



SEA TIGER



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August 11, 1967

Recon Unit Pulled From NVA Trap

By: GySgt. E. C. Nolen

CHU LAI — "Come and get us. This place is crawling with North Vietnamese."

Only minutes before the call for help, a Sea Knight helicopter had inserted a Marine reconnaissance team into an area in the mountains west of Phu Bai.

Artillery had pounded the area. Two Huey gunships that were flying escort for the insert, had flown low into the valley where the CH-46 was to land, and had made a check of enemy movements. No movement was spotted, nor a shot fired.

Two bomb and rocket-laden Skyhawk attack jets from Marine Aircraft Group-12 were also on station. Flight leader of the two jets circling high overhead was Capt. Herb Leaard, of Jefferson, S.C. His plane was loaded with 2.75-inch rockets. His wingman was Capt. Tom Huckleberry, of Seymour, Ind., whose jet carried 250 pound bombs.

Within minutes after the recon team had off-loaded from the helicopter, the enemy appeared.

One of the low flying Hueys spotted the main body of enemy in a treeline 100 meters from the recon Marines. The pilot fired a smoke rocket marking the target for the Skyhawk pilots.

Huckleberry dropped two 250 pound bombs on target. Leaard blasted the target with rockets. They each made three more runs on the target.

The jets were again called. Huckleberry and Leaard made 20mm cannon runs.

While the jets pounded the area with cannon fire, the Sea Knight landed and the recon team dashed aboard. Enemy small arms fire hit the copter.

The team was lifted out of the zone as the two Skyhawk jet pilots made final runs.



Moving South of the DMZ

Third Division infantry Marines receive support from the 3rd Tank Bn., while on a search and destroy mission south of the demilitarized zone during Operation Hickory II.

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

Grenade Kills Sleeping VC

DA NANG — The Viet Cong was sound asleep thinking he was completely safe with two of his fellow Cong standing guard.

But he wasn't and it cost him his life.

On the morning of July 14, a patrol of Marines and Popular Force soldiers from Combined Action Platoon (CAP) D-6 was searching the area near the village of Phong Nhi when they came upon three VC. Two of them were standing guard outside while one was asleep in a hut.

A grenade was quickly thrown into the hut, killing the sleeping VC. The other two immediately fled. The patrol fired, wounding one, but he managed to escape.

A search of the dead VC and the hut turned up one M-2 carbine, two M-26 grenades and papers containing a list of names revealing local Viet Cong.

NVA Forced to Spring Ambush Prematurely: 3 Killed by Patrol

By: Sgt. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG — A squad leader's decision to skirt an open rice paddy July 20 forced 25 North Vietnamese soldiers into prematurely springing an ambush, and resulted in at least three NVA dead.

Cpl. Noel Corliss of Eugene, Ore. was leading his squad of "D" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, on a patrol near Que Son when the NVA opened up with automatic weapons and rifle grenades.

"We had just swept through a hamlet, where we opened fire on two VC with gear, capturing one of them," Corliss said. "Our patrol route showed that we should cross 150 meters of open paddies, but we had seen people running in trees ahead of us.

"I thought maybe they were setting up an ambush, so we cut around the paddy—and hit the same thing I was trying to avoid."

The squad's point man rounded a bend in the trail and saw a NVA, garbed in black and wearing a black beret. When he called

for the enemy to stop, the NVA ambush opened up with a heavy volume of fire from as close as 25 feet away.

One Marine was fatally wounded in the first volley. Pfc. Benjamin H. Mason Jr., of Piscataway, N. J. grabbed the man by the shirt and dragged him into some bushes as the rest of the squad dove for cover.

Corliss pulled his machine gun team and a rifleman back to a concrete house, and he moved

with his radioman to a position behind a dike. "I wanted to try an envelopment, but the volume of fire the NVA were putting out was just too heavy, and was coming from all sides," he said.

After 20 minutes, the firing slackened. Mason watched one heavily camouflaged NVA walk out from behind a building into the open, 75 meters from his position. Mason killed him with a three-round burst of his M-16.

