



SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 16

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

April 21, 1967

Recon Lieutenant Wins Admiral Ricketts Award

Marine Second Lieutenant Clovis C. Coffman, Jr., currently serving as operations officer, First Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam, has been selected to receive the Admiral Claude V. Ricketts Award for Inspirational Leadership, according to the awards' sponsor, the Navy League of the United States.

The award, one of six given annually by the Navy League, will be presented to Lieutenant Coffman May 4 during the League's annual convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

This year, the first year for the Admiral Ricketts Award, the League's awards board decided to select both a Navy and Marine winner. The Navy award went to HM1 Richard L. Lewis, currently serving with Force Troops, Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California.

General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, First Marine Division (Reinforced) stated in his nomination letter to the Navy League, "Since April 1966

Lieutenant Coffman has been assigned duties which have required a sustained display of leadership, sound judgment and deep sense of responsibility. Although compelled to work under extremely adverse conditions, he has consistently displayed exceptional proficiency."

The nomination letter also cited the awarding of the Navy Cross to Lt. Coffman for heroic

action on October 10, 1966. He was awarded the medal for leading his 13-man reconnaissance patrol to safety after being attacked by an estimated 35-50 hard-core Viet Cong. The President of the United States personally decorated Lt. Coffman at Cam Ranh Bay, during his visit to Vietnam in late October 1966.

In addition to receiving the Navy Cross for his heroic action, Coffman was meritoriously promoted to First Sergeant by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was also commended in the letter of nomination for filling the billet of platoon commander after the officer who previously had served in that capacity was wounded in action. The loyalty shown him by his men and his previously demonstrated leadership potential led his commanding officer to retain him in that capacity. From July 21 to October 10, 1966, he led his platoon on more than 20 clandestine reconnaissance operations in the enemy's area of operations.

(Continued on Page Back)

Operation DeSoto Ends 383 Viet Cong Killed

CHU LAI—Operation De Soto which began Jan. 26, concluded at noon April 8.

The 73-day search and destroy operation accounted for 383 Viet Cong killed and 213 detainees in an area 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

De Soto began as the 1st Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, conducted a road reconnaissance below the Trau Cau river. The engineers were hit by an unknown number of VC and engaged the enemy in a seven-hour battle.

During the night of Jan. 26, Marines of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines were moved in, to support the engineers and the operation began.

As infantry companies began sweeping the nearby countryside, the battalion command post was dug into the base of Nui Dang hill.

The surrounding hills and low lands had been the scene of heavy guerrilla activity since the Viet Minh commenced operations against the French there many years ago.

The 3rd Battalion Marines immediately ran into heavy resistance as they moved against the concealed system of trenchlines and reinforced bunkers.

The Marines were helicopter supplied during the entire operation with supplies coming from the Logistical Support Area at Quang Ngai and from Navy LSTs offshore.

Medical personnel established a field hospital including a receiving area, X-ray unit, operating room and anesthesia equipment on the mountain, and added a mobile dental unit at the command post area during the fighting.

New Road

By LCpl. Larry Dalrymple

DONG HA, — Khe Sahn is high in the hills of South Vietnam, 10 miles east of the Lao-tian border and 15 miles south of the demilitarized zone.

Its location is strategic because it controls the DMZ infiltrating routes of North Vietnamese Army forces.

Until recently the base was isolated and the only resupply was by air. Bad weather often interfered.

Members of the 11th Engineer Battalion began construction of a road to connect the base with Dong Ha. Marines of "A" Company worked around the clock, repairing bridges and leveling ground for the new road.

Montagnard natives, trucked to the construction site, cleared brush from the proposed road while Marines stood security. In the evenings, the Montagnards loaded the wood they had cleared and took it to their villages.



FIRST AID—A wounded Marine (center) is given first aid by a Navy corpsman during a heavy firefight north of Tan An.

(Photo by: Sgt. J. L. Blick)



2nd Lt. Clovis C. Coffman, Jr., is shown receiving the Navy Cross from President Johnson, during the President's visit to Cam Ranh Bay last year. Coffman was cited for his actions during a Viet Cong ambush. The 35-year-old Marine has been selected to receive the Admiral Ricketts Award for Inspirational leadership by the Navy League.

Marine Millionaire Broke?

CHU LAI, — He's a Marine with a million dollars who had to turn down a rest and recuperation (R&R) trip to Bangkok, Thailand.

"I was flat broke as usual when my name came up to make the trip," explained Marine Sergeant Pat G. Kennedy, as he fumbled through his em-

pty billfold.

"See, not a cent! I'm the poorest millionaire going I guess, but I really don't care," said the 24-year-old Sioux Falls, South Dakotan presently serving with Marine Aircraft Group 12 at Chu Lai.

Kennedy, according to buddies, does not act like a millio-

naire. But, according to his lawyers back in the States, he is one — and then some.

Just last year Pat Kennedy paid Uncle Sam a whopping \$100,000 in taxes.

Why would a Marine sergeant have to pay more taxes during one year than he could earn in the service during the next 20? Simple, Pat had just inherited his million dollars and inheritance tax on that amount is steep.

When the young jet mechanic's aunt passed away two years ago Kennedy was one of five persons named in her will to share an estate which came to more than 12 million dollars.

The will was probated last year and Pat ended up, according to his lawyers, with at least one million — all in blue chip stocks and bonds.

"All that loot and I'm still poor as a church mouse," joked Kennedy, who has worked part time since joining the Marines three and a half years ago.

"I had to make ends meet as I've got a wife and a young son," he said. He drove a trailer-hauling truck during off-duty hours while stationed at the Marines Cherry Point (N.C.) Air Station.

"I've had the money for more than a year now, but I still can't touch a penny of it. It's in a trust fund until I'm 25-years-old," he said.

SEA TIGER

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Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force

Major General R. E. Cushman
Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force

Brigadier General Robert G. Owens
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force

Major General H. Nickerson, Jr.
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division

Major General Louis B. Robertshaw
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

Major General B. A. Hochmuth
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division

Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
Commanding General, Force Logistic Command

Force ISO
Editors
Asst. Editor

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

Circulation This Issue 36,000 Copies

Our Banner of Freedom

FOR generations, the American flag has been a symbol of liberty and has inspired men to great deeds and sacrifices.

On sandy beaches, along tangled hedgerows, high in the sky and on rough and rolling seas millions of men of divergent backgrounds have fought for this flag and nation.

Today the American flag and its message of freedom has been carried to the steaming jungles of another far-off land.

Amid the strife of battle and the tensions of our world it might



be well to reflect on the following words that call for respect and honor of the flag and the men who have died for it.

"Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states. Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American Faith my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions.

"Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men.

"So long as men love liberty more than life itself; so long as they treasure the priceless privileges bought with the blood of our forefathers; so long as the principles of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America." (AFNB)



DOWN MAIN STREET—Marine Corps A4E Skyhawk attack jet pilot Maj. Fred P. Anthony "walked" his bombs down a VC main street during a mission north of Phu Bai April 7. The 36-year-old pilot is executive officer of Marine Attack Squadron 121.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

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Note: Personnel should be aware of the possibility of being exploited or unwittingly contributing to hostile intelligence gathering efforts when engaging in pen-pal correspondence. "Be security conscious in all your correspondence. — Editor

New Legal Class Hosted By FLC

By: Sgt. D. L. Cellers

HOA KHANH—A 12-day course for legal clerks began April 3 at the Force Logistic Command (FLC) located 10 miles northwest of Da Nang.

Realizing the need for trained legal clerks in the III Marine Amphibious Force, the staff legal officers of major Marine commands in the I Corps area decided to sponsor the school, under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. LaROUCHE of Mylo, Maine, staff legal officer, FLC.

The necessity for a legal school has grown during the past year. "When the extra buildup of personnel came into the Marine Corps, it increased the court-martial load," stated Lieutenant Colonel LaROUCHE. "Also, in the past year, many veteran legal clerks were commissioned."

Comprised of students from the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions, FLC and the Naval Support Activity, the 12-day course requires seven hours of classroom instruction a day. Students are required to study at least 2½ hours each evening and the entire afternoon on Sunday.

Along with a background of the Military Judicial System, each phase concerning the duties of a legal clerk is covered in the school.

At the end of each week, a three hour examination is given to evaluate how well a student is progressing.

Twenty six instructors make up the faculty which comprised 13 officers, each with a background in military law and 13 staff non-commissioned officers, who have been trained at the Naval Justice School and have practiced as legal clerks.

The primary purpose of the school is to teach the Marines a basic law skill. The student must learn all aspects of court procedures and must be able, without hesitation, to find a law pertaining to a case when asked by a lawyer.

In many cases, after graduating from the school, the Marine will serve as legal advisor for his unit.

Upon graduating, each student receives a study guide, containing all phases of the Military Judicial System. When a Marine has a legal problem, the clerk can find it quickly in the guide and give the man a concise and thorough answer.

"I know this is the only school of this type in the I Corps area," said Lieutenant Colonel LaROUCHE, "and I believe it's the only one functioning in South Vietnam at the present," he added.

Unit Draws M-16 Rifles

By: LCpl. Gordon L. Fowler
CHU LAI — The Marines of Headquarters Company Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, began drawing their new M-16 rifles, April 2, and, simultaneously, classes were held to teach them how to fire and care for the new weapon.

The M-16 is a lightweight weapon of small caliber that can be fired both semi-automatically or fully automatically. Its construction is designed for light weight, easy handling and endurance. The M-16 has almost no recoil, but the velocity of the bullet it fires causes devastating damage to its target.

