their families.

The twin hamlets are located 30 miles north of Phu Bai.

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Four Marines help villagers with road

By LCpl. Ray Wilkinson

DONG HA—Local villagers will enjoy a brighter and safer New Year, thanks to the help of four Marines from Headquarters Company, Fourth Marines.

The Marines, under the direction of Lieutenant Richard H. Mullen aided the villagers in improving a 200-yard stretch of well-used roadway.

They also supplied the local populace with cans of paint to brighten up their homes.

"The work on the road and distribution of the paint has had a great psychological effect on the people who live adjacent to the road," Lt. Mullen said. "Some of them have started to do things for themselves and this is what we want. One Vietnamese man started hauling in dirt to fill in a mudhole in front of his home."

Lt. Mullen and his team, Staff Sergeant John J. Esrey, Corporal William R. Herzog, and Lance Corporal Terry R. Brooks, supervised a team of Vietnamese laborers in improving the road.

"Previously the road was deeply rutted. There was little drainage and most of the area was covered in a thick, green slime which was extremely unhealthy and a hazard to traffic," Lt. Mullen said.

The villagers and Marines filled in all the holes with material supplied by a nearby Marine engineer unit, cleaned out existing drains and built deeper, more permanent drainage ditches and constructed three culverts.

Lt. Mullen said the road is now much smoother, drains well and is no longer a health hazard to the local people.

He added that many of the homes bordering the street were extremely dirty and a paint job did wonders both for the houses

and the morale of the people. "I just wish we had enough bright paint for every house in Dong Ha," he said.

Late gifts

PHU BAI — Christmas and Tet (Lunar New Year) were delayed for awhile as gifts for children of the Phu-xuan Convent and Orphanage of Hue arrived late this year, but the presents of the 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marines, 3rd Marine Division, were still well-received.

The unit has sponsored the orphanage since April 1966, when Staff Sergeant Albert F. Senna, of H&S Company decided to help the institution; it later turned into a battalion project.

The unit began by sending its laundry to the orphanage, until the Marines moved to Dong Ha in September.

Senna then wrote to friends for clothing, toys or candy to be used as holiday gifts for the children.

The Marines had planned to present the gifts on Christmas or Tet, but due to operational commitments, the gifts could not be presented until last week.

The Phu-xuan Convent and Orphanage houses 200 nuns and 120 orphans. It also maintains schools and dispensaries in 20 villages in Quang Tri.



"SEND A TAPE TO MOTHER"

I hitched a ride one day in a mighty mite going to the Air Terminal at Phu Bai. On the way to the airport two small boys asked for a ride but the driver refused to pick them up. As we proceeded through the intersection one of the boys raised his grimy little hand in a too familiar gesture and yelled an obscenity at us. It is nauseating enough to hear such disgusting language from our boys but the realization that we have inflicted this evil upon innocent children is unforgivable.

I have never expected that men living together under trying conditions would start saying "foey" and "fiddle-de-dee" but there is no rational justification for the perverted and lewd language that bellows through every base. Many men use the excuse, "Everyone does it and it's hard not to do it yourself." Well, I don't do it and I know hundreds who don't. I cannot escape the conclusion that what comes out of the mouth is an indication of what is in the heart. No human relationship seems to be so sanctified that it cannot drug through the muck of muddled and minute minds. If men only realized how stupid, crass, and vile such conversation makes them appear they would cease and desist.

Do you want to make your mother proud of you? Record a day of conversation in your hooch or office and send it to her!

CHAPLAIN R. K. DWYER
MWSG-17

Annual Lunar New Year Sports Festival

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—An estimated 20,000 Vietnamese jammed the Da Nang sports stadium Feb. 19 to watch the final events of the First Annual Lunar New Year Sports Festival.

The war was forgotten, at least temporarily, as Vietnamese and Americans competed in sports ranging from table tennis to a five kilometer road race.

Although smaller in stature than their American counterparts, the Vietnamese proved to be good competitors as they took first in seven of 13 events.

Highlight of the meet for the spectators was when Hguyn Ly and Hguyn Anh came through

the entrance first to finish one-two in the five kilometer road race. Marine First Lieutenant David Farley, a former ICLA champion while at Brown University, was third.

Ly's time was a respectable 17:32. Both he and Anh represented Vietnam in the recent Asian Games. Farley, attached to the 3rd Marine Division, was the winner of the same event at the Hue Sports Festival late last year.

However, they cheered just as loud and "oohed and aahed" as Lance Corporal C. E. Carter, 3rd Marine Division, cleared 6' 3 1/2" in the high jump to win that event.

Displaying excellent ball control and teamwork, a Vietnamese Air Force football (soccer) team downed a stubborn 1st Marine Aircraft Wing squad, 2-0, to win the soccer title.

To reach the finals, the Marine team outlasted a U. S. Air Force squad, 1-0, in a game that had to go into overtime to be decided the day before. The Vietnamese team defeated another VNAF team 3-1 to earn their place in the finals.

Lance Corporal Cecil D. Jackson, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, also brought roars of appreciation from the throng as he took the long jump title with a leap of 6.8 meters (22' 4").

Prior to the track events and soccer game, the 3rd Marine Division volleyball team reached the finals of that competition by defeating a team from the Force Logistics Command. However,

despite a definite height advantage, they were trimmed by an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) six for the title.

Other Marine winners were First Lieutenant James T. Wynn, 1st Marine Division, in the 100-meter dash and a relay team from the 1st Marine Division in the 400-meter relay.

Members of the relay team were: Private First Class Eugene Burton; Lance Corporal B. J. Smith; Corporal P. L. Grimes; and Lance Corporal C. N. Armstrong.

In tennis singles, Navy Seaman Robert W. Sprengelmeyer, Mobile Construction Battalion 58, went through three matches without losing a set to take the crown. He defeated Da Nang City champion Lam Mien, 6-3 and 7-5, for the title.

In doubles, the Vietnamese team of Do Xuan Lau and Nguyen Van Hoanh stopped Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Spence and Major Jack Greene, 6-2 and 6-1, to win. The Marine officers are attached to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

A Navy squad took the basketball title by stopping the 1st Marine Division team.

Vietnamese dominated the badminton and table tennis competition by taking all places in doubles and singles of both events.

The cooperation and hard work of Mayor (LtCol.) N. Cuong of Da Nang contributed much to the success of the two-day festival, according to U. S. officials.

From the planning stages to the actual event, the festival was necessarily a joint effort. All U.S. military units in the Da Nang area took part in the event, either by entering participants, helping prepare the playing area, or both.

Among those present to watch the final events and to help award the medals and trophies to the winners were Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, III Marine Amphibious Force commander, Major General H. X. Lam, I Corps commander, the Honorable Henry L. T. Koren, Director of Civil Operations for the U.S. Government in I Corps, Mayor Cuong, and other civilian and military dignitaries.



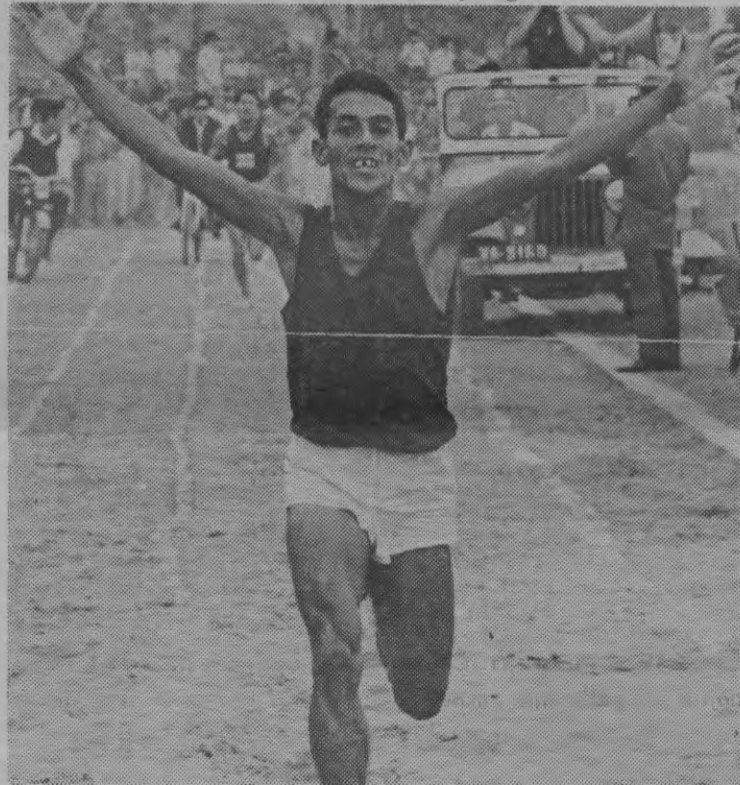
LONG JUMP—LCpl Cecil Jackson soars through the air on his way to winning the long (broad) jump. He leaped 22' 4" to win.

(Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)



WYNN WINS—1stLt. James T. Wynn easily wins the 100-meter dash of the Lunar New Year's Sports Festival in Da Nang. He is serving with the 1st Marine Division in Da Nang.

(Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)



Hguyn Ly wins the five kilometer road race in 17:32. A competitor in the Asian games also, the Vietnamese runner led 30 contestants to the finish line.

(Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)



BIG JUMP—A Vietnamese competitor starts up towards the high jump bar during the Sports Festival.

(Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)



PRELIMS—1st MAF defensive star, Cpl. James F. Spoo, hurries in to block a shot by an Air Force player during the elimination soccer match. The Wing won, 1-0, in overtime.

(Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)

Decorations and awards

DA NANG—A Marine helicopter pilot who refused to abandon his comrades was awarded the Silver Star recently during ceremonies held at the Marble Mountain Air Facility.

He was also presented the Distinguished Flying Cross for another action at the same ceremony.

Major Thomas S. Reap, received the Silver Star for heroism while flying as a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164 on Sept. 2, 1966. He has since been transferred to Marine Wing Headquarters Group-1.

On the day of the action, Reap was assigned the mission of inserting a force of Marines into an area about seven miles south of Da Nang.

Reaching the enemy-controlled area, he was twice driven out of the zone by intense enemy automatic weapons fire. As he was climbing out of his second futile attempt his wingman was hit and crashed in flames.

"It wouldn't have been right to just fly away and leave them there," Reap said later. "Marines never desert their own."