"About five minutes later I could hear a voice," Mason said, "apparently calling for the NVA I had shot. A minute later another NVA, armed with an AK-47 rifle, walked out and bent over the dead one. I let him have a four-round burst, and he fell, too."

The NVA fled when they heard three Marine tanks, accompanied by the rest of "D" Co's second platoon, moving in to relieve the squad.

'Green Angels' Save Surrounded Outpost

By: Sgt. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG — A rescue "straight out of the movies" saved a six-man Marine outpost near Que Son July 11 when it was attacked by a 25-man North Vietnamese Army platoon, 22 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The six Leathernecks from "C" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, had set up the outpost atop a small hill, a mile from the battalion's combat base.

About five minutes after the patrol had set up its perimeter, two heavily camouflaged NVA jumped out of a trench line, scarcely 10 feet away.

Pfc. Frank D. Cabell of Philadelphia spotted them, and the Marines poured out M-16 rifle fire. Cpl. Patrick A. Montgo-

mery of Richardson, Tex. killed one and Pfc. Edward S. Estes, 22, of DeSoto, Tex. wounded the other as he fled.

"I knew there must be a lot more of them in the area," said LCpl. D. P. Hornby of Salem, N.H. the patrol leader, "so I started to get the men together to pull out. Before we could move they opened up with machineguns and automatic weapons, so we just stayed in position."

The enemy fire gradually increased as additional machineguns, automatic weapons and rifle grenades poured into the Marines' L-shaped position.

The embattled men immediately radioed their company for help, and Capt. Harold C. Johnson Jr., of Honolulu gathered as many men as he could to go

out as a reaction force.

"It was during chow and shower hours," Johnson said, "and our people were scattered all over the hill. We started out with everyone around the com-

pany area and picked up people as we left the command post, including clerks and headquarters personnel."

The outpost, meanwhile, was running low on ammunition. The

(Continued on Back Page)

106 Viet Cong Killed by ARVN Forces

DA NANG — Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces encountered only light contact with the enemy during the week of July 26-August 1. They killed 106 Viet Cong.

Fourteen detainees were taken during the period. Ten individual weapons and 100 anti-personnel mines were captured.

Ten VC were killed near Quang Ngai city on July 26. Another 13 were killed during latter stages

of LAM SON 91 in northeast Thua Thien Province. Eight more fell during a Ranger and Regional Force sweep near Ba Ren in Quang Nam Province.

Regional and Popular Forces killed eleven VC the following day in separate ambushes. Another four of the enemy died near Quang Ngai city.

On the 28th, 3rd Regiment troops protecting Revolutionary Development projects near Hue

killed 25. It was the first significant contact in a month and came during LAM SON 142, Phase III.

Elements of the 2nd ARVN Division killed 13 VC on the same date, while another five enemy fell near Tam Ky, one near Hue and one near Quang Tri.

On the 29th, seven VC were killed in Quang Tri Province. Another eight were killed near Quang Tri city on the 31st.

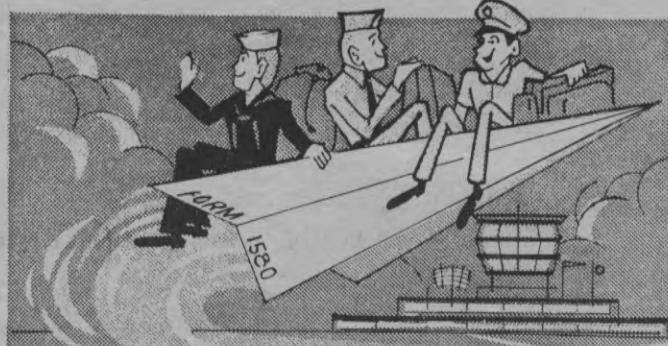
Editorial

New Form Eases Travel

EACH year, millions of Americans travel on commercial airlines. A large portion of these travelers are servicemen and women.

Often separated from their families by great distances because of duty and limited in their available time for travel, men and women of the Armed Forces sometimes rely on rapid air transportation to get maximum value from their leaves and passes.

Along with the special discount for military fares, the Department of Defense and the airline industry have agreed to issue and use a new form which can make your reduced-rate airline travel smoother and more enjoyable. It is DD Form 1580, Military Standby Authorization for Commercial Air Travel.