The main advantage of the M-16 over the previous Marine Corps service rifle, the M-14, is its light weight and non-corrosive type materials. Also, at least twice the amount of ammunition normally carried with the M-14 can be carried with the M-16 because of the size and weight of the ammo, giving the Marine a great boost in available fire-power.

Classes on the nomenclature of the M-16, operating procedures, functioning of the rifle and marksmanship were given to all personnel who received the weapon. After a morning and afternoon session in the class room, Marines went to the firing range at the Regimental Command Post and learned to fire the weapon in all of the regular firing positions and using both semi-automatic and automatic fire.

"The functioning of the new rifle is easy to learn — especially for Marines, who have already had extensive marksmanship training," said Gunnery Sergeant David L. Jones, instructor of the rifle class. "Most people find it a pleasure to shoot because of its light recoil and weight — a real improvement over the M-14," he continued.



Enemy Bunker

PFC Mike Spencer, of the Ninth Marines, checks a North Vietnamese Army bunker for enemy soldiers or equipment during a search and destroy mission south of the DMZ. (Photo by: LCPL. S. M. Lighty)

Peace Corps Once, Now Marine Corps

By: Pfc. Gordon L. Fowler

CHU LAI—Peace Corps, Marine Corps, they're much the same to Lance Corporal Roy H. Elsenbrook.

He's completed a tour with the Peace Corps and currently is working on one with the Marines.

Prior to his Corps assignment in the Civic Affairs Section, Seventh-Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, Elsenbrook spent two years in Pakistan as a peace corpsman.

While there, he worked in the rural public works program. His work included supervision of the building of the first cyclone shelter on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. Other projects ranged from digging irrigation canals to building Moslem prayer towers.

Following his Peace Corps tour Elsenbrook spent some time traveling, then returned to the United States and attended a missionary college in New York.

He learned of the Marines' civic action program in Vietnam, enlisted and volunteered for duty in Vietnam. Once in country, Elsenbrook applied for assignment with the Seventh Marine's civic action section.

"I feel the Marine Corps' civic action program was designed to accomplish much the same mission as the Peace Corps," Elsenbrook said.

"The war in Vietnam is a strange one," he said, "and civic action is one of the strange ways we must fight it. Victory over the communists cannot be attained by military means alone—we have to win these people's confidence and help them to help themselves."

Get shots before going on R&R

There have been several recent incidents of Marines going on R&R without prior immunization. All your shots must be up to date before going on R&R.

It is the responsibility of the individual Marine to have required shots before reporting to the R&R center. You could be subject to quarantine for the duration of your R&R—a sad way to spend a well-deserved rest.

Shot Down Twice

Marine Lieutenant Flies 500th Combat Mission

By: SSgt. Jack "W" Jansen

DA NANG—A 1st Division Marine, First Lieutenant Albert L. Selleck Jr., became the first Marine aerial observer to fly 500 combat missions in Vietnam, April 1.

He flew his first mission last July 19, and since has been forced down twice and wounded once. He has earned 25 Air Medals.

The first time Selleck was forced down was Nov. 10, the Marine Corps Anniversary. He was flying near the An Hoa complex, home of the 2d Battalion Fifth Marines, late in the afternoon when the plane was hit.

The pilot glided the small plane to a bumpy but safe landing on the air strip there.

"Any landing you can walk away from," Selleck said, "is a good one. The next time we were shot down we landed on a strip at Quang Ngai. We 'cart-wheeled' on the runway but again walked away unhurt."

Selleck calls the pilots he flies with "pro's."

"I wouldn't hesitate to fly with any of them," he said, and doesn't recall any "getting rattled."

Selleck claims the "most memorable" trip came during Operation Colorado.

"We had been told by intelligence that an influx of Viet Cong was slipping into the area of the upcoming operation. I was the first observer airborne that morning and as soon as we got in the area I spotted some 80 boats crossing the river," he said.

Selleck radioed to the jets "on-station" and marked the target. As a result, over 70 of the boats were destroyed.

Later, the same day, he was instrumental in the destruction of a Viet Cong supply column he spotted moving into the same area.

Selleck is also credited with finding the rocket launchers used by the Viet Cong in their attempt to destroy the Da Nang airfield last month.

Following the attack, he spotted what appeared to be footprints leading to a river's edge. Radioing the information to ground troops in the area, Selleck said they followed the trail and discovered the launchers thrown in the river.

"We never know just how important a sighting we make is," he said. "We radio information to intelligence and then it is their baby to come up with the answers on the importance of our find."

He said the Viet Cong have finally come to realize that the

aerial observers are the source of their troubles from the jet aircraft.

"It has gotten to the point where we draw fire from the enemy on the ground at least 25 per cent of the time, and it is getting progressively worse," he said.

"Operation Porkchop"

Now in Full Swing

By: MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—Four hundred pounds of pig is more than a lot of pork. It's the goal of a Marine tank battalion civic action program designed to help Vietnamese farmers help themselves in forming a "capitalistic" system of improving their village's economy.

Called "Operation Porkchop," the project was launched with 14 Yorkshire piglets and the dedication of a

Marines, was the climax of a four month program to introduce self-sufficient profit making programs in the hamlet.

The initial group of Yorkshire piglets, first of a planned 100, raced around their spanking clean compound and browsed in the new pens while dedicatory speeches were made by the Marines and Vietnamese.

For First Lieutenant Willard F. Lochridge, the 1st Tank's civil affairs officer, the dedication was his last official act before a leave in the United States and a return to new duties with the III Marine Amphibious Force.

He thanked the villagers for their initiative and cooperation during the ceremonies.



Field Post Exchange

Vietnamese children hawk their wares of candy, cookies and soda pop to Marines of Ninth Marine Regiment, crossing the Cam Lo River south of the DMZ. The Marines are participating in a search and destroy mission during Operation Prairie III.

(Photo by: LCPL. B. C. Torbush)



Helping Hand

Marines of "H" Co., 2nd Bn., Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st MarDiv., help a Vietnamese family carry their possessions during an operation. During the three-day operation, Marines aided more than 1,200 refugees fleeing from the Viet Cong about 10 miles south of Chu Lai. (Photo by: Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

Sea Tiger Spotlight On

VMO-6 Huey Helicopters

By: LCpl. Woody Price

CHU LAI—The unit's official designation is Marine Observation Squadron 6, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, but enemy forces in Vietnam can testify that its UH1E helicopters are more than just "observation" aircraft.

Since its arrival in Vietnam in September, 1965, the Ky Ha-based squadron has flown more than 10,000 combat missions, totaling more than 21,000 hours in flight.

The squadron's Huey gunships have carried out more than 180 medical evacuations, and flown as armed escort for UH34 and CH46 helicopters on almost 3,500 such missions.

More than four million rounds of machinegun ammunition and 40,000 rockets have been fired by the Hueys, while providing escort for helicopter troplifts, medical evacuations, and resupply missions, in addition to serving as aerial observers for U.S. and allied forces.

One of the most important missions flown by VMO-6 aircraft is Tactical Air Controller, Airborne. It involves coordinating and controlling jet close air support attacks against enemy troops and positions.

The Huey pilot may sight the target himself, or it may be reported by reconnaissance teams, other aerial observers, or ground forces in the area.

Once a target is sighted, the information is relayed to the Direct Air Support Center, and jet aircraft are assigned the attack mission. If a Huey is near the target area the pilot may be assigned as TACA for the mission, or helicopters may be "scrambled" from Ky Ha.

The DASC gives the pilot a radio frequency to contact the ACA. The pilot then informs the VMO 6 controller of the quantity and type of ordnance he is carrying.

The controller informs the jet pilot of the target location, enemy weapons positions, and the best approach and departure pattern to employ. He usually marks the target with a colored smoke grenade and watches the impact during the jet's first run on the target. He then advises the pilot whether he is on target, or whether he should alter his next run.

During a jet bombing mission the TACA is responsible for insuring that nearby aircraft stay clear of the target area, and that artillery and naval gunfire don't interfere with the mission of the attack aircraft.

During the past 18 months the squadron's aircraft have participated in 28 major operations

in Vietnam, including Harvest Moon, Double Eagle, Hastings, Colorado and Independence.

Reports confirm that 664 of the enemy have been killed by the guns and rockets of Hueys, with extensive damage to enemy structures and fortified positions.

The Hueys are normally

armed with two rocket pods of seven rockets each, and six M-60 machineguns. Two guns are externally mounted on each side of the aircraft, while the crew-chief and aerial gunner each man a machinegun from inside the helicopter. The rocket pods are mounted externally on each side.



Wading

Marines of the Ninth Marine Regiment, move through a stream in search of North Vietnamese Army troops south of the DMZ during Operation Prairie III. (Photo by: LCPL. B. C. Torbush)

World of Sports

Hockey Playoffs

Compiled From Wire Services

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Stanley Cup Playoffs (Best-of-7 Semifinals)

W L Pet.

Toronto 3 2 .600

Chicago 2 3 .400

*Montreal 4 0 1.000

New York 0 4 .000

*—Won series.

* * *

Saturday

Toronto 2 0 2—4

Chicago 2 0 0—2

* * *

Sunday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Calder Cup Playoffs

Friday Night

(Quarterfinals)

Baltimore 5 Quebec 4

(Baltimore wins best-of-5 series

3-2)

* * *

Saturday

(Semifinals)

Hershey at Pittsburgh.

(Pittsburgh leads best-of-7 series

3-1)

* * *

Sunday

(Semifinals)

Baltimore at Rochester.

(1st game of best-of-5 series).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Finals)

Friday Night

(Overtime)

Oklahoma City 3 Omaha 2

(Oklahoma City leads best-of-7

series 1-0)

* * *

Saturday

Oklahoma City at Omaha.