Ignoring a wall of enemy fire, he turned and went back into the zone. "As soon as I touched down, the ground Marines I had been carrying got out and set up a hasty perimeter," he commented. "You should have seen them move. Real professionals, every one."

Despite a hail of enemy fire, Reap calmly remained in the zone until the crew of the downed helicopter were safely aboard. He also evacuated a number of wounded ground Marines.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was presented in recognition of Reap's "... professional ability and courage" in rescuing six wounded Marines atop a 2,600 foot mountain 12 miles southwest of Da Nang.

"It wasn't much of a zone," Reap recalled. "In fact it was about as bad as I've seen."

The wounded Marines were part of a force held to the mountaintop by an encircling group of Viet Cong.

"I was worried about the trees—they were about 100 feet high," he said.

The dense foliage forced the major to hold his CH-46A "Sea Knight" in a hover for almost an hour while the wounded were hoisted one at a time by the chopper's which.

"Now that I think back on it, those trees might have saved the day for us. They were so thick near the tops that the Viet Cong couldn't really see my heli-

copter there," Reap said.

After their wounded comrades were safely in the hovering helicopter, the remainder of the ground Marines were hoisted aboard.

The major's citation credited his flying skill with saving the force of 31 Marines.

The awards were presented by Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

BARNES

PHU BAI — A Marine lance corporal, who killed six Viet Cong while leading a reaction force to the aid of a surrounded reconnaissance team, has been awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Lance Corporal Robert C. Barnes was serving as scout team leader with "B" Co., 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division during the action.

Last October Barnes was called upon to act as point for the 150-man reaction force. They moved out through dense undergrowth and were soon forced to follow established trails. Only a short distance from the landing zone a lone VC fired on Barnes as he made his way through the jungle.

An hour later Barnes spotted five guerrillas moving toward him along the trail. He immediately opened fire, killing one and wounding another of the enemy.

He soon made contact again, killing three more enemy and thwarting an ambush on the reaction force.

A short distance up the trail Barnes made a fifth contact with the enemy. He killed one more and wounded a second who had come to drag the body away.

Through his efforts the reaction force successfully linked up with the recon patrol. He then guided both units back through the same enemy-infested area to the landing zone.

Barnes' exceptional skill and knowledge of scouting and patrolling combined with his deadly accuracy with a rifle resulted in the deaths of six Viet Cong and wounds to at least three more.

He also captured seven weapons, several grenades, ammunition and documents.

SMITH

DONG HA — Marine Sergeant Michael S. Smith was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his actions last Nov. 10 while an ammunition technician for K Battery, 4th Battalion, Twelfth Marine Regiment.

During a firing mission in support of Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces, a 155mm howitzer round slipped from the breech, falling on a fuze cone and damaging the fuze.

Smoke rose from the damaged fuze, indicating a probably explosion.

Smith ran to the howitzer with tools and a pan of water where 28 other fuzes lay in the compartment. If detonated they would destroy the howitzer and cause numerous casualties to men of the battery.

Smith closed the compartment door, working amidst smoke from three other firing howitzers. Using a wrench as a buffer, he successfully removed the fuze and lowered it into a pan of water, where it stopped functioning.

His citation reads in part: "by his brave altruism, extraordinary courage, and unfaltering devotion to duty, Sgt. Smith upheld the highest traditions of the Marine

Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Smith has also been awarded the Purple Heart and Navy Commendation Medals for his actions in Vietnam.

LOCHRIDGE

DA NANG—A Marine lieutenant from Scarsdale, N.Y., spearheaded an attack with his crippled tank against a strongly entrenched enemy armed with anti-tank weapons, was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

First Lieutenant Willard F. Lochridge, then a platoon leader with "B" Company, 3rd Tank Battalion, was leading his platoon of tanks in support of an infantry company during Operation Macon, Sept. 5.

The leading platoon of infantry had sustained several casualties from enemy fire by a well-entrenched Viet Cong force.

Lochridge maneuvered his tanks about the battle area gathering seriously wounded Marines. He then transported them to a helicopter landing zone for medical evacuation.

While directing both medical evacuations and the fire of his tanks against the enemy positions, Lochridge constantly exposed himself to the enemy fire.

After successfully evacuating the wounded, Lochridge maneuvered his tanks to a firing position to lead the assault on the entrenched fortifications. His tank was hit by 57mm recoilless rifle round. The round wounded Lochridge, temporarily obscuring his vision.

Disregarding his wound, Lochridge pressed the attack against the anti-tank weapon with his tank to prevent further damage to his own and other tanks in his platoon.

Through the accurate and devastating fire directed by Lochridge, the position was penetrated, allowing the infantry unit to rout the enemy.

Twenty-three Viet Cong found dead in the trench lines were credited directly to the fire of Lochridge's tanks.

Lochridge was presented the nation's third highest award for combat heroism by Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general of the 1st Marine Division.

JOHNSON

DONG HA—Hospitalman Third Class Charles E. Johnson was presented the Silver Star Medal recently.

The 21-year-old Navy corpsman was cited for his actions while serving with "G" Company, Third Marines, 3rd Marine Division, Aug. 23, 1966.

"We were southeast of Da Nang during Operation Allegheny, when I saw two Marine casualties concealed by dense vegetation and moved up to aid them," Johnson said.

"I worked my way to the first man and found he was dead. After moving to the second who was seriously wounded, a third Marine pointed to a nearby Viet Cong spider trap, which was occupied by the enemy. I pulled my pistol, assaulted the spider trap and killed the enemy, eliminating the threat to the wounded Marine," Johnson said.

His citation reads in part: "Although surrounded by a fierce firefight, he exposed himself to enemy fire to aid his wounded comrades, ensuring the safety of the wounded man, upholding the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Rapid transit

Marines of the bridge platoon, 9th Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, pull the decking from a pontoon ferry Feb. 4, for transport to the bridge at Binh Son, which had been blasted by demolitions by the VC early in the morning of the same day. The engineers were able to haul the rest of the ferry intact from the water and onto trucks for transfer to the site of the blown bridge.

(Photo by Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

81mm mortar platoon

CHU LAI—"Fire Mission."

A command that can be heard anytime day or night in the area manned by the 81mm Mortar Platoon, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, on Operation De Soto 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

The Mortar Platoon, commanded by Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Miller, furnishes close in fire support for the Marines of the 3rd Battalion, whenever and

where ever it is needed.

When a mission is called into the 81's, they go into action in as little as two minutes. They can also be moved where the action is in a hurry, to support the men in the field under any condition.

Since Operation De Soto began, Jan. 26, the platoon has fired over 4,000 rounds of illumination and high explosive ammunition at the Viet Cong.



Knee deep

Marines of "C" Co., Ninth Marines, move through swampland searching for Viet Cong near the "street without joy" during Operation Chinook. The 3d MarDiv. unit is operating in an area about 12 miles northwest of Hue.

(Photo by Sgt. T. F. Burch)



Silver Star

LCpl. Robert C. Barnes 3d Reconnaissance Bn., 3d MarDiv., won the nation's third highest medal for heroism by killing six VC as he led a reaction force to the aid of a surrounded reconnaissance patrol.

No mistakes made

Sgt. disarms 250 lbs. TNT

By: SSgt. G.F. Selby

DA NANG—"I could only hope I didn't make a mistake," said Marine Sergeant Coy C. Carter, in explaining how he felt while disarming 250 pounds of TNT attached to a bridge south of Da Nang.

Carter, a 1st Shore Party Battalion helicopter support team leader attached to the 1st Marine Division, was supervising the loading of two helicopters at the First Marines' landing zone Feb. 16 when he was told of a nearby bridge being mined.

The division explosive ordnance disposal platoon had been notified but had not yet arrived on the scene.

Carter and Corporal Morris G. Zick also of the regiment's Shore

Party team, went to the bridge. Using a near-by boat, Carter was rowed to the bridge to inspect the makeshift mine partially underwater.

He saw the two charges were wired in such a way that the detonation of one would instantly set off the other.

In examining the wiring, Carter determined the charges would not be set off with an increase nor release of pressure.

Hoping he was correct, Carter cut the detonating cord connecting the separate charges—nothing happened. He then detached one charge from the bridge support and was towed 50 yards upstream from the bridge. There he removed the detonating cord from the first lethal bundle of explo-

sives.

Another trip to the underside of the bridge, and a second slow boat ride upstream and the last half of the danger was eliminated.

The removal and disarming of the explosives took 15 minutes.

Shortly thereafter, the EOD team arrived and congratulated Carter for his quick thinking and actions in saving the bridge.

The EOD team explained the cord was the chemical type which would detonate the charge automatically when the acid ate its way to the end.

As if to emphasize these words, the cord popped harmlessly, as it was being handled by the EOD men.

Carter doesn't recall the weather that day but he does admit, "I was mighty warm."

Ontos action

By Sgt. T.D. Stephens

CHU LAI — Two Ontos were with elements of "M" Company, 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division as they moved out of a command post and headed toward the village of Duc Pho.

The first tank-killer positioned itself midway in the column of Marines forming a blocking force to head off any enemy that would interfere with the movement of other companies.

The second, brought up the rear of the reinforced platoon-sized patrol lead by Second Lieutenant Richard W. Hodory.

Moving through Duc Pho, the platoon set up around the village of An Truong. The two Ontos set up positions on the road at each end of the village.

A team of Marine Corps engineers using mine detectors had made a sweep through the village to check for buried mines and booby traps.

Marine snipers also accompanied the platoon, and were stationed on the outskirts of the village.

Artillery was called in along with fixed wing air strikes to destroy VC bunkers and fortified positions.

Later, the lead squad started up the road to return to the CP, Viet Cong snipers began firing from tunnels and from behind hedgerows and rice paddy dikes.

The Marines returned the fire, and killed three Viet Cong, capturing two more.

Operation Stone just like a WW II movie

By: Cpl. Lowell Carson

DA NANG—"It was just like a World War II movie," the Marine said.

He was describing the action Feb. 19 and 20, during phase II of Operation Stone, 15 miles south of Da Nang.

Racing up the old Saigon to Hanoi railroad track, "C" and "D" Companies had split a Viet Cong battalion hemmed in on four sides by the 1st Bn., First

Marine Regiment.

Caught in a trap, the Viet Cong were seen fleeing in every direction by the Marines. Aircraft, artillery, tanks and infantry combined in a blazing battle which raged across the rice paddies.