When the form is properly completed by the authority issuing your leave papers or liberty pass, it will confirm your leave or liberty status and your entitlement to reduced military fares. The airlines may also use the form in establishing priorities among military standbys.

It is, however, your responsibility to initiate the request for sufficient DD1580's to cover every leg of your trip, both coming and going. In any case, you should obtain not less than five completed copies of the form from the command authorizing your leave, liberty or pass.

Even in the case of emergency leave when travel and leave authorizations are prepared on short notice, be sure you don't forget to get your DD1580 forms.

An added advantage of DD1580 is that Vietnam servicemen granted R&R leave in Hawaii can provide their wives with copies of their leave orders and DD1580's so they can travel from the West Coast to Hawaii and return at a special rate.

Although not now required by all airlines, the DD Form 1580 will be accepted and will go a long way to make your air travel easier.

Complete details on the use of DD Form 1580 and reduced fares can be obtained from your transportation section or the nearest Joint Airline Military Traffic Office. (AFNB)

US Postal Rules Prohibit Mailing Live Explosives

U.S. servicemen in the Republic of Vietnam have been endangering the lives of their families and fellow Americans as well as violating Post Office Department and MACV regulations by mailing live explosives home.

San Francisco customs inspectors have reported many items of explosive ordnance in parcels mailed through Vietnam APOs.

These items have included C-4 plastic explosives, claymore mines with arming mechanisms, TNT, rifle grenades, flares and M-72 rockets with launchers.

Customs declarations vaguely identify the contents of these parcels as "war trophies", "fifty dollar gifts", etc.

All U.S. servicemen in Vietnam are reminded that war

trophies will not be mailed, as prescribed in MACV Directive 643-2. Despite the fact that the Postal Manual permits the mailing of most nonconcealable weapons, rifles and shotguns may not be mailed if they are war trophies.

Authorized war trophies which are not firearms may be mailed if acceptable in accordance with the Postal Manual.

Customs declarations must show complete and accurate descriptions of contents of packages and parcels.

MACV officials announced that all cases of violation will be referred to appropriate criminal investigation agencies for investigation and positive disciplinary action will be taken in appropriate cases.

SEA TIGER

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to space limitations it is impossible to print all the names received for the Pen Pal section of the Sea Tiger. However, the Sea Tiger will endeavor to print as many names as possible on a first come, first print basis.

Personnel should be aware of the possibilities of being exploited or unwittingly contributing to hostile intelligence gathering efforts when engaged in Pen Pal correspondence.

\$100 Donation Furthers Book of Remembrance

By Sgt. Carol Cooper

QUANTICO, Va. — The parents of a Marine who was fatally wounded in Vietnam recently contributed \$100 for the upkeep of the Book of Remembrance.

The Book of Remembrance contains the name of every Marine, as well as sailors attached to Marine units, who have lost their lives in Vietnam since October 8, 1963.

The couple, Mr. and Mrs.

Alfred R. Doig, visited here recently and toured the Marine Memorial Chapel at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, where the Book of Remembrance is located. On their return to their home in Islington, Mass., they wrote a letter to the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools. It read:

"We were impressed with the Chapel at the time of our visit and thought the Book of Remembrance a worthy memorial to the men entered therein. The Chapel's simplicity and beauty made us aware of the quiet dignity of such a tribute."

"Mr. Doig and I wish the Corps would accept the enclosed gift for the Book of Remembrance in the name of our son, Corporal Douglas W. Doig, USMC."

The check will be used to purchase supplies for the maintenance of the book.