* * *

Sunday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Semifinals)

Friday Night

California 4 Seattle 3

(Seattle leads best-of-7 series 3-2)

* * *

Saturday

California at Seattle.

* * *

Sunday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

INT'L. HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Finals)

Friday Night

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Saturday

Fort Wayne at Toledo.

(Toledo leads best-of-7 series 2-1)

* * *

Sunday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Stanley Cup Playoffs (Best-of-7 Semifinals)

W L Pet.

Toronto 3 2 .600

Chicago 2 3 .400

*Montreal 4 0 1.000

New York 0 4 .000

*—Won series.

* * *

Sunday Night

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Calder Cup Playoffs

(Semifinals)

Sunday Night

(3 Overtimes)

Rochester 4 Baltimore 3

(Rochester leads best-of-5 series

1-0)

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Tuesday

Baltimore at Rochester.

* * *

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Finals)

Sunday Night

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Tuesday

Chicago at Toronto.

* * *

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Finals)

Sunday Night

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Tuesday

Omaha at Oklahoma City.

(Best-of-7 series tied 1-1)

* * *

Wednesday

Omaha at Oklahoma City.

(Best-of-7 series tied 1-1)

* * *

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Semifinals)

Sunday Night

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Monday

(No games scheduled).

* * *

Tuesday

Baltimore at Rochester.

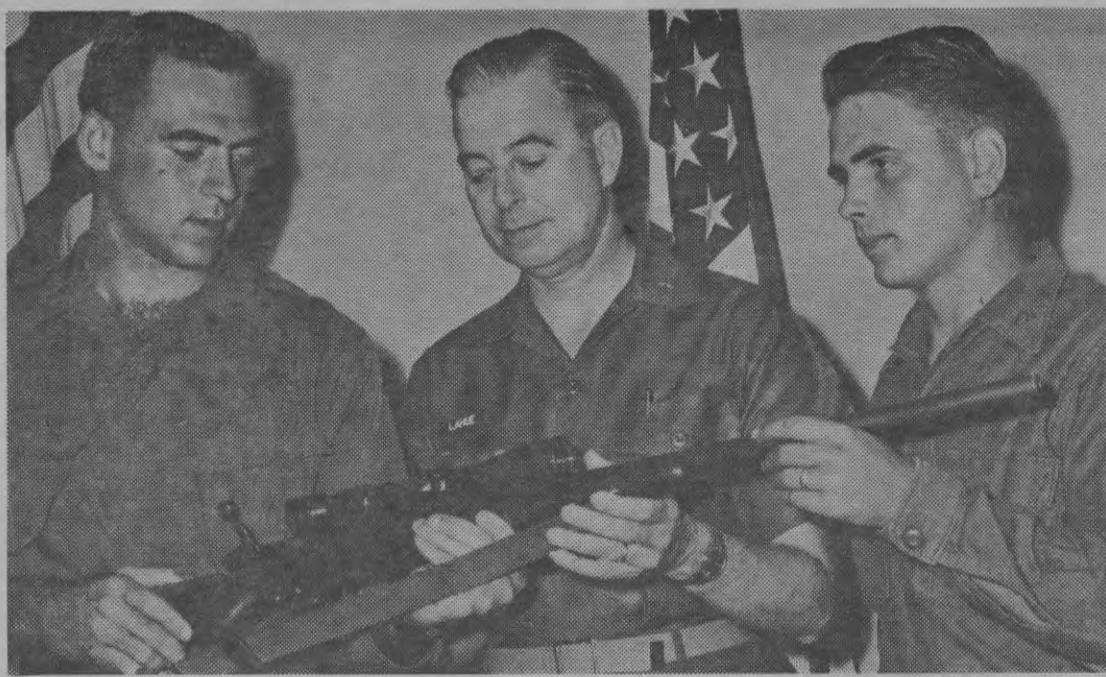
* * *

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Finals)

Sunday Night

(No games scheduled).



This is the one

Lance Corporals Thomas D. Ferran (left) and Edward F. Poole (right), show Brigadier General Foster C. LaHue, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, the sniper rifle used to kill five Viet Cong in a two week period during Operation DeSoto, 50 miles south of Chu Lai. The sniper team from Sniper platoon, Headquarters Company, Seventh Marines, was credited with 12 other VC killed by artillery they called in on the enemy moving across an open area. Both were meritoriously promoted to their present ranks for their actions.

Young Minister Now Serving With Third Marine Regiment

By: Sgt. Dan Wisniewski

DONG HA—A young Marine, and minister, who sometimes gives sermons by field radio to fighting troops, is serving here with the Third Marine Regiment.

"I was just a finger-snapping kid, enjoying life and having fun like any other American teenager. Then, one day, I suddenly found myself concerned with God," said Corporal Richard V. Gentry of Little Rock, Ark., an ordained Baptist minister.

His teenage concern for God has led him to the Church, deaconship, license to preach the Gospel, and finally, ordination to the ministry. He is currently serving as the

very short. Five days after he joined the company he was wounded by a Viet Cong grenade.

"We were walking to an ambush site and it was very dark out," Gentry recalls, "when I heard the spoon from the grenade. I think I hollered 'booby-trap', and I tried to get out of the way."

"Then there was a loud explosion and a bright flash. I felt a burning pain in my foot and hip. I was about the seventh man in the column, and I think the fourth or fifth man hit the booby-trap."

About 15 minutes later a helicopter picked him up and flew him to the aid station at Da Nang.

Gentry was evacuated to a hospital in the Philippines and

later spent about six weeks in Japan for further medical treatment. He rejoined the Third Regiment and was assigned as chaplain's assistant.

He is 25 now, a soft spoken man with an athlete's build. He is due to return to the U.S. in August and hopes to continue offering spiritual help to his Marine comrades until his discharge in January, 1968.

"I'd like to attend an accredited Bible school, and later buy some land to open a boy's club. It will be a place where boys, 11 to 16, could attend and I could guide them mentally and spiritually. If it does nothing else, I hope it will make them a credit to our country," he said.

His wife, Viola, in Little Rock, shares her husband's ambitions.

New Jet Squadron Arrives In Vietnam

CHU LAI—A second A-6A Intruder jet aircraft squadron has joined Marine Aircraft Group-12 of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam.

The Intruders of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron-533 landed at Chu Lai April 1, completing a trans-Pacific flight that originated at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. on March 21.

The flights touched down approximately 30 minutes apart, arriving from the Naval Air Station, Cubi Point, Philippines for the last leg of their journey.

The first flight, under the command of Major Paul R. Jones arrived at 11:20 a.m., and was greeted by Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and Colonel Baylor P. Gibson, Jr., commanding officer of MAG-12.

"I believed it was God's will for me to serve my country," he said, "and I asked no special consideration for my ministerial background."

After Marine recruit training at San Diego, Calif., and advanced training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., he was transferred to Vietnam. He was assigned to "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, Third Marines, as a machine-gunner, but his stay was to be

Leutenant Colonel William P.

'Ripley's Raiders' Rout NVA Force

By: LCpl. Larry Dalrymple

DONG HA—"Ripley's Raiders" were born without Ripley knowing about it—believe it or not.

Captain John W. Ripley, commanding officer of "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Third Marines, was leading his men on a sweep and destroy mission about 15 miles northwest of here when they were hit by intense enemy mortar, machine gun and small arms fire.

Ripley led his men across an open field raked by heavy machine gun fire and mortars.

At the base of the hill, the word was given to fix bayonets and the company of Marines assaulted the hill.

"We screamed and yelled at the top of our lungs," said Corporal Charles Coggins. "It not only scared the enemy half out of their boots but it gave us a little more confidence," he said.

Coggins had assumed command of the 1st platoon of "L" Company earlier that day when his platoon commander and platoon sergeant were killed during a mortar attack.

"When we got to the center of the base we were a little stunned to find it was such a large camp," said Coggins. "The NVA had fled from the other side of the hill leaving a large portion of their gear behind," he added.

Later that day, the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines reported contact with the fleeing NVA force. They raked the enemy with heavy artillery and small arms fire killing more than 250 before the NVA could reach the demilitarized zone.

Peanut Butter

DONG HA—A Marine fighting the North Vietnamese Army south of the demilitarized zone had to be issued another supply of C-rations after being shot at.

Corporal R. W. Gammons, "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Fourth Marines was fighting in Operation Beacon Hill when an NVA soldier fired point-blank at him.

The bullet hit the shovel strapped on his pack, ricocheted into it and hit a C-ration can. The round destroyed the powdered cocoa and ended up stuck in the small can of peanut butter, ruining his meal.

"Meanwhile "L" Company searched the base camp's bunkers and tunnels, and found nine semi-automatic weapons, three machine guns, 60mm mortars and ammunition, 30 grenades and assorted demolitions equipment. The NVA force had also discarded 54 packs during its hasty retreat.

VC vs VC

PHU BAI—If it had happened only once, "F" Company, Ninth Regiment Marines probably would have dismissed it as just a quirk. But when it happened again, the Marines began to wonder about the efficiency of their enemy.

Two Viet Cong fighting units ambushed each other during night patrols.

In late March, "F" Co. witnessed the occurrence which happens all too infrequently—as far as Marines are concerned.

"I've been in Vietnam eight months but this is the first time I'd seen something like this," said Gunnery Sergeant Wilmer C. Waldrop. "Usually when 'Charlie' sets an ambush, he pretty well knows what he's doing, but this time he evidently didn't."

"F" Company was in position one evening during Operation Chinook II when sharp fighting broke out 1,000 meters away.