One Viet Cong was seen racing across a paddy then disappeared when an artillery round seemingly landed upon him.

Marines would sweep toward enemy positions and find nothing. Then behind them a spider trap would open up and the VC would open fire.

To cope with the now-you-see-them-now-you-don't tactics of the Viet Cong, the Marines brought in scout dogs to smell out holes, and engineers with mine detectors to find hidden and abandoned weapons.

Where dogs and engineers couldn't go, Marines stripped to dive into wells, water holes, and waterways to search for weapons and cave entrances.

Operation Stone ended with 291 Viet Cong killed, 61 captured. More than 500 civilians asked to be relocated in a area where they wouldn't be harassed by the Viet Cong.

The Marines captured large amounts of grenades, ammunition, uniforms, packs, medical supplies and 47 weapons. The weapons included Russian and French carbines, pistols and machine guns.

Chinook 1/9

PHU BAI—The 1st Battalion, Ninth Regiment, 3rd Marine Division killed two Viet Cong, captured four carbines and 12,000 pounds of rice Feb. 23 during Operation Chinook II.

The search and destroy mission is taking place 27 miles north of Phu Bai along the "Street Without Joy," an area written about by the late Dr. Bernard Fall.

Commanded by Major James L. Day, the battalion has also apprehended 17 Viet Cong suspects and captured eight confirmed VC.

The Marines are moving through flat terrain, rice paddies, wooded areas and five-foot high hedgerows.

The rice cache, found in a tunnel, was bagged and helo-lifted to the Phong Dien District headquarters for distribution to refugees.



Late gifts

SSgt. Albert F. Senna, of H&S Co., 3d Bn., Fourth Marines, 3d MarDiv., presents the last of hundreds of gifts given the Phu-xuan Convent and Orphanage to Sisters Mary Sabine (center) and Mary Elizabeth. The battalion has sponsored the orphanage since April, 1966.

(Photo by Sgt. T. F. Burch)

Shore Party knows their three 'B's' well

DA NANG — Contrary to its name, Shore Party is not a festive affair on a sunny, sandy beach.

Setting a First Marines logistics record by moving 77,000 pounds of supplies in one day and presenting Marines operating in the field with well over 100 tons of needed supplies in the first 15 days of February can't very well be considered an event with a festive air.

It certainly isn't considered so by the four man team of the 1st

Shore Party Battalion attached to the First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Sergeant Coy C. Carter, heads the regimental helicopter support team. Corporal Morris G. Zick, Lance Corporal Richard L. Means, and Private First Class Gilbert I. Tressler, round out the support team.

Marines often refer to supplies as "beans, bandages and bullets." This quartet has proven they know their three "B's" backward and forward.

The team's value to the regiment is not limited to a daily eight or ten hours of loading helicopters with supplies needed in the field.

Each morning they are found slowly moving along the road wearing ear phones and holding their mine detecting devices in front of them. Under a protective infantry escort the team clears the regiment's main road of mines the Viet Cong may have planted during the night.

Carter said an average of three mines are found each week. He goes on to explain that the mines have been of varying sizes and types and have held as much as 50 pounds of explosives.

Carter and his team have undergone a two-day course with combat engineers for familiarization in mines and mine sweeping. When one is detected, it is destroyed in place rather than risk digging it up.

The team has about two miles of road to clear. It takes about one hour. Then the Shore Party team returns to the regiment's helicopter landing zone to await the first pair of supply choppers of the day.

By evening, thousands of pounds of supplies have been lifted out and the last chopper has moved off. Members of the team then take their turns in manning positions in the regiment's defensive perimeter.



Grenade launcher

Pfc. M. F. Johnson readies his grenade launcher to fire at Viet Cong attempting to flee from Marines on Operation Independence. He is a member of "E" Co., 2nd Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st MarDiv.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

Battle bath

CHU LAI — Marines of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, have hot showers right in the middle of Operation De Soto, courtesy of the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

"We provide hot showers for more than 1,400 combat Marines each day," stated Corporal John R. Simon.

He is NCO in Charge of the water points and field shower unit that is in support of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 25 miles south of Chu Lai.

The shower unit produces 1,500 gallons of hot water for two hours each evening, giving Operation De Soto Marines a chance to clean up.

Lance Corporal Jim R. Needham, one of three Marines operating the water points stated, "When a combat patrol comes in from the field, we fire up the shower unit anytime of day to give the troops a chance to wash off the rice paddy dirt."

The third Leatherneck on the 1st Engineer water supply team is Private First Class William F. Geiger, who assists in producing the more than 2,000 gallons of potable water that is used over and above the shower unit supply.

Good pure drinking water for a combat operation is a must. The shower unit is a frosting on the cake for the Marines engaged in Operation De Soto.



FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND



CHECKS PIPE—Marine Lance Cpl. Kenneth A. Hickmott, 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Co., checks the gas pipes of one of the company's 10,000 gallon tanks. The fuel unit arrived in Vietnam last Dec. and provides fuel for all military installations in the I Corps area.

Bulk Fuel Company

HOA KHANH — Thru intensive training and coordination, the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, Force Logistic Command, 1st Force Service Regiment, was invented, designed and developed as the first full strength bulk fuel company in Marine Corps history.

Prior to arriving in Vietnam, the company began an intensive six-week "lock-on" training program at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The first two problems were intensive technical problems with concurrent training in the use of communications and unit field standard operating procedure.

Consisting of squad, platoon and company defensive tactics, the third problem also included scouting and patrolling.

Experience, garnered from the six-week training program, was put into use in the last problem when the company laid 18 fuel booster stations over a five-mile distance—under total blackout condition. This task was accomplished in fifteen hours.

"The Company is undoubtedly the best trained and equipped bulk fuel unit in the history of the Marine Corps," stated Capt. E. J. Driscoll Jr., commanding officer of the company.

After arriving in Da Nang last Dec., the company split into separate units to completely saturate the I Corps area. The first platoon was deployed to Chu Lai to assume operations while the second platoon went to Phu Bai and the third to Dong Ha. The fourth and fifth platoons, package and headquarters platoon became operational in the Da Nang area.

A significant gain in operating efficiency was shown when the company headquarters began coordinating all fuel procurement and stock levels in the I Corps.

"I had great admiration for my men before I got here—I'm afraid I have no words to describe it now," said Driscoll. "When a section of the third platoon, located at the mouth of the Cua Viet river, five miles from the Dong Ha perimeter, sustained a mortar attack, I was swamped with requests from men in other bulk fuel platoons requesting transfers to this area—knowing them as I do, it was no surprise."



COBBLER SHOP—LCpl. Trini Garcia, a shoe repairman for the General Supply Section, Maintenance Co., Maint. Bn., repairs a sole at the boot repair shop. The FLC unit, near the Da Nang air field, repairs nearly 1200 pairs of boots each month.

HOA KHANH — The Force Logistic Command (FLC), III Marine Amphibious Force, the newest major Marine Corps command, celebrates its first anniversary March 15.

Growing out of a specific situation created by the Vietnam war FLC provides logistic support to some 70,000 Marines who are fighting this special kind of war.

Commanded by Brigadier General James E. Herbold Jr., the main center of operations is located some 10 miles northwest of Da Nang.

The command came into being in March, 1966. It was originally put together in a unique combination of two Force Logistic Support Groups augmented with personnel from the 1st and 3rd Service Battalions and detachments from the 3rd Force Service Regiment from Okinawa.

In the northern part of the I Corps area, the 3rd Marine Division is actively supported by the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha," commanded by Lieutenant Colonel R. F. Van Cantfort, whose center of operations is located at Phu Bai. Other elements of FLSG-A are supporting units at Dong Ha, Khe Soan, Col Co Island and Cua Viet.

Headquartered at Chu Lai, Force Logistic Support Group "Bravo," commanded by Colonel K. H. Shelly, provides logistic support for all elements of the 1st Marine Division in the southern sector of the I Corps area.

The overall personnel comprising the FLC command is about 6,500 Marines with an additional 307 Vietnamese civilian workers. The civilians, similar to civil service stateside, have varying degrees of skills and, according to Herbold, are making significant contributions in the operations of the Force Logistic Command.

The basic mission of FLC is to supply, maintain and service the combat trooper's needs to get his job done.

Basically, the supply area consists of food, spare parts, fuel and necessary forms for requesting such items.

Another function of the supply posture is the distribution of field fortifications, bunker building materials, sandbags and what is known as class five items concerned with the various types of

ammunition.

In the area of maintenance, all units are provided field maintenance for all of the tanks, rifles, radios and artillery pieces used by a modern Marine Corps. In some instances, the actual rebuilding of components, like a complete truck engine change or the replacing of a new track on a tank, is accomplished daily. In short, the command provides maintenance repair support for all of the elements within the I Corps.

The many varied services provided by the Force Logistic Command throughout the I Corps, is as great as the many individual military occupational specialties comprising the command.

Few members of the Armed Forces in Vietnam are aware of the fact that the R&R Transient Facilities at Da Nang is operated by FLC. The Facilities, in addition to housing R&R personnel, also provides temporary housing for transient personnel traveling up and down the 160 mile I Corps area.

Contrary to popular belief, all requisitions for supplies are not sent to the States for purchasing. The command aids the Vietnamese economy by buying items like rice, fresh vegetables and soil products for local commands.

The flow of all cargo to Marine forces in this area is another responsibility of FLC. Liaison personnel are located at the air terminals and piers, taking charge of cargo as it is delivered and making sure of delivery to Marine units throughout I Corps.

When units are in remote areas or are cut-off in a combat operation, the Air Delivery Platoon comes into play. The highly trained technicians actually pack the chutes, attach gear to the chutes and ride with the aircraft over the 'drop zone.' The cargo is discharged by parachute to the earth and Marines make sure of delivery and recovery of the chutes.

Not all units of FLC are concerned with supply, maintenance and service support. The 'ticklish' task of disarming duds or booby traps placed on bridges by the Viet Cong is a job performed by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams. These highly trained technicians also are called upon to disarm bombs on disabled air-

craft before they return home to their base. The EOD men gained fame from their heroic missions during the "Battle of Britain" during World War II.

One of the most "thankless" jobs that anyone can have in any war, is taking proper care of the human remains of our men who are battle casualties. This task is accomplished by the Graves Registration personnel from FLC who are located at each medical battalion.