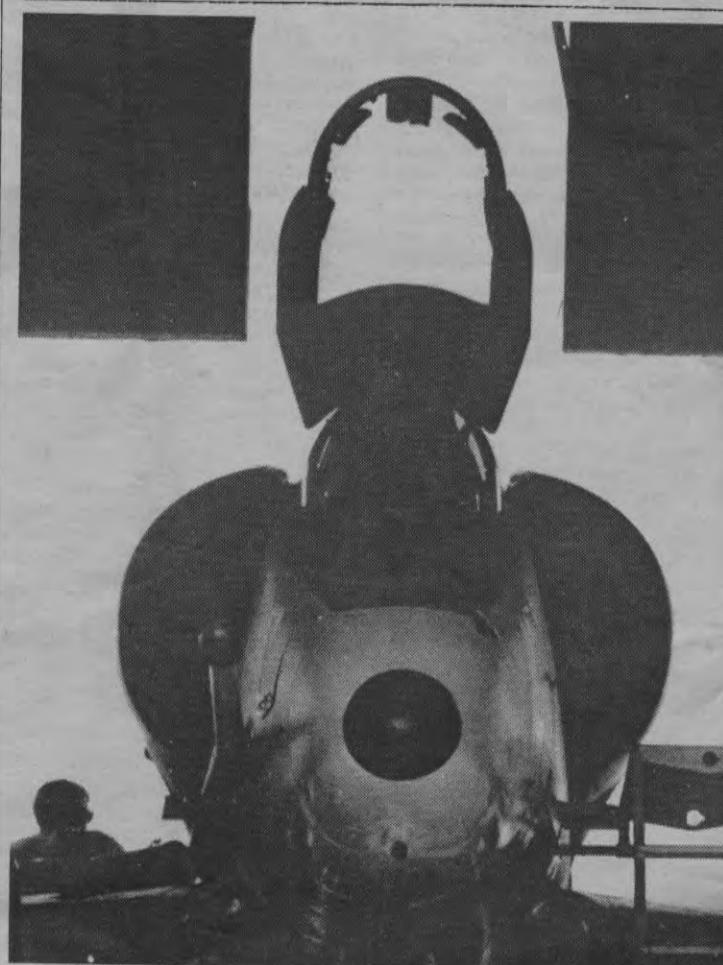
New Regs for R&R Personnel In Hong Kong

SAIGON (MACV) — Stringent enforcement of regulations regarding the possession of passports and the importation of weapons into Hong Kong have been announced by the government there.

Hong Kong authorities have stated that they will no longer condone the importation of weapons. The most recent incident involved an individual who imported a weapon into Hong Kong packaged and addressed for mailing through the Fleet Post Office to the United States.

The government said all future incidents will result in criminal prosecution. The maximum punishment upon conviction is three years imprisonment and it has been indicated that no appeal from the U.S. Government will be accepted.

In other action, it was announced that all persons dressed in civilian attire who arrive at Hong Kong aboard R&R aircraft are required to have current, valid passports in their possession.



Check Time

An A-4E Skyhawk attack aircraft of Marine Aircraft Group-12 receives an after-mission check in a squadron hangar at Chu Lai. Every aircraft of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is thoroughly checked after each mission against Viet Cong and NVA forces above and below the demilitarized zone.

(Photo by: Sgt. G. G. Thomas)



FLIGHT LINE KING—King is the name of this German shepherd sentry dog. After the sun goes down at Chu Lai, King lives up to his name. He's king of the flight line. King's handler is LCpl. Clifton M. Cabey of Baltimore, Md. (Photo by: Cpl. Russ Cowen)

MAG-13 Pilots Bomb Infantry out of Trouble

Sgt. V. J. Hale, Jr.

CHU LAI—LtCol. Harry G. Robinson and his wingman, Major B. D. Fritsch, had just taken off from Chu Lai June 10 on a bombing mission near Dong Ha when they were diverted.

The two Marine Aircraft Group-13 pilots were directed to the aid of a Marine infantry unit pinned down by enemy fire from a group of fortified structures northwest of Chu Lai.

Arriving on station, the pilots made contact with their airborne controller orbiting his O-1C observation plane above the action.

Robinson and Fritsch made three bomb runs each on the target.

On the second, each pilot observed a secondary explosion.

On his last bomb run, Robinson hit the largest structure throwing a cloud of billowing smoke and fire into the air.

"I know we gave them the cover they needed, because the

ground commander contacted us and said we were throwing mud all over his troops and himself," said Fritsch.

The two Phantom pilots accounted for 16 structures destroyed and three secondary explosions.