"It had to be the VC. We figure one VC unit ambushed another," Waldrop said, adding, "They were really going at it, about 700 to 1,000 small arms rounds and 15 to 20 hand grenades."

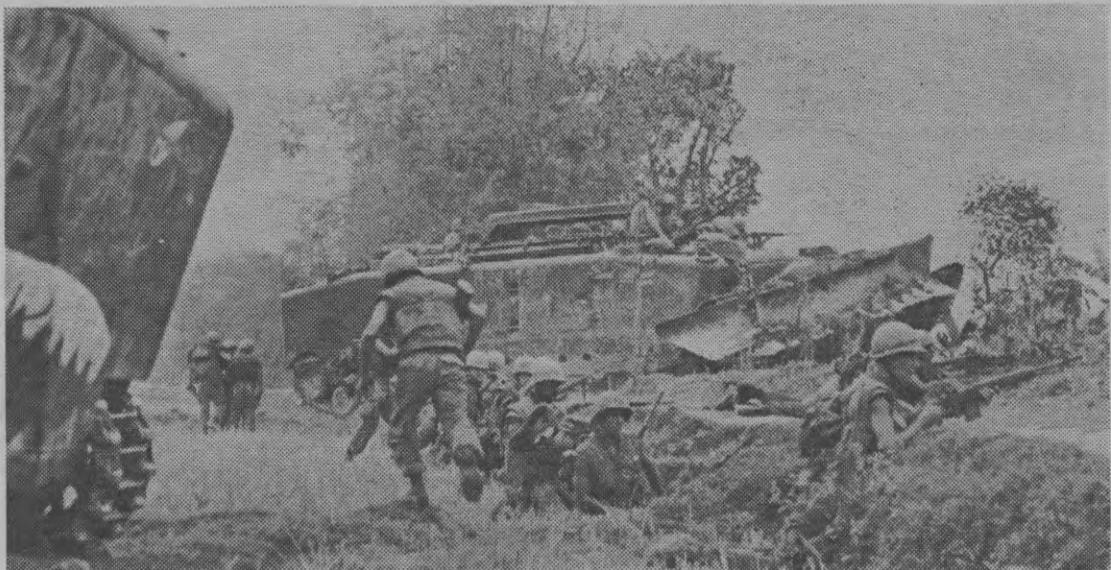
Before daylight the next morning another fire fight erupted in about the same area. In that fight, about 250 small arms rounds and 10 grenades were expended.



Welcome Aboard

MajGen. Louis B. Robertshaw, left, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, welcomes Major Paul R. Jones to Chu Lai. Jones was the first A-6A Intruder pilot of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron-533 to complete the unit's trans-Pacific flight from Cherry Point, N.C.

FROM THE CANAL TO VI



Making Enemy Contact



A Watch From The Hill



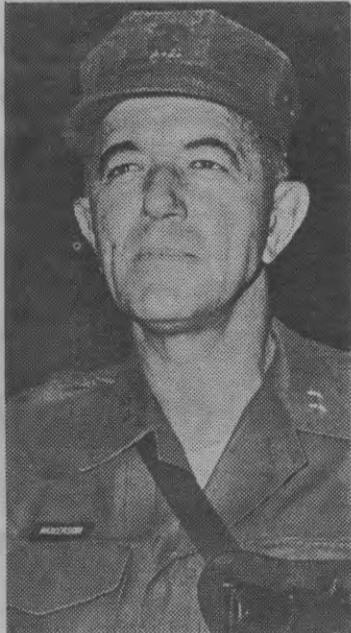
HitchHiking-Marine Style

DA NANG — March 29 marked the end of the first year in Vietnam for the Marine Corps' oldest and most decorated large size fighting force, the 1st Marine Division.

On that date the "fighting first" was wholly committed to a combat zone for the first time since the Korean Conflict.

Leathernecks of the Division's Seventh Marine Regiment entered the counter-guerrilla operations during the fall of 1965, paving the way for the arrival of the might of the division.

During the lapse between their arrival and the land-



CG

ing of the rest of the "First," the 7th Marine's garnered headlines throughout the world for its exploits in Operations Starlight, Piranha, Harvest Moon, Utah and Texas.

When the bulk of the 1st Division arrived at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, they entered the war under the command of Maj. Gen. Lewis J. Fields. The Marines undertook a four fold mission when they settled down to business here.

Within their tactical area of responsibility they assumed the defense of air bases and all vital areas; undertook the defeat of the enemy forces; destruction of guerrilla forces and their cadre, and established a vigorous civic action program.

During this first year Leathernecks of the 1st Division have participated in 76 "named" operations and accounted for more than 7,600 enemy kills and captured more than 750 of the enemy.

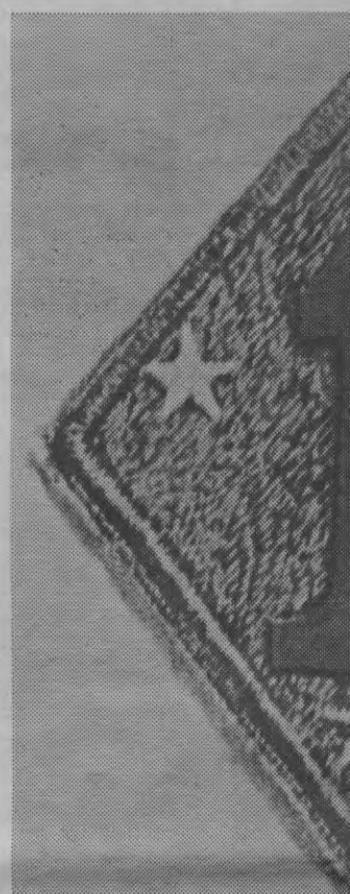
Thirty-one of the operations were conducted while Major General Fields held command of the Division.

At a change of command ceremony at Chu Lai, Oct. 1, the Leathernecks of the "fighting first" saw the reins of the division turned over to Major General H. Nickerson, Jr.

Eleven days later, October 12, the Division split

leaving a subordinate unit, Task Force X-Ray, in command of the Chu Lai area bases. Brigadier General William A. Stiles, Assistant Division commander assumed command of the Chu Lai defensive forces. He was replaced March 24 by Brigadier General Foster Carr LaHue.

Division headquarters



Rocky Riv

VNAM — THEY FOLLOWED

MOVED its base of operations to DaNang bringing along several supporting units. Other elements of the Division had already moved north, replacing units of the 3rd Division which was moving further north.

Within the Division's area of responsibility there are over 870,500 Vietnamese civilians. The Marines

of the "fighting first," realizing that there are two ways to defeat the Viet Cong, killing them and winning their hearts and minds to the legitimate government of South Vietnam, (in that order) have conducted an active civic action program since their arrival here.

Leathernecks have built more than 15 dispensaries, dug over 120 wells and have constructed major roads near Chu Lai and Da Nang. More than 500,000 medical treatments have been administered to the local population and dental clinics have performed more than 25,000 treatments. Approximately 7,000 Vietnamese have attended English language classes organized by the 1st Marine



A/CG

Division. More than 245,000,000 propaganda pamphlets have been distributed.

Construction of the Dickey Chapelle Memorial Dispensary in Chu Lai—New Life hamlet is a major effort to provide for continuing medical attention to the people of that area.

The civic action programs continually emphasize education of the populace in sanitation and applicable technology.

Within the Tactical Area Of Responsibility and for several miles beyond its boundaries, combat operations, "county fairs" and "golden fleece" type rice harvests protected by Marines are conducted frequently by units of the 1st Marine Division.

Over 1700 1st Division Leathernecks have been recommended for personal decorations for combat heroism and achievement. Three have been recommended for the Nations highest award, the Medal of Honor; 23 for the Navy Cross; 157 for the Silver Star; 60 for the Legion of Merit and 602 for the Bronze Star. In addition over 5,000 of the Marines have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal.



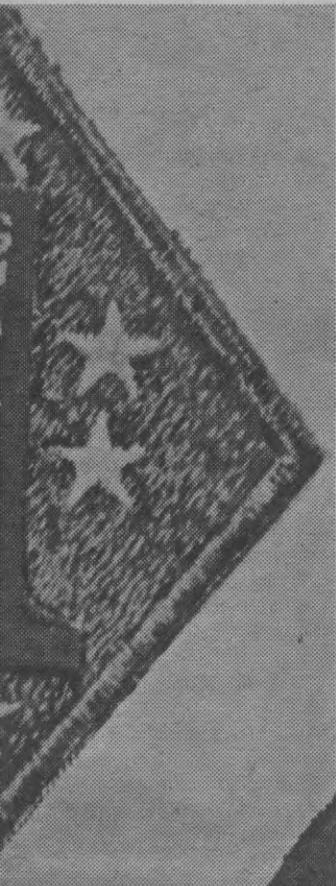
Our Wounded Get Help



Heading For Home



Big Shot For Charley



Crossing



First aid

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Stephen Bayes serving with 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines, treats a cut on a Vietnamese child's chest during a county fair operation.

(Photo by: Cpl. John J. Williams)

Air, Naval, Artillery Fire

'Bird Dogs' Triple Threat

By: LCpl. C. W. Giesler

DONG HA—Uncovering the riddle of enemy and terrain has been the commander's problem since the first recorded military battle.

Reconnaissance and surveillance are his weapons in this constant struggle. Since the introduction of the airplane, military men have added a new dimension to the technique of reconnaissance, and aerial observation has developed into an invaluable means to solve this riddle.

Aerial observation at the Marine Division level embodies a team of pilots and observers, armed not with a rifle, but with the facilities for providing for the accomplishment of the mission of aerial observation.