The 'morale builders' of the command are the personnel operating the mobile laundry units, bakery units, ice plants and ice cream plants. Both laundry and bakery units are mobile operative to serve troops in the field lacking such luxury facilities.

One of the most important sections of the command is the Data Processing Platoons. The DPP units provide inventory control support for the basic supply mission, personnel accounting and make assignments of personnel in accordance with their skills and ability.

Over a million gallons of fuel per day is pumped to our Marine units throughout the I Corps by FLC's 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Co. This specialized company was designed to fill the fuel requirements which were normally "man-handled" over roads and beaches, making delivery requirements extremely difficult. The "hose-humpers," as they are sometimes dubbed because they constantly work with heavy hoses for the fuel tanks, utilize modern fuel handling equipment to expeditiously service all fuel requirements.

Another specialized organization within the command is an ammunition company, which takes charge of all the expensive, highly complicated and closely controlled and rationed ammunition used by Marines in Vietnam.

The 5th Communications Bn., Force Logistic Command, is the principle communications support for the commanding general, III MAF.

Herbold stated "We are not the combat soldiers, nor are we the Marine flyers — we are not the 'shoot'em-up' command, but we are the ones who are providing the basic support which is so necessary for combat success."

FLC's Salvage Section

HOA KHANH — The unique task of receiving, packing and shipping the 'war worn' items back-home for salvage is an everyday occurrence for Marines of the Force Logistic Command's Salvage section.

The salvage crew, comprised of thirty-five Marines and fourteen civilian workers, handle and process an average of 800 tons of military items per day.

The items range from rifles, body armor, helmets, mess gear, vehicles, engine parts and dead tanks. According to Lieutenant D. C. Palmer, officer in charge of the section, "some 'hot' items like body armor (flak vest) we ship directly to our 4th and 5th echelon maintenance at Okinawa, and within 30 days we get it back completely rebuilt to better the fighting odds of the combat Marine."

Many of the items sent to the States repair facilities and Okinawa are providing 'Uncle Sam' a substantial saving.

"A piece of body armor can be completely rebuilt at Okinawa for half the cost of a new one," said Palmer. "Last February,

the section shipped a total of 2,500 pieces of body armor to Okinawa for rebuilding."

Another 'hot' item shipped in large quantities is re-salvaged brass. Most of the brass is salvaged from 105mm shell casings, showing a savings of approximately \$120,000 for a three month period.

The salvage section serves all Marine units from Da Nang to Dong Ha, plus additional forces within their tactical area of responsibility (TAOR).

Both weather and increased combat activity increases the work-load of the section. Equipment excessively used is sent to salvage for processing. The harder to move gear, tanks and the like, require more time and effort to get to embarkation piers some 22 miles from the salvage compound.

Smaller items also require specially constructed packing crates for stateside shipment. This phase of the operation is normally handled by the civilian workers who construct some 40 different crates daily.

"The crew of the salvage sec-

tion put in some long, tedious hours," states Palmer, "but the gear must get out, and it is getting out."

FLSG-B

CHU LAI—Force Logistic Support Group "Bravo," located at Chu Lai, was formed as part of the Force Logistic Command in March 1966.

Supporting all military units in the southernmost portion of the I Corps area, the support group supplies, not only Marine units, but Army detachments and the Republic of Korean Marine Brigade with food, ammunition, clothing and other materials needed for the units to function properly.

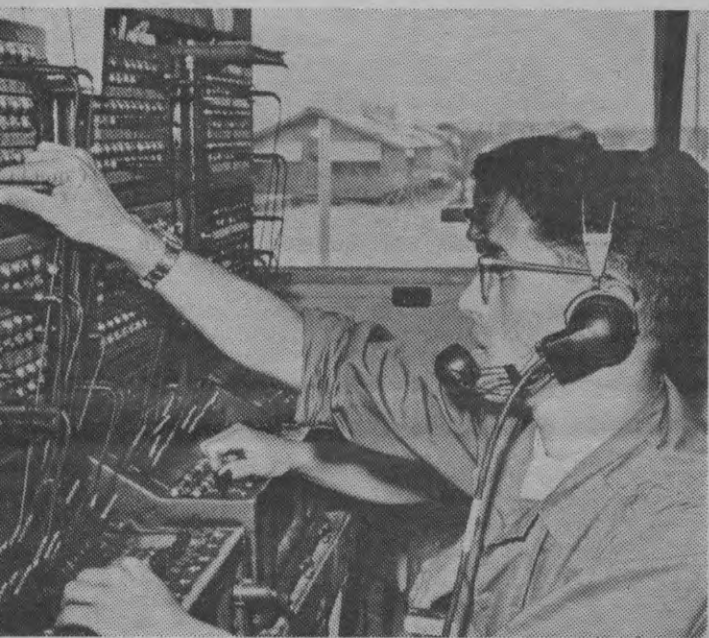
Logistic Support Activities (LSA) teams are sent to Marine combat operations from their parent unit, FLSG-B, to support the "man in the field."

The support group is commanded by Colonel Kermit H. Shelly.

AND



AY AHHHH—HN Gordon W. Morse a corpsman with Combined Action Company Three, checks the throat of a young Vietnamese girl while holding MedCap in the village of Hoa Khanh. Morse treats nearly 250 patients weekly in the area, located nine miles northwest of Da Nang.



WHO'S CALLING PLEASE?—PFC Jorge Colombani, switchboard operator, Communications Co., H&S Bn., Force Logistic Command, places one of the more than 4000 calls that come over the Pitchblend switchboard daily. Working in 24-hour shifts, the switchboard is manned around the clock.



ANYONE FOR BRASS?—Lt. D. C. Palmer, officer-in-charge of the Force Logistic Command's salvage section, stands amid a pile of 105 artillery casings prior to shipment to the States.



COLORS CEREMONY—The flag of the 3d Service Bn. was presented to the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha" in ceremonies held at Phu Bai Feb. 24. Saluting the colors are (l to r) LtCol. R. F. Van Cantfort, CO, FLSG-A; BGen. J. E. Herbold, CG, FLC; SgtMaj. C. E. Miller, FLSG-A sergeant major, and 2dLt. T. W. Lee, personnel officer, FLSG-A. The support group, formerly stationed in Da Nang was moved to Phu Bai, Feb. 15.

Force Logistic Support Group "A"

HOA KHANH—In ceremonies held at the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha" in Phu Bai, Feb. 24, Brigadier General James E. Herbold, commanding general, Force Logistic Command, presented the colors of the 3rd Service Battalion to Lieutenant Colonel R. F. Van Cantfort, commanding officer, FLSG-A.

The logistic support group moved from the Da Nang area to Phu Bai and became Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha"/3rd Service Bn., when the 1st Force Service Regiment moved from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to the Force Logistic Command Feb. 15.

After participating in numerous combat landings in World War II, the service battalion was decommissioned and later reactivated at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in Jan., 1952.

In 1953, following a period of training, the service battalion moved with the 3rd Marine Division to Japan where it remained until 1955 when it again moved, this time to Okinawa.

The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, was formed in the spring of 1965 for deployment into Vietnam. They were accompanied by a brigade logistic support group drawn from elements of the 3rd Service Bn. and the 3rd Medical Bn.

Redesignated the Force Logistic Support Group in May, 1965, the logistic group was placed under operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force.

When the Force Logistic Command was established in the

spring of 1966, the Da Nang group became the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha" and included the Force Logistic Support Unit Two (FLSU-2), then at Phu Bai, as a subordinate command.

Training and education

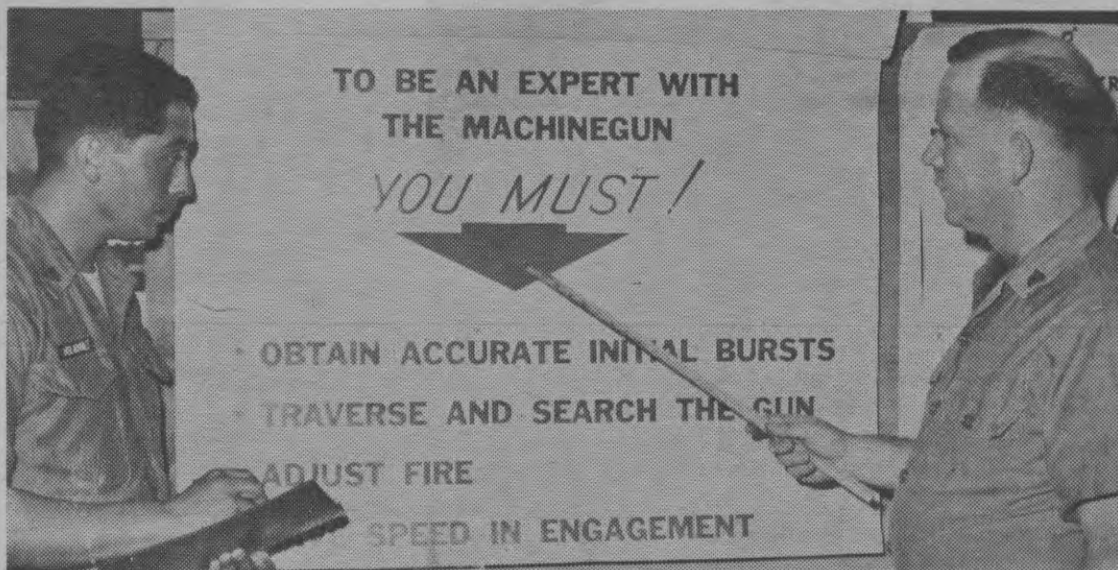
HOA KHANH — The American Everyday Dictionary defines the word "education" as an "act or process of instruction or training."

The three-Marine-manned training and education section of the Force Logistic Command define the word realistically as hard work, ambitious Marines and an individual willingness to learn.

Formed in April, 1966, the section can "back-up" their statement with hard facts. Only six Marines were enrolled in Marine Corps Institute courses (MCI) during April. Today, almost a

year later, the number has soared to 1,846 and some 602 additional members participating in the United States Armed Forces Institute program.

During the early stages of the section, only one formal school existed for the FLC Marines. To date, a total of 26 schools have been established, located in Vietnam, Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines. The individual Marine can receive instruction ranging from motion picture operation to a 28-day course of the Vietnamese language.