By: Cpl. R. R. Keene

CHU LAI—Four pilots of Marine Attack Squadron-211 flew a 200 per cent mission July 20, destroying an enemy anti-aircraft gun position five miles north of the demilitarized zone.

The 200 per cent mark was awarded by the airborne controller.

"You were 100 per cent on target and had 100 per cent target coverage," he said. "That's a 200 per cent job."

Carrying 500 pound bombs,

Chu Lai's 'Four Legged Radar' Guard Flight Line During Dark

By: GySgt. E. C. Nolan

CHU LAI—The flight lines of Marine Aircraft Groups-12, 13 and 36, and the adjacent bomb dump at Force Logistics Group "B", are under the nightly surveillance of Chu Lai's "four legged radar."

This is the nickname Marines of the 2nd Sentry Dog Plt. have tacked on their German shepherd sentry dogs.

The large dogs and their handlers patrol the flight lines, keeping in the open where they can easily be seen and where the dogs can detect movement.

"We've been using sentry dogs more than a year now and we have yet to capture a Viet Cong," said SSgt. Charles F. Romero of Las Vegas, Nev., non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the dog platoon.

He says the VC are afraid of the dogs and make it a point to stay away from where they are patrolling. He views the lack of contact as evidence of the effectiveness of the dogs.

A handler learns by the way the dog's ears perk up if some-

one is lurking in the darkness. Handlers have reported believing that someone or something was out in the darkness, Romero said, but they couldn't turn their dogs loose.

Though the dogs could attack an intruder with an excellent chance of success, that is not their main purpose. When a dog detects a suspicious action, the handler calls Marine guards to search the area.

The Marines have attended the eight-week Air Force dog handler's course at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During this training a student handler is assigned one dog to work with throughout the course. After establishing working relationship with the canine the last six weeks are devoted to field training. During this phase, handler and dog learn to work as a sentry team and the dog is taught to be aggressive.

When the Marine completes training he leaves the dog and will be assigned another one in Vietnam. The training will be repeated prior to going on sentry

duty.

The animal's health is the responsibility of the trainer. The Marines receive veterinary training at Lackland.

Weighing from 85 to 110 pounds, the dogs require a balanced diet. A commercial dog food is preferred, but the animals are fed "B" rations, beef patties and gravy when the commercial version isn't available.

The dog's hygiene is also the responsibility of the handler. He bathes the canine daily and brushes the animal's teeth at least once a week. He also gives the dogs two salt tablets daily.

The animals are kept in a remote area where there is less noise during the day.

"The quieter it is, the better it is on the dogs. If they hear a lot of noise during the day, their senses will be dull at night while on post," said 2ndLt. Allan S. Buescher of Campbell Hill, Ill., officer-in-charge of the unit.

Sentry dogs for all services are purchased and trained by the Air Force.

Rep Rates Jet Mechs 'The Best'

CHU LAI—Members of the Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-36 jet engine mechanics repaired 41 power plants during June from CH-46A Sea Knight helicopters.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadrons 165 and 262 use the Sea Knight in Marine Aircraft Group-36.

"We work in two shifts in order to keep the engines ready to go," said engine shop non-commissioned officer-in-charge, SSgt. Donald E. Glover of Winter Haven, Fla.

"This crew is the best I've worked with in a long time," said General Electric technical representative Richard H. Castle.

The engine shop specializes in minor repairs. "Repairing damaged or sand-eroded compressors, carbon seal leaks, replacing worn bearings, replacing hot sections and tuning and adjusting are our specialties," Glover said.

After an engine is repaired it is placed on a portable test cell and run at various speeds to check out the work.



Four Pilots Fly 200% Mission

the Wake Island Avengers had dropped all their ordnance directly on target and destroyed three targets in a one-mile radius.

Maj. Robert W. Rasdal, Webster City, Iowa, squadron executive officer, led the flight of Skyhawk jets, piloted by Majs. Michael C. Drury, Warsaw, Ind., and Garry Harlan, San Diego, Calif., and 1stLt. Allen J. Braden, New Orleans, La., over a wooded area concealing an anti-aircraft site.

A Marine TF-9J Cougar jet of Marine Aircraft Group-11 carried the airborne controller.