The Marine "Bird Dogs," as they are called, are the only division level organization to have at their fingertips the triple-threat of air, naval, and artillery fire. Within minutes after an observation, they can co-ordinate and control the triple-threat to accomplish their mission.

The aerial observer's job is to support the ground troops. He is capable of gathering information not ordinarily available from normal ground sources. From his bird's-eye view, the Bird Dog can gather information concerning the terrain, and through the tools of aerial photography he can bring the big picture back to base for evaluation and analysis.

The aerial photographs are used to supplement the operational information of friendly forces. These pictures tell where rivers have dried, where enemy fortifications have been built, where tanks or vehicles are located; and the many facts which may help complete the war puzzle in Vietnam.

Flying long tedious hours, the Marine Bird Dogs continually search the mountains, jungles, and rice paddies looking for any indication of the enemy.

Since August, 1965 the 3rd Marine Division observer-pilot teams have flown more than 1,300 combat missions, which represents 2,697 hours in the air. In their job of gunfire spotting they had 511 air strikes, 195 artillery strikes and 10 naval gunfire missions. These missions accounted for a total of 819 enemy kills.

Marines in the field are well

aware of the effectiveness of aerial observation, and almost daily the enemy learns a lesson—much to his chagrin.

"Be aggressive, and be right!" says Captain C. J. Goode, senior aerial observer

for the 3rd Marine Division forward, as he greets each man new to his command. He expects his men to keep alert and aggressively probe for the enemy, and he expects them to be right in handling each sighting.



Little Refugee

A Marine from "H" Co., 2nd Bn., Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st MarDiv., comforts a small child 10 miles south of Chu Lai. The Vietnamese youngster was one of the more than 1,200 refugees given safe conduct from Viet Cong-infested areas during a three-day operation.

(Photo by: Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

Short Rounds

Air Traffic

CHU LAI — Supply aircraft from ships at sea and Quang Ngai fly in and out of the area; "Huey" gunships strafe nearby hills and valleys; Marine fixed wing jets make bomb runs over the ridgelines; artillery, naval gunfire and mortars whiz through the air; resupply and medevac helicopters fly over; and "bird dog" aircraft slowly circles looking for targets.

It's a "mild" congestion, like New Year's Eve on Times Square, in the skies above Nui Dang.

But each go their separate way because of Captain Robert J. Weisel, and his officers and men of the Nui Dang Direct Air Support Center.

This small group, from Marine Air Support Squadron-3, control the air traffic in the skyways to avoid two objects trying to use the same air space at the same time.

To do so, DASC maintains contact with all aerial traffic and keep tabs on artillery, mortar, and naval gunfire in the area.

The team is housed in "the little green igloo," a prefabricated dome-shaped building.

Tank Targets

PHU BAI—Five M48A3 tanks from "C" Company, 3rd Tank Battalion, are proving their use in combat is not restricted to perimeter defense or sweep operations with infantry troops.

The tanks are supporting units of the Twenty-Sixth Marines engaged in denying the Viet Cong access to the rich rice-lands 25 miles northwest of here.

Gunnery Sergeant Terrill A. Normand said, "We've built dirt ramps for the tanks to gain better elevation for their 90mm guns. Ramped up like this we can deliver direct fire on targets which can't be reached by the 105mm and 155mm howitzers to our rear."

Targets for the tank's guns include enemy fortifications, troop concentrations or supply routes. They also fire in support of infantry companies or reconnaissance patrols searching out Viet Cong strongholds in the hills.

During an eight-day period early this month, the tanks fired 511 rounds of 90mm ammunition at 238 targets.

Quick Action

CHU LAI—Quick action by a Marine Observation Squadron-6 Huey gunship crewchief and a squadron avionics electrician enabled a "disabled" Huey helicopter to continue on a reconnaissance insertion mission near Duc Phu.

The UH-1E helicopter, flown by Major Edward J. Sample, and First Lieutenant Jon R. Boster, Colo., had been "downed" due to engine difficulties.

Following a warning flash on the pilots' instrument panel, the Huey crewchief, Corporal Max R. Nickerson, began a detailed inspection.

Before returning to Ky Ha from Chu Lai, Sample radioed ahead and requested a maintenance department check of the plane on arrival.

Corporal Edward J. Di Orio, an avionics electrician, found a tiny sliver of metal wedged into one of the chopper's avionics components after the helicopter's arrival at Ky Ha.

The plane's crew were on

their way in minutes to team up with another VMO-6 helicopter already on the scene some 20 miles away as Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262 Sea Knights off-loaded reconnaissance Marines in a rice paddy.

Witch Doctor

DONG HA—The cry "corpsman up" is not heard in the areas being swept by the 1st Bn., Ninth Marine Regiment. Because the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) has learned some key words in English, the call is now for the "witch doctor."

Hospitalman Third Class Fred Tessier is the "witch doctor" for the 3rd platoon of "C" Company. A few days ago the platoon was on a sweep when it was hit by small arms fire from a village.

"Witch doctor up," came the call and Tessier rushed forward to aid a wounded Marine. Just as he started to apply the battle dressings, two grenades came flying out of the hedgerows in front of him.

The explosion knocked him out momentarily. Regaining his senses, he spotted an NVA soldier about to throw another grenade. Tessier leaped up, ran to the man and engaged him in a wrestling match until a rifleman came to his aid and shot the enemy trooper.

Mules

CHU LAI—They are "mules." They work hard on very little "food." And, after 200 hours of operation, they are supposed to be deadlined for an overhaul.

At least that is what the repair manual says, according to Staff Sergeant Clinton R. Watters, NCO in charge of the motor transport section of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray. Watters says that each of the 22 "mechanical mules" assigned to his care has close to or over 600 hours of operation since last overhauled.

Watters, on his second Vietnam tour, runs his section with a crew of three mechanics and three drivers, one of whom is at the field hospital at all times. His shop is a tent and his motor pool covers about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land.

At night the mechanics and drivers not on duty help to man the perimeter of the battalion Command Post. They are also a part of the immediate reaction force maintained on Operation De Soto, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

The Lesson

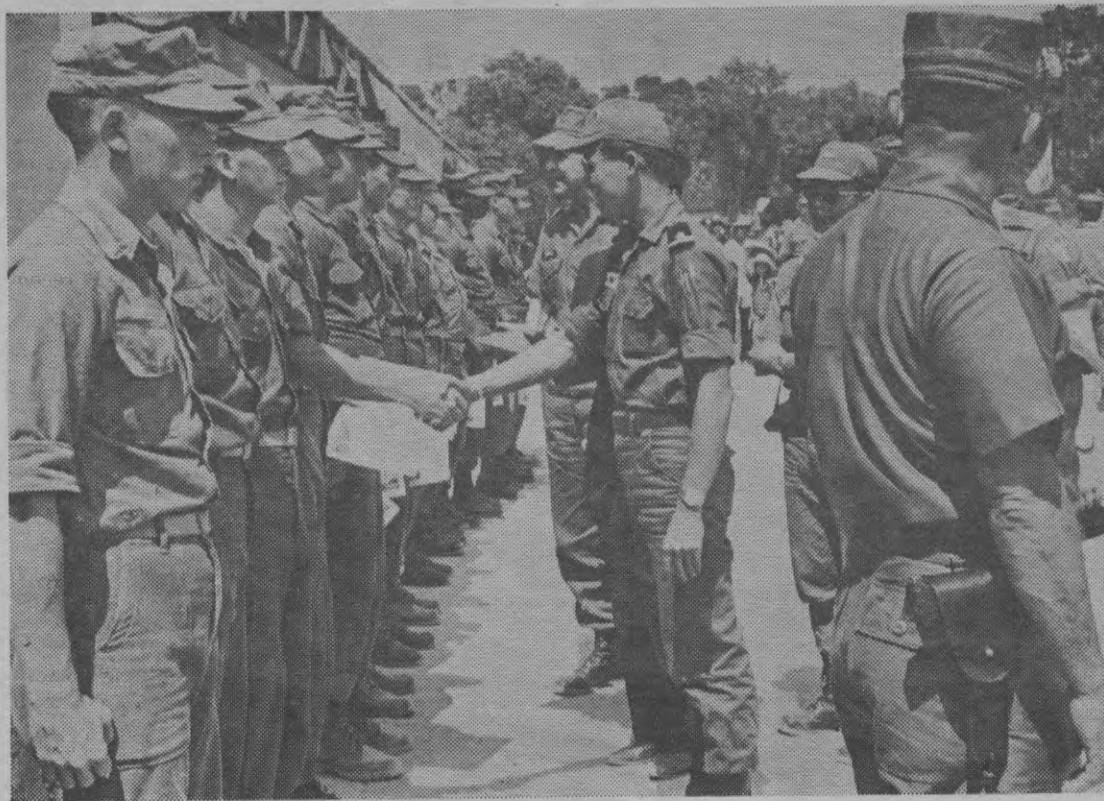
DA NANG—Two Marine Crusader jets and a Marine O-1C observation plane taught the Viet Cong a lesson he is not likely to forget, accounting for ten enemy killed.

The action began when the observation plane, searching for enemy activity, received intense sniper fire from an enemy-occupied village ten miles south of Da Nang.

The O-1C called in two Crusaders from Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron-235.

Moments later, flames engulfed the enemy positions and surrounding tree lines that had concealed enemy snipers.

The Crusaders accomplished the mission with two tons of ordnance and more than 700 rounds of 20mm cannon fire.