SCHOOL DAZE—Sgt. Julian R. Valasquez, (left) listens intently to GySgt. Leonard Holmes of Waynesboro, Va., NCOIC of the Force Logistic Command's training and education section as he explains the use of visual aids utilized by the section. The three man section, in operation less than a year, boasts of having a Marine Corps Institute enrollment of FLC Marines totaling 1,846 and additional 602 members participating in the United States Armed Forces Institute program.



Take advantage of ride

Hospital Corpsman Howard W. Frame (left) and Sgt. Charles E. Rott take advantage of a small Vietnamese boat to cross a river during Operation Independence. Both are members of "G" Co., 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines, 1st MarDiv. (Photo by LCpl. J. E. McClory)

When it comes to recreation try Chu Lai special services

By Sgt. R. R. Pittman

CHU LAI—"CAN DO", is the motto of Special Services, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, when it comes to recreation facilities for the troops.

Many items are available for check-out at the issue room. A few include: swim trunks; game sets; tape recorders; radios; ping pong; horseshoes; swim fins; snorkels; fishing gear (fresh and salt water), and hometown newspapers and magazines.

For fun in the sun, what can beat the beach? A small strip of beach is set aside and staffed with life guards provided by special services for Marines during off-duty hours.

Another feature of the Chu Lai Special Services section is the USO programs which bring many hours of entertainment to troops in the Chu Lai area.

Movies are also provided in the clubs and messhalls, for an evening of enjoyment and relaxation.

Special Services has much to offer, but according to Second Lieutenant Robert A. Cornell, special services officer, things will be even better in the future. Projects scheduled to start March 1967 include construction of a

"Beach Recreation Facility" complete with beach houses; showers; rest and recuperation billets for an overnight stay; tennis courts; a miniature golf course and a centralized issue room on the beach.

When the Beach Recreation Facility is completed, construction of a "Community Facilities" will

begin. The new facility will have an indoor 1,000' man theater; a 20 lane bowling alley; hobby shop; barber shop; game room; library with music room; snack bar with patio and for the outdoor sports fans there will be a baseball field and a football stadium.

314 missions

CHU LAI — F-4B Phantom jets of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-314, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flew 53 combat missions over South Vietnam, Jan. 29-31, blasting enemy forces with 55 tons of bombs and rockets.

Pilots of the Chu Lai-based squadron accumulating 62 flight-hours during the three-day period flying missions throughout the I Corps area.

Damage assessment reports from aerial observers and intelligence sources credited VMFA-314 aircraft with confirmed kills of 20 enemy troops, 30 structures destroyed, another 11 damaged, and one Viet Cong sampan sunk with heavy damage to another.

Major James Ryan Jr. was credited with 15 of the enemy kills, during a bombing mission near Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province, Jan. 29.

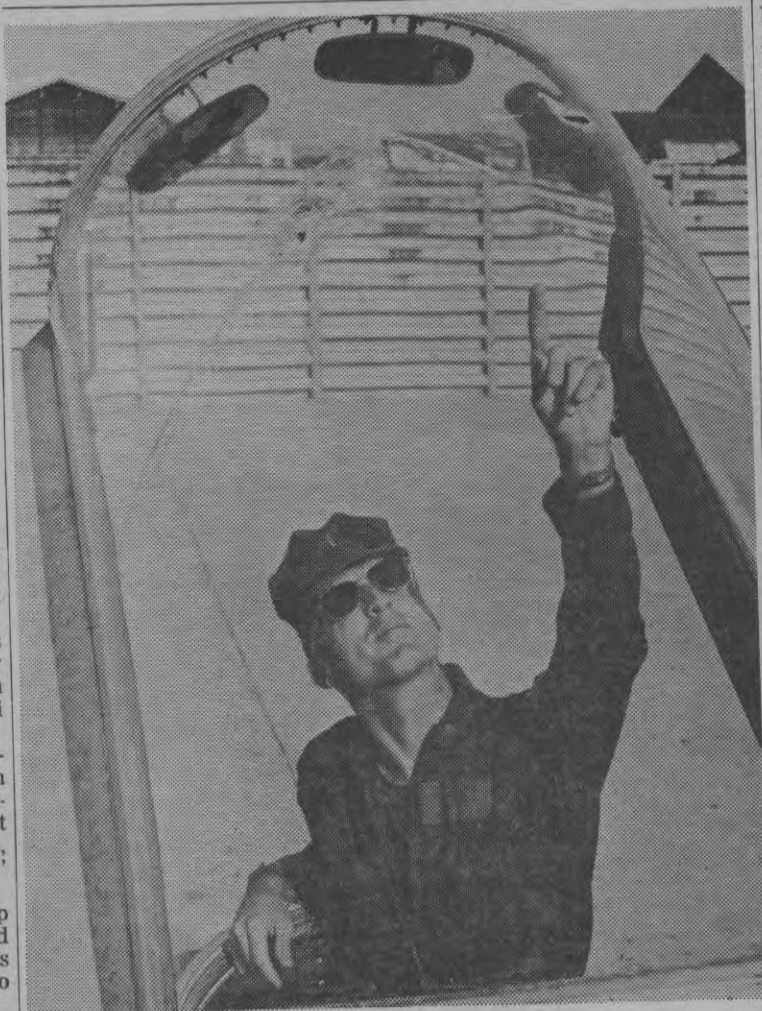
"Enemy troops were in a valley enclosed by high ridges on three sides, so while my wingman maintained radio contact with the Marines on the ground, I made three runs on the target," Ryan said.

"I came in low, sweeping up the valley from the open end and dropped three 250-pound bombs each time, pulling up fast to clear the ridgeline."

"I made three more runs, strafing the area with cannon fire, before joining my wingman and returning to base," said the major.

"The following day we received word that Marines in the area had counted 15 bodies," he said.

8 SEA TIGER



Lucky

1st Lt. Joseph P. St. Martin, a pilot with Marine Fighter Squadron-323 points to a bullet hole in the canopy of his F4B Phantom jet. His aircraft was hit while on helicopter escort mission 10 miles southwest of Da Nang.

(Photo by Sgt. G. G. Thomas)

Short Rounds

Trouble

CHU LAI — There was no question about who had the right of way.

When engine trouble forced Captain William D. Blackburn to land his O1-C observation plane on Highway 1, he found the traffic was willing to yield.

Returning from an air strike control mission south of Quang Ngai the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing pilot was seven miles from Chu Lai when clogged fuel lines caused the engine to fail. He managed to fly four miles farther before setting down on the road.

"I radioed ahead to have somebody come after us, then picked the biggest gap between trucks for the landing," Blackburn said.

Within minutes a squad of Marines arrived to protect the downed aircraft.

They helped the pilot and his aerial observer, Marine Captain Chester E. Hansen, push the plane off the highway, and a helicopter took the pair to Chu Lai.

They returned the next morning with a mechanic to work on the fuel lines. Blackburn climbed into the repaired plane and took off from his Highway 1 "runway."

30 yards

DONG HA — "They were only about 30 yards away. I didn't have a chance to say a word—I saw three of them creep up onto the trail from the right, and I had to open fire myself," said Private First Class Anselmo V. Carrizales Jr.

The assistant machine gunner with "K" Company, Third Marines quietly raised his automatic M-14 rifle and ripped off a 12-round burst at the first of the three Viet Cong guerrillas.

Just as the riddled VC fell backwards, his straw hat tumbling to the ground, the second guerrilla opened fire with a carbine on Carrizales and two other Marines crouched along the trail.

"But we were already lying flat so the rounds whizzed over us into the trees," said Private First Class Conception Gonzales Jr., the other assistant gunner. "We couldn't see well at all — the smoke from his burst was hanging all across the trail."

In the brief exchange of fire, the two guerrillas snatched up their wounded comrade and carried him off into the dense jungle.

Big brother

DA NANG — Some 150 boys from Phong Bac hamlet near Da Nang got a taste of American boxing and baseball and wieners and sauerkraut recently at a "Big Brothers" party sponsored by the 3rd Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

The youths, aged 13-16, watched Leathernecks mix it up in three boxing bouts, to start the festivities. Then volunteers responding to First Sergeant Louis Slezak's invitation tried their hand at the sport.

Despite a tendency to use feet as well as gloves—in Thai boxing style—and a slippery ring caused by a steady drizzle, the Vietnamese slugged it out to decide the flyweight and paperweight champions of Phong Bac—medals went to the winners.

One medal went unclaimed during the festivities. It was to be awarded to the first boy to climb a 25-foot pole, greased about two-thirds of the way up. No one made it.

A tug of war and a softball game, under Marine coaching, rounded out the athletic sched-

ule. Between the events the young guests were served a wienner, sauerkraut and bean dinner.

Each of the teen-agers received a pith helmet and other gifts, including tennis balls and combs.

The party was sponsored by the battalion's Headquarters and Service Company, in cooperation with the unit's civil affairs section.

'Mike'

CHU LAI — A 155mm self-propelled howitzer at "Mike" Battery, 4th Battalion, Eleventh Marines, 1st Field Artillery Group fired the battalion's 100,000th round Feb. 13.

Lieutenant Colonel J.L. Laney Jr., battalion commander, pulled the lanyard that sent the high-explosive projectile roaring towards an enemy target 14,000 meters in the hills.

Since arriving in Vietnam in Aug. 1965, "Mike" Battery has fired more than half of the 100,000-round battalion total. The battery has credit for 1,367 Viet Cong confirmed killed by fire from its six guns.

"Mike" Battery works with the 3rd Battalion, Eleventh Marines in an area generally south and west of Chu Lai.

Helmet

DA NANG — A Marine co-pilot of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, struck by a sniper round on his crash helmet, credits the aviator hard-hat with saving his life.

Captain Paul M. Nick, Marine Aircraft Group-16, was flying a troop retraction mission seven miles south of Da Nang recently.

"As we approached the designated landing zone," he said, "Marine attack aircraft were pounding enemy positions nearby."

When the CH46A helicopter landed in the zone, enemy weapons opened fire.

"As the last of the troops climbed aboard, an enemy round smashed through the windshield, piercing my crash helmet," Nick said.

The round deflected off the helmet and continued through the roof of the aircraft. Nick suffered a concussion.

"I received a terrific headache from the jolt, but thanks to my helmet, I'm alive," he said.