"The controller had delivered his rockets, but his description of the targets was so accurate that we had no trouble spotting them," said Rasdal.

The first target, a road leading to the wooded area, had men and equipment working on it. Despite enemy fire, Rasdal and Barden cleared the road with bombs.

The Skyhawk pilots all hit the second target, another road leading to the woods.

Harlan and Drury rolled in on the third target, the anti-aircraft gun position. A large secondary explosion could be seen.

Sergeant Gets \$8,086 Bonus

CHU LAI—Sgt. Paul T. Ashe, 24, of Anoka, Minn., took advantage of the variable reenlistment bonus offered in his military occupational specialty of radio technician for a total of \$8,086.

He reenlisted for six years on July 15 and works at Marine Air Traffic Control Unit-67.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the money," said Ashe. "I think I'll just let it build up in the 10 percent savings plan while I decide."

Ashe, who arrived in Vietnam in May, initially joined the Marine Corps on a three year enlistment.

"I will also receive orders to advanced electronics school in San Diego, Calif., when I finish my tour in Vietnam," he said. "That's also a part of my re-enlistment benefit."



Helicopters Rise With the Sun

As the sun rises over the South China Sea, a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165 crew chief uses flashlights to signal the pilot of a Sea Knight helicopter to start his engines. First Marine Aircraft Wing helos lifted the 1st Bn., Seventh Marines into a zone west of Da Nang July 20, to begin an operation.

(Photo by: Cpl. Russ Cowen)

Pilot's Journal Shows Activities of Plane, Crew

By: GySgt. E. C. Nolen

CHU LAI — Capt. Stephen Pless of Foley, Ala., a helicopter pilot with Marine Observation Squadron-6, has his own personal history of the Vietnam conflict.

Pless, a division flight leader for a four-plane flight of UH-1E 'Huey' gunship helicopters, operates as part of the Marines' Special Landing Force.

He keeps a journal on his plane's and his crew's activities, on days he thinks are noteworthy.

Here are segments of the journal, covering a 12-day period while in support of the 2d Bn., Third Marines on two amphibious operations:

MONDAY: "Discovered a 15-man ambush hiding in a treeline waiting for a Marine company. We (with co-pilot, Capt. Daniel Cobb of Santa Barbara, Calif.) hit them in the open with rockets, then called in artillery fire and an air strike. There were numerous hits by both, but there was no damage assessment on the ground. It's very unlikely that there were any enemy survivors."

WEDNESDAY: "Picked up a

medevac in the middle of a firefight. Two more men were wounded while we loaded the medevac. Went to the aid of Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers who were pinned down by a line of automatic weapons in a bushrow. We hit the bushrow with rockets while the Viet Cong were still firing. There was no damage assessment, but the ARVN's were able to gather their wounded and continue their advance.

"At 10:30 p.m. we were called when a transport helicopter received heavy automatic weapons fire while trying to get into a zone. The muzzle flashes and tracers were easy to spot. We fired rockets on the target, leaving 11 separate structures on fire. There was no more fire from this area during the rest of the operation."

THURSDAY: "We reconnoitered an area prior to a Sea Knight helo's attempt to land. We flushed numerous VC who were well-armed, but surprised and disorganized. LCpl. John Phelps (Louisville, Ky.) killed one. He caught him in the open and killed him with his M-60 machinegun. We were credited

with seven kills during this action."

TUESDAY: "While reconnoitering an area for a likely helicopter landing zone, we took a round in the cockpit. My crew chief and I were slightly wounded. We returned to the ship and switched aircraft and continued our mission."

WEDNESDAY: "We were on a reconnaissance mission for the SLF commander. We received heavy automatic weapons fire from fortified positions. We hit them with rockets and left seven structures in flames."

THURSDAY: "We were back at the same spot we were Wednesday. Again we received heavy fire and immediately returned it. Several armed VC broke for a nearby bunker. We put several rockets through the door of the bunker just as the VC entered it. One rocket missed the door, but it wasn't wasted. It was a direct hit on

a fleeing VC. "Two other VC entered a stucco building. We hit it with rockets and it disintegrated from a secondary explosion; probably an ammunition cache. Infantry troops later reported a lot of blood trails and signs that many bodies had been dragged off."