Vietnamese Certificates of Appreciation

Maj. Xuan Hau, Hoa Vang district chief, presents Vietnamese Certificates of Appreciation to Marines of Headquarters and Service Bn., 1st Force Service Regiment, Force Logistic Command, for their efforts in constructing the Von Hoa High School, located 14 miles northwest of Da Nang.

(Photo by: Sgt. Richard Beam)

Civic Action Personal Thing To Marine Combat Engineer

By: Cpl. Phillip Hamer

CHU LAI—Putting civic action on a personal basis is the philosophy at 9th Engineer Battalion, and Corporal A. J. Moscola, is the Marine who makes it work.

A combat engineer Moscola has devoted all of his time to civil affairs since Feb. 15, when he was named NCO in charge of the battalion's civic action program. Operating in support of units in the Chu Lai area, the 9th Engineer Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Force, has civic action responsibility for more than 900 Vietnamese living in the Tich Tay village area.

It's a big job, but, as Moscola says, "There just isn't any better job."

His work includes teaching English to school children, visiting the sick with a hospital corpsman or helping Vietnamese residents dig wells or build a house. "I take my shirt off and get to work with the people on any project—you name it."

Personal contact with the Vietnamese, other Marines and

United States civilians contributes to the success of Moscola's efforts.

Part of each day is spent in consultation with the village chief or one of his deputies. In this way Moscola keeps the village informed of proposed civic action projects and the progress of programs currently under way. He is able to assess the needs of the people from information supplied by the chief.

In the battalion area Moscola gives civic action lectures. These are aimed particularly at Marines new to the unit, helping them to understand the Vietnamese and their customs. He finds that battalion personnel are eager to work with the people when he needs additional manpower for a project.

Moscola's search for supplies and materials to support his work in Tich Tay has led to a growing correspondence with individuals and organizations in the United States. "I'm waiting for a case of soap right now," he says, "and I plan to start a baseball team for the kids when the donated equipment arrives. They can use anything—clothes, soap, sewing kits and tools."

Big projects, such as completion of the Dickey Chappelle Memorial Dispensary in Chu Lai New Life hamlet, construction of wells and community showers, and extension of a road from Tich Tay to nearby An Tan village are in progress. Smaller items that Moscola handles himself are just as important to the overall civic action picture.

On his teaching visits to the school three or four times a week he brings hygiene and sanitation posters. He draws them himself. When a grenade explosion injured some children

in another village, Moscola drew a poster to warn the Tich Tay children not to play with any ordnance they might find.

The villagers, who call him "A-J", have adopted Moscola as a real friend, and they look forward to his regular visits. Moscola is equally enthusiastic about his work.

"These people really grow on you," he says. "If there's anything they need, I'll try my best to get it for them. Then I'll take it out myself and show them how to use it. It's the best way."

Booby Traps Fail To Stop Marines

By: SSgt. Don Summerford

CHU LAI—"Viet Cong booby traps don't always work, . . . thank goodness" said Marine Corporal Gerry C. Henry.

Holder of two Purple Hearts and veteran of 35 reconnaissance patrols, Henry has also had his series of "close shaves."

While with "D" Company, 1st Recon Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, Henry and 16 other Marines were lifted by two helicopters to Hill 504, south of Chu Lai.

"Both 'birds' were under heavy enemy fire as we approached the hill," Henry said.

As the helicopters hovered about five feet off the ground, he was one of the first to jump. "We didn't know it until after we landed," Henry said, "but the entire hill was booby trapped."

Henry jumped onto a ChiCom grenade concealed under grass and dirt.

"The pin was pulled but it failed to detonate," he said. Of 10 booby traps set off, the one under his feet was the only dud.

Later after dark, he and

Lance Corporal Michael R. Holmes shared an equally close call. With the patrol's defense established, the two shared the same poncho.

The pair awoke to discover another booby trap under them.

"The VC had placed two grenades, one on either side of a hole, with a wire stretched between them and covered with a mat, dirt and grass," said Holmes.

He and Henry believe the traps weren't sprung since both Marines slightly built, and by lying down instead of standing, their weight was evenly distributed over the mat covering the hole and trip wire.

The grenades were later disarmed.

With only three weeks of his tour in Vietnam remaining, Henry said, "I'm just glad I didn't get that third Purple Heart."

Brothers

PHU BAI — Two Marines were reunited in Vietnam recently because of a name tag.

One of the brothers, Sergeant David J. Dunderdale was wearing his name tag when asked by a Marine if he was related to Private First Class Michael Dunderdale.

The older Dunderdale then knew that his brother Michael is also serving in Vietnam.

The last he had known, his younger brother was serving with the Marines on Okinawa. Checking further he found that his brother had been assigned to the Ninth Marine Regiment in Da Nang.

David who is serving with 3rd Marine Division headquarters here, made a trip to Da Nang and had a reunion with his brother.

David rotates to the United States in July and Michael is just starting his tour in Vietnam.



Marines on the Move

A scout dog and his handler, a Vietnamese interpreter and Marine of the 2nd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division advance on a Vietnamese village during an operation 10 miles south of Chu Lai. The operation was conducted by the Seventh Marines for the purpose of evacuating more than 1,200 people from the Viet Cong-infested area. The interpreter used the loud speaker to instruct the people in the area to pack their belongings and prepare to move to a refugee center.

(Photo by: Sgt. A. L. Cooper)

"I knew they'd been freshly picked," said O'Keefe, "because they still had the sweat of whoever cut them all over them, so I told my men to take cover."

"Immediately after we hit the deck," he said, "two Viet Cong opened fire on us from a hedge row."

The squad returned the fire, killing both VC.

"An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but bananas just saved our lives," O'Keefe added jokingly.



Double Trouble

Navy Lt. Michael S. Fuller, examines the main landing gear tires from his A-4E attack jet after both blew out while he was landing at Chu Lai. The pilot, a member of Navy Attack Squadron-93 aboard the USS Hancock was landing at the airfield, when the freak mishap occurred. Both Fuller and his plane came through the experience. (Photo by: SSgt. Jerry Baker)

Captain Plays 'Historic' Role

By: Sgt. Joe Philip

PHU BAI—A Marine Corps captain, an advisor with the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam, is one of many Marines continuing the important role Marines have played in the history of Vietnam.

Many believe Marine Corps commitments in Vietnam were effected recently, but actually they date back to 1945, when Marines were sent ashore to protect the United States Embassy.

Since that occupation, Marines have continued throughout the years to play an active role in guiding the Vietnamese people against the insurgent communist forces.

One of the best examples of this service is Captain Roger E. Knapper, a former commanding officer of "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines who serves as an advisor for the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Knapper attended a civic action school at Fort Bragg, N.C. prior to reporting to Vietnam. There, he also received a course in the Vietnamese language.

Knapper's duties are to advise the ARVN battalion commander on military strategy during combat. The job has many unseen complications, such as language barriers, instructing Vietnamese in the use of American weapons, and applying the American theory of combat to foreign nationalities.

Knapper spends most of his time traveling with the battalion command group. With a radio

man at his side at all times, he is available to give advice to the commander.

The 30 year old Marine says, "One problem, in working with the ARVN, is communicating with the men and gaining their trust and confidence."

The captain added, "Although I've been with both Marines and ARVN's in combat, it is difficult to compare the two because of the different methods of fighting they incorporate."

"I never try to act as the ARVN commander," added the captain. "I merely give suggestions as to the procedures that Marines would employ to gain an objective, thereby guiding them." Knapper said his job gives him the opportunity to observe the war from two different angles; from the Marine point of view, and the ARVN's point of view.

While in the field, Knapper eats and sleeps with the soldiers. He finds the pig, chicken, fish, dog and duck-egg meals quite tasty.

Captain Knapper states that the 750 man ARVN battalion treat him just like he was one of them.

Decorations and Awards

The Navy Cross, second highest award for combat heroism, was presented the widow of a former Marine Corps Recruit Depot drill instructor during ceremonies here today.

Mrs. Guy M. Hodgkins, 2955 Barnard St., accepted the posthumous award for her late husband, a Marine staff sergeant who died last September 3 while destroying a Viet Cong ambush position. She was accompanied by her eight-year-old daughter, Toni Lynn.

Major General Lowell E. English, MCRD commanding general, presented the award in his headquarters. A 3 p.m. parade and review by some 3,000 Marines and Navy personnel had been called off due to rain.

A rifle company platoon sergeant, Staff Sergeant Hodgkins was killed near An Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, as he led one of his squads against a Viet Cong position.

He went to Vietnam last June, following a three-year tour of duty here as a drill instructor.

The citation which accompanied Staff Sergeant Hodgkins' Navy Cross recounted his "extraordinary heroism" when the squad he was leading encountered an ambush, hastily set up around a concrete building by some 15 fleeing Viet Cong who had earlier been routed by the Marine squad.

When the advancing Marines came under heavy fire, sustaining three casualties, Staff Sergeant Hodgkins armed himself with a fallen man's rifle and moved forward through heavy fire. With all of his rifle ammunition expended, he moved until he was within point-blank range before throwing his grenades.

Sergeant Hodgkins' actions resulted in three enemy deaths and neutralization of enemy fire from the building, where the VC were delivering their most effective fire.

Having accomplished his mission, he became the target of intense enemy fire and grenades. He was finally struck and mortally wounded.

The citation noted that "Sergeant Hodgkins' heroic leadership, courage, and dedication to duty inspired his squad to assault and route the entire enemy force."

It added: "This resolute fighting spirit and great personal valor in the face of heavy odds reflected the highest credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the cause of freedom."

DFC

CHU LAI—Marine Major Elmer S. Payne, received the Distinguished Flying Cross recently for "achievement in aerial flight" on Sept. 6, 1966.