Sniper

CAMP CARROLL — A Marine sniper's average range to his victim is about 1,000 yards, however, Corporal Lynn Bushnell didn't need telescopic sights to hit a Viet Cong only five feet away.

He gained this unusual advantage while attached to "K" Company, Third Marine Regiment, during a search and destroy mission near the Mai Loc Hamlet in the Cua Valley near here.

Before the company began its sweep through the valley, Bushnell and another sniper were placed at an advantage point on a hill to stop the Viet Cong from escaping along several trails.

As the two snipers camouflaged themselves in the thick terrain, a VC approached. Bushnell spotted the guerrilla and told his companion to remain quiet.

"The VC, walking up the trail, didn't have the slightest idea we were there," said Bushnell. "As he reached our position, I shouted 'Dung Lai' (halt), but he didn't waste any time trying to get away. Not needing the help of my scope, I shot him."

11th Engineers make life a bit easier for Dong Ha Marines

By Cpl. Vince Hagel

DONG HA—Rain won't stop a postman, nor will it stop the Marines; particularly the 11th Engineers here.

Supporting the 3rd Marine Division since late November 1966, the 11th Engineer Bn. worked throughout the monsoons, building new roads and bridges and repairing the old.

Three trucks and a jeep were destroyed by mines in spite of daily mine-sweeps. Viet Cong snipers harassed the Marines from time to time, but infantry security guards drove them off.

Eighty-four trucks are the battalion's backbone, according to battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ross Mulford. "Without trucks we would be at a standstill," he said. "Those truck drivers are the hardest working men I've seen."

Mud, often a yard deep, hampered progress. Operating a small rock crusher, the engineers were able to supply 10-15 tons of gravel per hour from three gravel pits.

Roads and bridges represent only a portion of the engineers work. Operations officer, Captain Jerry Shelton thinks he has enough work orders now to keep the battalion busy until he leaves—in 11 months.

At the Dong Ha Marine base more wire will be strung, trenches dug and more bunkers built for the expansion of the 3rd Division Forward command post.

Ground in front of the engineers' lines is clear for one hundred yards and illuminated by powerful electric lamps at night. Now the engineers will do the same for the entire perimeter, plus build lookout towers at intervals.

New access roads, showers and living quarters will be built for

Dong Ha Marines — another task for 11th Engineers.

Participating in the people-to-people program, the engineers provided doors and windows for Vietnamese military dependents' housing. They are donating materials and man hours, digging wells for some of the nearby Cam Lo village hamlets.

In the Marine compound, ten engineers operate a water purification plant with a daily capacity of 100,000 gallons of potable water.

Variety is the spice of life with the 11th Engineers. Just as their jobs are varied, so are the officers and men who perform them. Not all the officers are professional engineers. Most of the young Marines knew nothing about the equipment they now use before they joined the Marine Corps. Today they display professionalism in every aspect of their work from dawn to dusk—and sometimes longer.

Old timer

PHU BAI — Marine Gunnery Sergeant Paul A. Akers, former night manager for a hotel at Nags Head, N.C., following his retirement from the Corps in 1962, is now back with the Leathernecks as the 3rd Marine Division's Headquarters Battalion mess sergeant.

Akers moved to Kitty Hawk after 20 years service with the Marines from 1942 to 1962. During his "first tour" he participated in the Guadalcanal campaign in World War II, and was also with the Marines in Korea.

He said he was happy with his job and home at Kitty Hawk, but when the Corps asked for experienced volunteers to return to service for Vietnam, he "just had to answer the call."

The 46-year-old Marine said food served to the fighting men here is a far cry from the dried beans and "corned Willy," that he tried to disguise in World War II.

The Marines still have their favorite food though he said, "steak or roast beef. I guess in my career, I've prepared more than half a million pounds of steak," he added.

Akers recalls when he had to butcher wild cattle on Guadalcanal to provide the Marines with their choice.

"There's a big difference now. I'm preparing meals for 1,500 men three times a day. I have 16 cooks and bakers, 17 enlisted to assist and nine Vietnamese civilians to wash dishes. It's just not like things were in Korea or on the 'Canal,' he adds with a smile.

Akers is senior sergeant of his rank in the Marine Corps Food Service Field. He will remain on active duty for two years then return to his former job at Nags Head.

"It's not as if I were out in the battlefield with combat units," Akers said, "but I feel my job of fixing the best food available is important, so I'll stay as long as they need me."

SEA TIGER 9

Searching a junk

Marines of "C" Company, 1st Bn., Fourth Marines search a Vietnamese junk in Sa Huynh harbor for VC weapons during the first day of operation "Deckhouse VI".

Walk around hamlet nets one Viet Cong

By LCpl. R. M. Bayer

DA NANG—"We just wanted to take a little walk around the hamlet to see what it looked like and we ended up catching ourselves a Viet Cong."

That was how Private First Class Thorsan A. Dathan described how he and three other men of the 3rd Bn., First Marine Regiment apprehended a Viet Cong during Operation Stone.

Dathan and his three companions, Lance Corporal Richard B. Paugh, Private First Class Robert D. Seavey, and Private Jackie D. Centers, members of the Headquarters and Service Co. weapons platoon were with the command group in the hamlet of Ban Lang (2) on the morning of Feb. 16.

As the foursome moved through an area at the edge of the hamlet they noticed a man in one hut panic as they walked by.

"We entered the hut and the man indicated to us that his knee was hurt and he was trying to get his cane," said Dathan, "but we could tell by the eyes of the other people in the hut that something was wrong."

"I stripped the man's clothes off and he had insect bites all over his body just as many Viet Cong do," Dathan continued.

The tall, muscular Dathan had to carry the suspect back to the command post because the man refused to move.

"As we were walking back to the command post one of the guys behind me yelled, 'He's trying to get a grenade,' said Dathan. "I stopped him just as he was grabbing a hand grenade on my cartridge belt."

Red Cross

DONG HA — Marines in this area just south of the Demilitarized Zone are now being serviced by a permanent American Red Cross office, opened here yesterday.

Staffed by William Braye, the new office is a sub unit of the 3rd Marine Division Red Cross office at Phu Bai.

Braye formerly worked with Marines at the Staging Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

This left no doubt in the minds of the four Leathernecks that their prisoner was a Viet Cong.

Their suspicions were later confirmed by interrogation.

291 VC killed

DA NANG — Operation Stone, a First Marines operation ended Feb. 22 with 291 Viet Cong killed and 65 captured.

During the two phase, 11-day operation, the Marines, including units of the Fourth and Twenty-sixth Marine Regiments, destroyed a vast network of caves, tunnels, and bunkers on a Viet Cong island stronghold 12 miles south of Da Nang.

During phase one, a five-day sweep of the island, an area bounded by the Ky Lam River on the north and the Chiem Son River on the south, the Marines killed 61 Viet Cong and captured 11.

The second phase started on Feb. 18, when units of the 1st and 2nd Battalions struck two miles north of the island at La Huan, a village lying north of Vietnam Highway 4 and west of the north-south railroad track.

The Marines swooped into the area, where a large Viet Cong force was entrenched, by helicopter and amphibious tractor, throwing a four-sided cordon around the enemy.

Boxed in, they fought desperately and fiercely to break through the encircling Marines' lines.

Artillery, air strikes and mortar fire took a heavy toll of Viet Cong as the First Regiment Marines closed the sides of the box. Marine casualties were light.

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.



Bunker Buster

Cpl. Hebert Hollifield, 1st Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, prepares a charge of TNT to destroy a Viet Cong bunker discovered during Operation De Soto, 25 miles south of Quang Ngai. Combat engineers are working with elements of the Seventh Marines on the operation which began Jan. 26.

(Photo by Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

"Gold mining's" profitable for "K" Company Marines

By Sgt. T. D. Stephens

CHU LAI—It wasn't quite full light as Second Lieutenant Robert E. Bartman, started moving his platoon off Nui Dau hill about 27 miles south of Quang Ngai, Republic of Vietnam.

The unit, the second platoon of "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, was on its way to do a little "gold mining," the term used for searching out and blowing up enemy caves.

As the platoon neared their objective Bartman gave the word for the two security squads to move into their positions—one squad on each of two knolls overlooking a cave the platoon had spotted a few days before.

The third squad would drop into the valley and do the actual search and destroy.

Sniper fire was received by the security squads as they moved into their positions. The Marines immediately found cover and returned the fire, chasing the Viet Cong into the cane fields surrounding the base of the hill.

As soon as the firing had been stopped from the valley, Bartman gave the word for the search squad to start into the valley.

Corporals Darrell L. Rexrode, and Robert M. Waltz were selected to go into the cave.

The two Marines finally emerged from the tunnel about 150 feet from the point they had entered. The length of the tunnel was determined to be 228 feet and the search had taken almost four hours. Phone contact was maintained with the two Marines throughout the search.

As soon as the tunnel was cleared by the search team, a team of Marine Corps engineers attached to the platoon went into action. Using high explosives the team closed the cave and sealed it off from further enemy use.

As the search team finished looking over a second, shorter cave, the lieutenant gave the word to start home. The second cave was marked for further reconnaissance.

As the squad moved up the hill, intense sniper fire was again received from the cane fields. The Marines, using the cover afforded them by the large bould-

ers on the hill, quickly joined the two security squads in returning the fire. The Viet Cong broke off contact when artillery and mortar rounds started landing in the area.

The security squads were called in from their positions and the platoon began moving back over the long trail home.

Results of the day's activity were two Viet Cong killed and a tunnel complex destroyed — and many tired feet for the men of the second platoon.

First 1stSgt.

DA NANG — When "A" Battery, 1st Battalion, Thirteenth Marine Regiment was reformed April 1, 1966, First Sergeant Everett R. Ferrell, was the first member to report for duty.

It was just the beginning of "firsts" for Ferrell.

Soon after the artillery unit's deployment to Vietnam, Ferrell witnessed the first round being fired against the Viet Cong.

It was only natural then, that when the 20,000th round was fired by "A" Battery, Ferrell should be the man to pull the lanyard. It was fired at 9:40 p.m., Feb. 18, while the guns were in support of infantry units during Operation Stone.

Whether or not the round fired by Ferrell accounted for any of the 40 confirmed VC kills credited to the battalion during the operation, one thing is certain, he was the first sergeant major in the battery to fire a round.