FRIDAY was the last day Pless made an entry.

It read: "My wingman, Capt. Edward Kufeldt (Homestead, Fla.), spotted two VC discarding their green uniforms. They then ran for a tree line. By making a low, flat run, I hit them with rockets just short of the tree line. Two confirmed kills."

"We hit an automatic weap-

ons position for an infantry company. Cpl. Joe Madden (Philadelphia), who was my gunner, spotted one VC in the open. We tried to capture him but he kept running. One rocket was all it took; another confirmed kill. Kufeldt spotted a large group of VC in a culvert and drove them out with machinegun fire. I killed four with rockets. My crew chief on this mission, LCpl. A. C. Bowden (San Jose, Calif.) killed one with his M-60. Five confirmed kills today."

The twelve-day assignment was summed up: "Each crew member and pilot flew at least 75 hours during the period. We were cited by the commander of the task force for our exceptional performance of duty."

Group's 60,000th Combat Sortie

CHU LAI — Two Marine Aircraft Group-12 Skyhawk attack jet pilots logged the group's 60,000th combat sortie on July 4 since arriving in Vietnam during June 1965.

Maj. James C. Cowart (Jacksonville, N.C.) and Capt. Bobby G. Butcher (Parkersburg, W.Va.) piloted the Marine Attack Squadron-311 aircraft as they struck North Vietnamese Army bunkers near Khe Sanh.

The close air support mission supported Marines participating in Operation Crockett, just south of the demilitarized zone.

They were credited with destroying four NVA bunkers.

Logs 14,000 Accident Free Flight Hours

CHU LAI — Marine Attack Squadron-542 completed its 14,000th accident-free flight hour since June, 1965, this month; 11,285 hours were flown in combat.

The total flight hour figure is equivalent to one of the squadron's F-4B Phantom fighter attack jets airborne for every hour of the day for one year and 219 days.

Capt. James F. Faulkner (Charlotte, N.C.), squadron safety officer, flew the 14,000th hour on a close air support mission in support of a Marine infantry unit near Dong Ha.

With Gifts to U.S. Wounded

Vietnamese Show Their Appreciation

DA NANG — Miss Cong Huyen Ton Nu Kim Ngan of Da Nang wanted to tell the U.S. servicemen helping her country's fight for freedom, that their efforts were appreciated.

Gathering her family and friends, Miss Kim Ngan suggested they all make embroidered handkerchiefs for the

wounded in the hospital near Da Nang.

Fifty volunteers helped. A week later, on July 22, Miss Kim Ngan, accompanied by MajGen. Norman J. Anderson, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, went to the hospital and presented her gifts.

The embroidered messages of

thanks in English on the handkerchiefs read: "Thanks to our Americans in Vietnam," "We are sending to our Americans all our love and affection," and "God bless our Americans in Vietnam."

More than 100 wounded U.S. servicemen received the gifts.



IN APPRECIATION — Miss Cong Huyen Ton Nu Kim Ngan visits with Marine LCpls. J. R. Nance of 3920 Linda Vista, Napa, Calif., left, and Michael J. McFadden of Lockport, Ill., at the Naval Hospital, Da Nang.

(Photo by: Sgt. Rich Groscoft)

4 SEA TIGER



Air-Ground Teamwork

While cannoneers of the 3d Bn., Eleventh Marines ready a 105mm howitzer for action, another gun is lowered into the zone southwest of Da Nang July 21 in support of an operation.

(Photo by: MSgt. C. V. Stallings)

VMF (AW)-235 Aviators Praised For Work During Beacon Torch

DA NANG — Two Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron-235 pilots have earned the praise of Marine infantrymen for their efforts against an enemy troop concentration during Operation Beacon Torch, southeast of Hoi An.

Maj. Henry F. Witter of Vancouver, Wash., flight leader and Capt. Robert L. Beavis of West Orange, N.J., were scrambled in response to a request for support from an element of 3d Bn., 5th Marines.

Arriving over the target area, the two jet pilots were informed that a company was under heavy enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire.