Now serving as executive officer of Marine Attack Squadron-214, Payne was then flying with a sister squadron VMA-223, also based at Chu Lai.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross as a result of a close air support mission he flew to aid a Marine radio relay team under attack five miles west of Chu Lai.

The Viet Cong had advanced to within 50 feet of the Marine position, located atop a hill.

Arriving over the outpost, Payne discovered he had only a 2000 feet clearance between the top of the hill and a heavy cloud cover. With only one possible avenue of approach, his climb-outs would have to be through clouds which shrouded peaks 2000 feet still higher, and with the Viet Cong so close to the Marine position, Payne had to deliver his ordnance with absolute accuracy.

The Marine aviator, flying an A-4E Skyhawk jet attack aircraft, attacked on signal from the Marines on the ground, who marked the VC position with a smoke grenade. Payne made repeated attacks on the target, flying through intensive enemy

ground fire.

His determined and accurate aerial attacks were called instrumental in stopping the Viet Cong attack.

BRONZE STAR

DA NANG — A 29-year-old Marine platoon sergeant from San Antonio, Tex., whose immediate and positive response to an enemy ambush prevented his platoon from receiving heavy casualties was presented the Bronze Star Medal.

Staff Sergeant Richard H. Ibarra of "M" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines was presented the medal for his actions against the Viet Cong last Dec. 4, in Trung Phan Province.

Assigned as a blocking force, Ibarra's platoon was moving into position across an open rice paddy when it came under heavy enemy fire.

Ibarra directed his squads forward towards the enemy positions while standing exposed to a heavy concentration of VC fire on a dike in the middle of the rice paddy.

He stood on the dike and delivered accurate covering fire for more than 20 minutes, allowing his squads to advance from their exposed positions and bring a heavy volume of fire on the VC.

"His immediate assessment of the hazardous situation, quick response under fire and inspiring leadership in maneuvering and directing his squads were instrumental in suppressing enemy fire and preventing the platoon from receiving heavy casualties," his citation read.

The medal was presented by Colonel Emil J. Radics, commanding officer of the First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

OLSEN

CHU LAI—A Marine radio chief, who braved intense sniper fire to save the lives of two of his fellow Marines, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Staff Sergeant Robert L. Olsen was 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, radio chief during Operation Rio Blanco, in Quang Ngai Province (30 miles south of Chu Lai) Nov. 20.

The battalion was sweeping through a series of rice paddies when the command group was suddenly pinned down by several

well-positioned snipers.

Two Marines were hit almost immediately.

Disregarding his own safety, Olsen ran 50 yards to help the first Marine. He stayed with him until a corpsman was able to administer first aid. Then, while under fire, he helped the corpsman carry the wounded Marine to the evacuation helicopter.

Olsen then ran another 25 yards to the aid of the second Marine, who had a radio on his back that kept him off the ground and exposed to fire. He removed the radio, helped a corpsman administer first aid, and carried the Marine to the landing zone for evacuation.

Olsen's citation reads, in part, "... his courage and selfless actions undoubtedly helped to save the lives of the two Marines, and was an inspiration to all who observed him."

HULIHEE

DA NANG—Marine Staff Sergeant Victor K. Hulihee was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" April 1 for heroic actions here nearly a year ago.

A member of the 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 1st Marine Division, he was cited for braving intense enemy fire to rescue wounded Marines.

"During Operation Georgia," he said, "we were transporting members of the 3rd Battalion, Ninth Marines across the Thu Bon River when we were fired upon."

As he maneuvered his tractor into position to pick up wounded men, the Viet Cong began to pound the area with 60mm mortars. The incoming shells fell all around his tractor but he repeatedly went after the Marines.

When his crew members were wounded he left them in a safe position and drove the tractor alone to reach more men and get them aboard.

Knowing that helicopters would not be able to land during the mortar attack, he transported the wounded out of range where helicopters were able to evacuate them.

"I can just vaguely remember what happened that day," said Hulihee, "but I know I had to help those wounded Marines."

The medal was presented by Major General H. Nickerson Jr., 1st Marine Division commander.



Bronze Star

SSgt. Robert L. Olsen receives the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic action during Operation Rio Blanco, in Quang Ngai Province.

(Photo by: PFC Keith Hall)

15,000 Gallons a Day

Milk—From A Contented Dairy?

By: GySgt. Tom Donaldson

DA NANG — For the first time in any war, the combat Marine fighting in Vietnam is now receiving a luxury never before thought possible—"good fresh milk."

How does the milk compare to the kind of milk back home? Does it taste any different?

These two questions are answered by a Marine typical of the more than 75,000 in Vietnam, consuming over 10,000 gallons of milk a day in the I Corps area. Lance Corporal Nicholas J. Wills, sums up the questions like this, "The only thing I find different about the milk is it doesn't come from a cow, but it really hits the spot."

Providing the luxury for Marines and other members of the Armed Forces within the I Corps area is the job of the Foremost Dairies' recombined milk plant located in east Da Nang.

A subsidiary of the International Dairy Engineering Company of San Francisco, they are currently under a five-year contract with the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang.

Beginning production in early March of this year, the milk plant produced 2,000 gallons of milk per day. Now, after a little more than a month in operation, the output has increased to approximately 15,000 gallons per day.

Mr. Fred C. Shroeder, manager of the commercial plant and a veteran of 20 years in the milk game, is one of the ten Americans along with 53 specially trained South Vietnamese civilians operating the first and only milk plant in South Vietnam.

According to Shroeder, the Vietnamese civilian workers were acquired thru the Industrial Relations Dept. in Da Nang, prior to the actual operation of the plant. After an extensive training period conducted by the Foremost Dairy representatives, the various technical and laymen positions were filled allowing the plant to begin actual production March 2 of this year.

All of the ingredients necessary for the production of the recombined milk, such a vegetable fat and dry cream, are shipped from the states in "dry form."

After mixing the dehydrated substances with specially treated water operated by the milk plant, all bacteria is removed, and the dry powders revert to their original form of milk.

The milk is pasturized and homogenized with all traces of bacterial killing chlorine eliminated, rendering a taste refined for any thirsty G.I.

"To produce 15,000 gallons of milk per day, seven days a week, 20 hours a day, requires the latest equipment possible," states manager Shroeder, "and we have about 1/2 million dollars worth of such equipment," he added.

Although the overall cost of producing the large quantity of milk daily ranges about seventy five hundred dollars a day, the actual cost to Uncle Sam is less than six cents a pint.

All of the milk furnished to Marines serving in the northernmost sector of the I Corps is received in pint containers (almost 40,000 pints per day) since the combat zone affords little or no refrigeration facilities.

In other areas, where mess-halls provide proper refrigeration, the milk is supplied in six gallon plastic dispensers for use in stationary milk machines.

The majority of the milk is shipped by air to the combat zone, while local distribution in the Da Nang area is transported by reefer vans.

Delivery of the milk to areas north, Phu Bai, Dong Ha and Khe Sonh is handled by a five-man Marine Liaison team headed by Master Gunnery Sergeant J. C. Witt. The teams are all members of the ration section of Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha" at Phu Bai.

In the southern portion of I

Corps, FLSG-B at Chu Lai, receives milk daily and redistributes to Marines in that area.

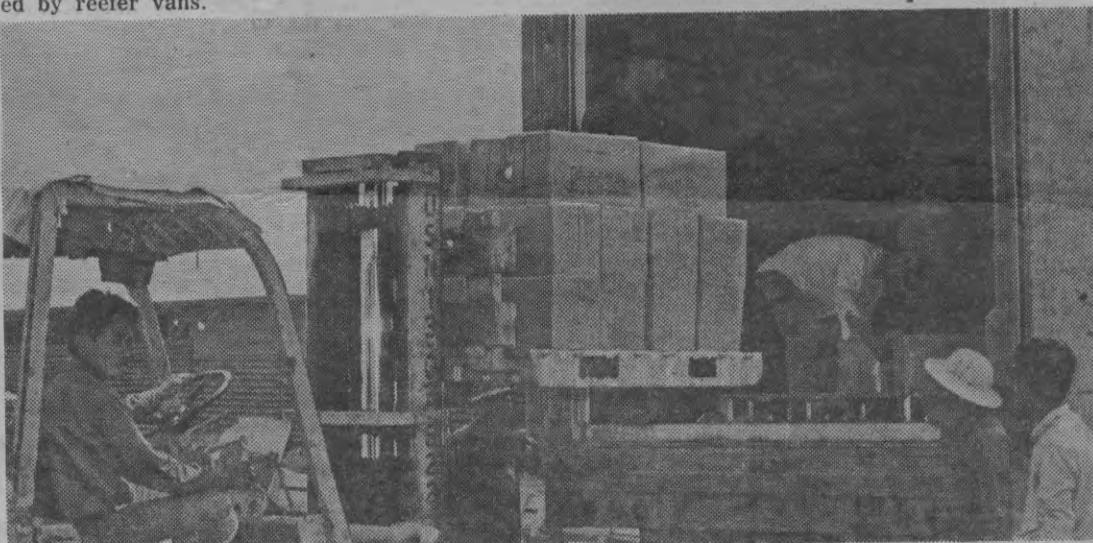
The milk is packed at the plant during early morning hours, loaded in the reefer vans to the Da Nang airfield, then loaded aboard the aircraft heading north. According to Master Gunnery Sergeant Witt, "The

entire operation takes about four hours to get to the Leathernecks in the field, and we have never had a complaint from a Marine getting sour milk," he added.