Just a week prior to the first mission he was promoted to that rank.

Experienced

CHU LAI — A nine-year-old specialist in demolitions was fleeing the enemy with his parents.

The train on which they were traveling suddenly received a tremendous barrage of artillery and small arms fire, and the passengers were forced to flee.

Vietnam? No!

But the small boy, a Latvian refugee from the Russian occupation in 1944, is now here. He is Staff Sergeant Wilhelms Krafzigs, leader of the 1st platoon, "M" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

War experience came early to Krafzigs.

His father, a member of the Latvian underground, which operated from the woods outside the capital city of Riga, taught his son about demolitions and weapons almost before the boy could read, he said. Krafzigs' home during the German-Russian battles for control of Latvia was a bomb shelter in Riga.

"The weather in Latvia during those battles was a little different from Vietnam," he said. "It was so cold one winter that the Russians came charging across the ice in the harbor in tanks, sinking all the ships they could, and bombarding the city," he said.

Krafzigs eventually reached safety in Hamburg, Germany, attended school there for seven years, then emigrated to the U.S. in 1951.

He arrived in Vietnam last September, and has led his platoon through six combat operations.



In memory

A human chain loads cases of canned fruit into a trailer. "K" Co., 3d Bn., Fourth Marines received 141 cases of canned fruit from students and faculty members of Kansas State College, Pittsburg, Kansas. The cases were donated in memory of Pfc. Billy Laws, a machine gunner with the company, killed in action during operation Prairie.

(Photo by Sgt. K. B. McVeigh)



Thursday Night

EAST

Manhattan 87 Fordham 79
Stony Brook 84 Adelphi 77
St. John's 55 NYU 51
Union (N.Y.) Trinity 78
St. Francis (Pa.) 95 Duquesne 73
Pittsburgh 69 Carnegie Tech 55
Colgate 70 Boston U. 68

SOUTH

Oglethorpe 86 Chattanooga 78
J.C. Smith 70 Norfolk St. 66
N. Carolina A&T 85 Maryland St. 78
Howard 94 Va. Union 81
Virginia Tech 76 Virginia 60
Hamp-Sydney 81 Catholic U. 70
Winston Salem 114 Hampton 73

MIDWEST

Iowa St. 84 Oklahoma St. 71
Drake 62 Tulsa 59
Marquette 71 Detroit 64
Wichita St. 74 North Texas 73
Defiance 83 Adrian 71
Omaha 66 Doane 62
Wheaton 101 Elmhurst 85
Kan. Wesleyan 85 Ottawa (Kan.) 68

SOUTHWEST

TCU 96 Texas A&M 71
Baylor 68 Arkansas 55
SMU 92 Texas 83
Texas Tech 72 Rice 70

FAR WEST

Wyoming 64 Denver 62

TOURNAMENTS

Southern Conference

(1st Round)

Richmond 100 Citadel 98
Davidson 64 Furman 55
W. Virginia 82 E. Carolina 53
Wm. & Mary 76 Geo. Wash. 66

Mason-Dixon

(1st Round)

Bridgewater 70 Loyola (Md.) 66
Old Dominion 102 Baltimore U. 53
Mt. St. Mary's 82 Rand-Macon 68

Carolinas Tourney

(1st Round)

Appalachian 78 Catawba 67
Elon 80 W. Carolina 62

Ohio Conference

(1st Round)

Mount Union 79 Wooster 57
Bald-Wallace 58 Heidelberg 53
Kenyon 93 Hiram 85

Southern Division

Wittenberg 79 Ohio Wesleyan 57
Marietta 82 Capital 71

NAIA Playoffs

District 2

Ore. Education 85 Linfield 76

District 9

Okla. Bapt. 80 SW Okla. 63

District 18

Westminster 116 Cal. (Pa.) 78

Friday Night

EAST

Suffolk 84 Curry 66
Drew 80 N.Y. Maritime 60
Rochester Tech 111 Utica 93
Pratt 69 Bkln. Poly 54
St. John Fisher 76 Fredonia 56
Norwich 99 Clarkson 96

SOUTH

La. Tech 77 NE Louisiana 73
Auburn 99 Alabama 96
Bethany 108 John Carroll 89

MIDWEST

Cincinnati 79 Xavier (O.) 69
Bald-Wallace 94 Mt. Union 65
N. Mich. 87 Ill. St. U. 82
Carleton 63 Knox 57
St. Olaf 90 Monmouth 66
Ia. Cornell 64 Beloit 62
Grinnell 75 Coe 66

SOUTHWEST

Hardin-Simmons 113 Centenary 98
E. New Mex. 69 N. Arizona 67

FAR WEST

Colo. St. U. 62 Air Force 60
Brig. Young 110 Arizona St. 98
Utah 88 Arizona 72
UCLA 75 Stanford 47
California 77 USC 75
Gonzaga 71 Weber St. 67
Idaho 67 Idaho St. 59
Portland St. 108 Montana 99
San Fran. St. 91 Nevada 71
Humboldt St. 69 Sonoma St. 49
UC S. Barbara 100 St. Mary's 87
Sacramento St. 91 Hayward St. 82
U. of Pacific 75 San Jose St. 64
San Diego St. 90 Riverside 68
Cl. Mudd 79 Pasadena Coll. 60
Loyola 64 USF 63
Santa Clara 102 Pepperdine 79

TOURNAMENTS

Southern Conference

(Semifinal)

W. Virginia 82 Richmond 70
Davidson 78 Wm. & Mary 65

Carolinas Conference

(Semifinal)

Guilford 77 Lenoir Rhyne 70
Appalachian 89 Elon 82

Mason-Dixon Tourney

(Semifinal)

Bridgewater 74 Old Dominion 68
Mt. St. Mary's 87 Hamp. Sydney 70

Middle Atlantic Playoffs

(1st Round)

Temple 83 American U. 61
LaSalle 73 St. Joseph's (Pa.) 70

Ohio Conference

(Semifinals)

Wittenberg 91 Marietta 63

Southern Division

Northern Division

Kenyon 85 Oberlin 71

CIAA Tourney

(Semifinal)

Howard 71 J.C. Smith 58
N.C. A&T 105 W.-Salem St. 82

AIC Invitational

(Quarterfinal)

Henderson 86 John Brown 81
Arkansas A&M 93 Ouachita 87

NAIA Playoffs

District 4

St. Mary's (Tex.) 87 H. Payne 82

District 6

Albany St. (Ga.) 102 Stillman 94

District 21

Marian 75 Indiana Tech 74

District 27

SW Louisiana 100 Samford 82



Possible trouble

Captain E. T. Farrell, (left), 1st Marine Aircraft Wing forward air controller serving with 2nd Bn., Fifth Marines, discusses a possible trouble area that may require an air strike with Lt. Col. M. C. Jackson, (center), commanding officer of the battalion, and Maj. J. L. Cooper, executive officer.

(Photo by Sgt. James Boyd)

Operation De Soto has field mess hall

By Lt. C. B. Tyler

CHU LAI—"Recommended by Duncan Hines, or if it isn't it should be," according to the Leathernecks of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines.

They are talking about their field mess in the middle of Operation De Soto 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

The head chef (mess sergeant) is Gunnery Sergeant Melvin J. Everett, a retired Marine who volunteered to come back on active duty. The 42 year-old Wilmington, N.C. Leatherneck said, "We feed from 500-1200 men each meal, two meals a day. My 20 cooks and 12 messmen not only run the mess but also man machine guns and rifles and act as part of the reaction force if our perimeter is hit by VC attack."

He went on to say, "They're all fine professional Marines."

The field mess started operating on Feb. 6, just 10 days after Operation De Soto began. Fresh hot food is prepared for the Marines in the middle of this combat area.

The average breakfast will include fresh eggs to order, hot and dry cereal with milk, bacon

or sausage and fresh fruit.

The evening meal ranges from roast beef to grilled steaks to order with potatoes, vegetables and fresh cole slaw.

"Our mess is a great morale booster for the men coming in from the field after a combat patrol," states Maj. Francis P. White, 32 (York, Pa.), a battalion operations officer.

Ticklish

By LCpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI — Two Marines were almost "tickled to death" during Operation Chinook.

Lance Corporals Richard S. McKereghan and Melvin L. Smith of "I" Company, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, were manning a listening post about 25 miles northwest of Phu Bai.

"We were on a partly grassy plot interspersed with sandy areas. I sat down and felt something tickle my right calf," said McKereghan. "I looked down and there were the three prongs of a 'Bouncing Betty' mine detonator staring at me," he said.

The two Marines dug up the mine and called for engineers to remove it from the area.

Smith then moved to about 25 feet away to sit down.

"Between my legs was a small tuft of grass," Smith said. "I felt something tickle the inner side of my left leg. I immediately thought — another mine. Sure enough, there in that tuft of grass was the detonator of another 'Bouncing Betty.' I said a few rapid prayers right then," the 3rd Division Marine added.

Both McKereghan and Smith now are mighty careful where they sit down.

They're both mighty "ticklish" Marines; being so saved their lives.



Street without joy

Marines of "C" Co., Ninth Marine Regiment, cross a small bridge on the road made famous when the French fought the Viet Minh in 1953-54. The 3rd Marine Division unit is participating in Operation Chinook 12 miles northwest of Hue. (Photo by Sgt. T. F. Burch)

Fall history

DA NANG—Before the death of author and historian Dr. Bernard Fall recently in Vietnam, he was fond of asking Marines if they knew when the Corps first landed in Da Nang.

Most answers were more than 100 years from the correct date, Fall would point out.

While researching the ship's log of the USS Constitution, Fall learned that Marines not only landed here in May, 1845, but they "captured" the city of Da Nang and held it for four days.

In response to a call for help from the French Government, the Constitution's Marine detachment was ordered ashore by the ship's skipper, Navy Captain John "Mad Jack" Percival.

Their orders were to find and hold the political and religious leaders of Da Nang hostage until the Vietnamese emperor released a French bishop he was holding captive in Hue.

This they did—and from May 10-14, 1845, Da Nang was controlled by a small detachment of U.S. Marines.

Vero Beach church sends clothes

DONG HA — With deep solemnity the Montagnard children lined up in three ranks. At a nod from the village chief each child stepped forward and accepted an article of clothing from two large cardboard boxes in the center of the village square.

The clothing was a present from members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at Asbury Church in Vero Beach, Fla.

Lieutenant Richard H. Mullen, civil affairs officer for the Fourth Marines here, instigated the idea when he wrote to his aunt, Mrs. James H. Joines of Vero Beach, and asked her if she had any

clothing he might distribute to villagers for the forthcoming Vietnamese New Year (Tet).

Mrs. Joines presented the request to the Sunday School Council and it was decided to adopt the idea as a project for youngsters in the fellowship.

The church members spent four weeks collecting various articles of clothing ranging from full length coats to baseball caps and then raised enough money to ship four large parcels air mail to Vietnam in time to reach the children for Tet.

Lt. Mullen, also from Vero Beach, did the rest, distributing the clothing among the villages.

The Floridian has been regional civil affairs officer for three months.

In that time his projects have been varied. They include supervising road improvements, distributing medical supplies, soap, and clothing, painting Vietnamese houses and fixing several wells for the villagers.

Depending on the weather, Lt. Mullen and his staff go into the field at least three times a week.

"At times this job is frustrating but when you see a project finally completed or the look of gratitude on a villager's face, then one tends to forget some of the pitfalls," he said.

Ontos—a mean thing feared by Viet Cong

By Sgt. T. D. Stephens

CHU LAI—The Marine infantry was pinned down by heavy Viet Cong fire coming from a group of bunkers set in across the river. A call went out from the platoon commander—a call that has become common in the rice paddies of Vietnam—"Ontos Up!"

The lumbering nine and one half ton vehicle came quickly forward—and opened up on the bunkers with six 106mm recoilless rifles. As the shells exploded, dust and wood flew and the enemy rifles were silenced.

So far, this story is still in the writing. The above action may have happened but not to the Marines of the 3rd platoon of "B" Company, First Anti-Tank Battalion in support of the Third Battalion, Seventh Marines on Operation De Soto.

A first was recorded for the Ontos when the platoon moved 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City to Duc Pho, the site of Operation De Soto. The machines were carried in slings underneath one of the Marine Corps' largest helicopters, the CH-53 "Sea Stallion."

The Ontos (it means "Thing" in Greek) was adopted by the Marine Corps in 1957 as a tank-

killer. It is capable of speeds of almost 60 miles an hour but is governed to 30 mph for operational use.

Armament includes six 106mm recoilless rifles, four .50 caliber spotter rifles for zeroing in on a target, and a .30 caliber machine gun. The machine has a crew of three—a commander, driver, and a loader.

According to Staff Sergeant Donald R. Pridemore, platoon sergeant of the 3rd platoon, "the Ontos is working out fine in Vietnam."

"It's built primarily for use on solid ground as a tank killer, but it takes to the mud and water of the rice paddies real well," the sergeant said.



Help from above

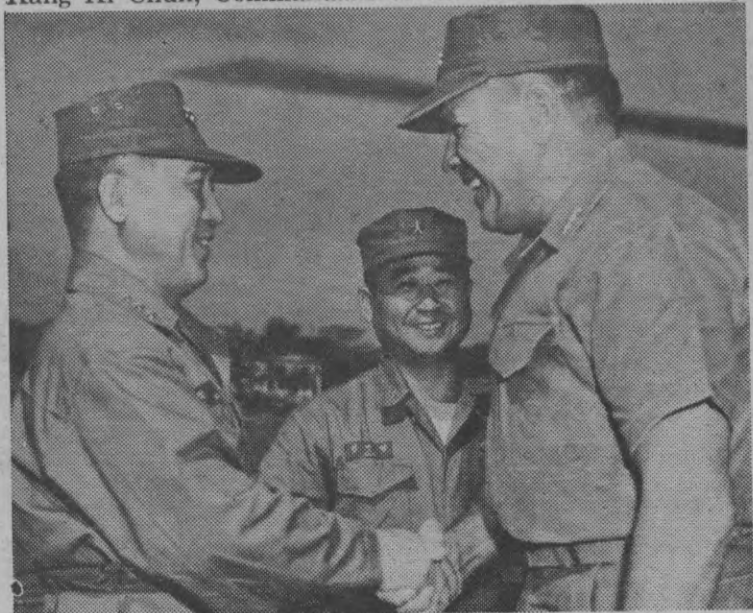
Marines of "D" Co., 1st Bn., Fourth Marines carry a Marine to a helicopter for evacuation to the hospital aboard the USS IWO JIMA. The Marine was hit by sniper fire while on patrol. The Marines are fighting in the vicinity of Sa Huynh as part of a Special Landing Force during Operation Deckhouse VI.

(Photo by SSgt. Thomas N. Bland, Jr.)

ROK Prime Minister visits, presents Gen. Walt Medals

During his visit to Vietnam in February, the Honorable Il Kwon Chung, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, presented LtGen. L. W. Walt, III Marine Amphibious Force commander, with "The Order of Military Merit Ulchi" and the "Second Degree Service Medal" for his service here.

The presentation was made at the headquarters of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade south of Chu Lai. In Vietnam and present for the ceremony was LtGen. Kang Ki Chun, Commandant of the Korean Marine Corps.



KMC ARRIVAL—LtGen. Kang Ki Chun, Commandant of the Korean Marine Corps, is greeted on his arrival at III Marine Amphibious Force headquarters here by LtGen. L. W. Walt, III MAF commander. BrigGen. Kim Yun Sang, commander of the 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade (Blue Dragon), accompanied Gen. Sang to Da Nang.

"In recognition of and appreciation for his outstanding and meritorious service to the cause of human freedom and peace, I take great pleasure, in accordance with the powers delegated to me by the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, in awarding the Order of Military Merit Ulchi to LtGen. Lewis W. Walt," stated the Prime Minister as he placed the medal around Gen. Walt's neck.

The citation accompanying the Ulchi medal read:

"He has exerted himself to safeguard the peace and security in Free Asia.

"He has not only provided the Republic of Korea Marine Brigade with immeasurable assistance, but he has also greatly assisted the Republic of Korea Marine Corps in accomplishing successfully many Viet Cong sweeping operations.

"His brilliant achievements, together with his personal devotion to the development of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps as well as for the betterment of amicable and fraternal relationships between our two countries have earned our deepest appreciation and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Marine Corps."

It was signed by Park Chung Hee, the President of the Republic of Korea.

Prior to the Chu Lai ceremony, Lt Gen. Kang Ki Chun visited III MAF headquarters where the 3rd Marine Division band and an honor guard rendered honors for the distinguished visitor.

During the ceremony, Gen. Chun presented plaques and letters of appreciation to Marine Major Generals H. Nickerson Jr., CG 1stMarDiv., L.B. Robertshaw, CG, 1stMAW, and W.B. Kyle, CG, 3rdMarDiv.

BrigGen. Kim Yun Sang, Blue Dragon Brigade commander, accompanied the Korean Commandant on his Da Nang visit.

Road mine

DA NANG — Accustomed to finding mines on the road to the First Marines, a mine-sweeping detail was slightly surprised when they found the body of a Viet Cong near a three-foot crater in the road.

Carefully probing further, the detail discovered a wood-encased mine in the road about 30 feet from the crater. Another mine and two grenades were found off the road near the dead guerrilla.

Indications are, the guerrilla was killed when the mine he was planting unexpectedly detonated.

Dedication

This issue of the SEA TIGER is dedicated to the memory of Gunnery Sergeant Byron G. Highland, combat photographer, 3d Marine Division and Dr. Bernard Fall. Highland was accompanying Fall when he was killed on the "Street Without Joy."



COMMENDED—Colonel Lee, Republic of Korea Marine Corps Advisor, admires the "Order of Military Merit Ulchi", and 2d Degree Service Medal worn by LtGen. L. W. Walt. The general also received several other awards. Walt was commended for his meritorious service to the cause of human freedom and peace and security in Free Asia and for immeasurable assistance to the ROK military in accomplishing successfully many VC sweeping operations. The Korean Prime Minister presented the awards on behalf of the President of the Republic of Korea.

1st Regt. cordons VC on "Operation Stone"

DA NANG—Hungry, frightened, the Viet Cong soldier crept out of a cave to face his adversaries. Facing him were the men of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines.

The VC, along with his battalion had been ferried off Go Ne Island, across the Ky Lam river 12 miles south of Da Nang—just ahead of a regiment of Marines.

"We didn't think the Marines would come off the island after us," the prisoner said. "Our battalion commander said it was safe."

Fresh from the four-day sweep of the island, the First Regiment Leathernecks had crossed the same river by rubber boat on the night of Feb. 18 on an operation called "Stone." It began Feb. 12 and ended Feb. 21.

Maintaining a complete blackout and silence the 1st Bn. poised for a daylight chase after the fleeing battalion.

While some of the Marines raced west and east of the objective area, "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, First Marines closed from the north. "D" Company was on the east and "B" and "C" companies fought their way up from the edge of the river.

The cordon was complete. The VC were trapped.

Four days later the Marines boarded helicopters after killing 291 Viet Cong. During four days the Marines fought a continuous battle with the VC battalion which was fighting desperately for its life.

The prisoner said a large number of men in his battalion were killed the first day.

"One of the officers told us to disperse and try to escape," he said. For four days the Viet Cong prisoner hid in the cave without food or water. Weak and thirsty, he surrendered to the Marines.

He said there were about 40

members of the battalion who were recruits.

"We were unarmed except for grenades. Most of us were confused because we had lost our leaders. We hid but the regulars continued to fight," he told an interrogation team.

New MAG-12 CO

CHU LAI — Colonel Baylor P. Gibson Jr., assumed command Feb. 16 of what he described as "the group that is making aviation history in this war."

During formal change of command ceremonies, Gibson received Marine Air Group-12's colors from outgoing group commander Colonel Jay W. Hubbard. Hubbard, who has commanded MAG-12 for the past seven months, assumed new duties as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, at 1st Marine Aircraft Headquarters in Da Nang.

VC attack—

(Continued From Page 1)

Most of the rockets landed in the village of Hoa Cuong, a Da Nang suburb, killing 32 Vietnamese civilians and wounding more than 60.

During the attack 11 Americans were killed and 33 injured. Four aircraft were lightly damaged.

The search for more launchers and rounds is being continued.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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FPO San Francisco, Calif 06602

TO:

Postage
3rd Class 8¢
Airmail 16¢
1st Class 10¢

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