Although ice cream is also produced at the milk plant, the quantity is still too small for wide troops use, "but with an eye to the future," states manager Shroeder, "we may someday provide a 'milk shake' to the Marine in the field."



From The Dairy



To The Loading Ramp



For The Marine In The Field

Close Shave

DA NANG — Two Marines of "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, 1st Marine Division, found themselves in one similar experience too many, on Operation Canyon, a four-day search and destroy mission, 20-miles south of Da Nang, April 8.

Lance Corporal Thomas N. Brewer, and Private First Class James L. Melcher, were sweeping through a rice paddy with their platoon, when they came under sniper fire.

"I suddenly felt my pack tug," said Brewer, "but I didn't actually know what happened until Melcher and I were getting ready to chow down after we silenced the sniper."

Brewer took off his pack, Melcher said, "and discovered one of the sniper rounds had drilled a hole right through his blanket roll and the contents in his haversack, ruining his chow."

"That wasn't all," Brewer smiled, "because the same thing had happened to Melcher!"

"The round had to be a soft bullet," added Brewer, "because it shattered like a 22 cal."

Caveman

DONG HA—A Marine Private First Class who had been exploring underground caverns in California for as long as he can remember, has helped make the cave-infested "Razorback" and "Rockpile" areas, south of the demilitarized zone, safer for American troops.

Serving with the 3rd Battalion, Third Marines as a radio operator, Richard L. Banks has explored literally hundreds of the caves. They are gouged into the limestone region which served as a principle communist infiltration route to the south until Marines occupied strategic positions in the mountainous area.

"When the battalion first moved into the area we received sniper fire from many of the caves," Banks said.

Using experience gained as an underground explorer, he led a team to check the caves and flush the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese from their hiding places.

"We found one main cave on the "Razorback"—a huge thing with several entrances. I made many trips into that one and mapped it for future reference, he said.

On forays to other smaller caves Banks and other Marines found caches of grenades, ammunition and other field equipment.

Banks is a member of several exploration societies including the exclusive National Speleological Society—a group formed to preserve caves—which has a membership of only 2,300 throughout the world.

Quite A Day

DONG HA — Two scouts crossing a rice paddy three miles west of Quang Tri had just lost sight of the two platoons sweeping ahead of them.

Corporal T.M. Shea, chief scout; and Lance Corporal P.R. Peebles attached to the Fourth Marines watched the last man disappear beyond the hedgerow and continued scanning the area for signs of the enemy.

Shots rang out ahead of them, followed almost immediately by gunfire from the rear and to their left. Both men sought the cover of the dikes surrounding the rice paddy.

Peebles, advancing to a new position, saw a wounded Marine in an open area and he ran to aid him.

Reaching the wounded man, Peebles felt his rifle fly from his grasp. He learned later a bullet had ricocheted off his rifle stock.

He recovered his weapon and began dragging the wounded man to the hedgerow.

Shea killed one enemy soldier with a single shot. Peebles killed another.

"It was quite a day," Peebles said.



Up and Over

Making their way up a steep jungle trail, south of the DMZ, are Marines of the Ninth Marine Regiment on a search and destroy mission during Operation Prairie III. (Photo by: LCPL. B. C. Torbush)

Two 155 Howitzers Heli-lifted To Support Operation DeSoto

By: Sgt. Steve Stephens

CHU LAI—What is big, makes a loud noise, goes a long way and takes big bites of earth?

If your answer was Marine artillery, and in particular the 155mm howitzer, you made a good guess.

In fact, you may have gone a little further and decided to name a unit. If you did and you picked the 155's attached to "I" Battery, 3rd Battalion Eleventh Marines, 1st Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, you can give yourself a pat on the back for a perfect score.

What makes India Battery's 155's different from others is that the two howitzers serving in support of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines on Operation De Soto 50 miles south of Chu Lai, were reportedly the first ones to be heli-lifted into a Marine combat position in Vietnam.

The guns were moved to Nui Dang about a week and a half ago and took up gun positions number 7&8 within the battery. The guns and the crews manning them belong to "K" Battery, 4th Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment. So far, the two weapons have fired about 500 rounds of ammunition in support of Marines in the field.

Evidence of the guns' noise when fired was heard Sunday as they fired the first of a string of "Charge 7" (long range) shots.

Marine infantry troops living

near the guns rushed from their huts wondering what had blown up. When the smoke had cleared away, they found that nothing had "blown up," but that a tarp covering one ammo bunker had been blown off its stakes, that some sand-bags enclosing the bunker had been pitched off onto the ground and that a barrel of trash paper sitting off to one side of the gun had been partially emptied — all by the muzzle blast.

The guns fire a high explosive projectile weighing 96 pounds. There also is an illumination shell that tops 100 pounds.

According to Corporal Michael E. Compton, section chief of Gun 7, the guns are capable of reaching out about 14 miles with their destructive cargo.

Gun 8 is captained by Corporal William J. Sims. He says that the six and a half ton weapon isn't really hard to shift from one direction to another —

AFTER you break the trails loose from where they have dug into the ground, get it jacked up and then balanced on the speed jack. Then it only takes 2 men to swing it around. Getting it ready to swing sometimes takes the whole crew.

During the night, the 155's take part in the battery's H&I (harrassing and interdiction) fire missions. The purpose of the night long vigil is to harass the enemy and interfere with his movement.

According to some of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment Leathernecks, the guns do a good job of harassment—possibly of the Viet Cong — and certainly of the Marines. As one sleepy-eyed Marine put it, "When that big beast roars, you listen — you can't help but listen."

Saves Buddy

DONG HA — A wounded Marine, lying in the open and an inviting target for NVA forces, was rescued under fire by his platoon commander, Sergeant Richard E. Cooper.

"C" Company, 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines, was tracking NVA troops south of the DMZ and started a sweep through a village. As they approached the village, a platoon received intense automatic weapons and small arms fire.

One of the Marine riflemen was hit and fell in an open area. A Navy corpsman went to the Marine's aid and was also wounded but managed to take cover.

Marine artillery was called in and Cooper moved his men back to a defensive position. He called for covering fire. Running through intense enemy small arms fire, he reached the Marine and brought him back safely.

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Water Most Important Commodity To Marines

By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

CHU LAI—When the temperature goes up and the air grows dusty, one commodity means more to a Marine in Vietnam than any other—an adequate supply of fresh, pure water for drinking and showers.

Utilities and Water Supply Platoon at 9th Engineer Battalion, in support of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, are experts at bringing water out of the ground and preparing it for consumption, to the tune of more than a million gallons per week. "We produce water for just about all ground units in the Chu Lai area," reports Second Lieutenant Robert C. Wright of Utilities and Water Supply Platoon.

The treatment process as performed at the 9th Engineers' command post is typical of what goes on at any of the six water points the battalion maintains around the Chu Lai combat base.

Drilling a well is the first step. The six-inch shaft goes down 50 feet at 9th Engineers, deep enough to provide a continuous flow of 3,000 gallons per hour. According to Lieutenant Wright, a flat and sandy terrain is the best bet for producing water, and there's plenty of flat sand around Chu Lai.

From the well, 3,000-gallon settling tanks receive the water. Soda ash and alum are added to form a "floc" that settles out all fine, suspended particles. This process takes about 45 minutes.

A filter unit gives the water a final cleaning as calcium hypochlorite added to the liquid thoroughly disinfects it. The water is now safe to drink.

Water supplymen like Corporal Howard J. Pollet believe in the effectiveness of the treatment process, but they don't take any chances. Regular "chlorine-residual" checks are made with a standard chlorination test kit. Using a simple instrument, Pollet can tell whether the water meets established standards of purity.

There is nothing more to do but pump the water up to a pair of 3,000 gallon storage tanks mounted approximately 23 feet up on a wooden tower. The tower's height provides the pressure to force the water through pipes and out through faucets and shower heads.

The battalion performs an important service, one that any serviceman in a hot land can easily appreciate. It beats hav-

ing to drink a canteen of iodine-treated rice paddy water, and of course there's nothing like that fresh, cool shower.

Six Kills

CHU LAI—"It's not every day we kill six Viet Cong on a single mission," explained the young A-4E Skyhawk attack pilot who had just returned from a bombing mission 30 miles south of Chu Lai.

Captain Larry C. Roberts and his wingman, Captain Wesley R. Phenegar, had scrambled for their "kill" March 31, after word had been received that Viet Cong were massing at a fortified village.

"While we were over the target I made five bombing runs and two strafing passes. Phenegar bombed them four times and strafed twice," Roberts, a member of Marine Attack Squadron-223, said.

"After we completed our passes the spotter plane went down for a look and told us we had destroyed at least 11 huts and caused a couple of secondary explosions. He also said we were on target 100 percent," Roberts said.

Award—

(Continued From Page 1)

The 35-year-old Marine, who previously served in the regular Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict, returned to active duty February 1, 1966 after serving ten years in the Marine Corps Reserve. Prior to his returning to active duty, he was assigned to the 8th 105mm Howitzer Battery, Force Troops, FMF, USMCR, Richmond, Virginia.

His wife, Barbara, and their two children, David A. and Sheri L., currently reside in Richmond, Virginia. His mother, Mrs. R. E. Prestridge, lives in Summit, Mississippi.



Radio Check

Vietnamese Pvt. Nguyen Huu Phuoc, Hue Reconnaissance Div., checks out radio set during a patrol south of Phu Bai. Standing by to receive a call is LCpl. John M. Hlavac, assistant patrol leader with "A" Co., 3rd Recon. Bn., 3rd MarDiv. (Photo by: Sgt. Thad Washington)