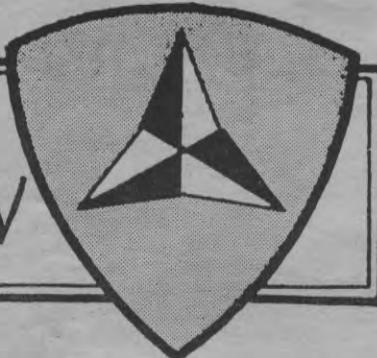
Witter and Beavis acquired their target and on their first bomb run scored direct hits on a group of structures which housed the enemy mortars. They continued their attack on enemy concentrations to within 50 meters of the friendly forces.

LtCol. J. A. Nelson, commanding officer of Marine Observa-

tion Squadron-6, flight leader of the helicopter gunships on station said, "The professionalism of these pilots in their target acquisition and the accuracy of their delivery made it possible to work very close to friendly troops and break up the attack of a determined enemy. They made run after run with the same accuracy, then 'walked' their 20mm cannon fire up the enemy trenches in the tree lines, in one of the finest examples of close air support I have witnessed."

The action took place at approximately 3 p.m. and it wasn't until 10 a.m. the following morning that the company moved forward.





NVA Tries Disguise, Tear Gas for Assault

By: SSgt. Ed Brey

CON THIEN—New wrinkles in the Vietnamese war were reported by members of the 1st Bn., Third Marines, during a heavy engagement with NVA forces last month five miles northeast of Con Thien. The Marines said the NVA used tear gas and wore Marine Corps uniforms during a full-scale attack July 6.

Following three days of probes and mortar and rocket attacks, the final NVA assault began with another such action.

Maj. Richard W. Goodale, battalion executive officer, said, "I never saw anything like it in Korea. I'd estimate we took a thousand rounds. But the men were dug in and our casualties were light."

NVA forces attacked from the north and east, managed to temporarily penetrate one point of the perimeter.

Capt. Burle Landis (Colorado Springs, Colo.) a rifle company commander, led a force to the gap and found the point man of the NVA forces coming directly at him. He shot the enemy soldier.

Platoon commander, 2ndLt. George C. Norris (Des Moines, Iowa), formed a blocking force and stopped the enemy advance.

Sgt. William H. Head Jr., who led an assault fire team, reported the NVA "definitely wearing Marine Corps uniforms, complete to flak vests, Marine utilities, helmets and boots."

LCpl. Duane J. Dull (Soldiers Grove, Wis.), a machinegun team leader also reported NVA wearing Marine Corps uniforms while making a massed hand grenade assault.

Head reported that when his team threw back the NVA, they dragged their dead and wounded down an intersecting trench line. "Their equipment included an M-79 grenade launcher," he said.

Platoon commander, Norris also reported use of a type of tear gas by the NVA.

"The gas," he said, "was dispensed by artillery, and generally very ineffective. There was a good breeze and it quickly dispersed," he said.

Patrols the next day confirmed effectiveness of supporting fire during the attack.

Cpl. John S. Wakefield, (Indianapolis, Ind.), a patrol member, said "NVA dead were strewn throughout the area."

"A sure sign of the effectiveness," he said, "was that the enemy could not take out their dead."

Other signs indicated the enemy left in a hurry. Caches of munitions including mortar rounds and many sealed boxes of .30 cal. ammunition, weapons, and miscellaneous equipment were scattered throughout the area," Wakefield said.

Marines Build More Schools

PHU BAI—Marine units have helped construct 24 elementary and secondary schoolrooms in the Hue-Phu Bai area.

They will provide space for several hundred Vietnamese students. The construction will help alleviate sending students to school for only a half-day because of the shortage of desks, and will provide room for new pupils.



When in Vietnam

Two Marines of "H" Co., 2nd Bn., Ninth Marines, adopt the Vietnamese method of carrying water during a search and destroy mission south of the demilitarized zone. The Marines were resupplied during a stop near Con Thien.

(Photo by: LCpl. J. W. Brumley)

Newspaper Editor Queries Unit And Definitely Gets the Scoop

By: Sgt. John Heseltine

CAMP EVANS—A 3rd Division Marine's hometown newspaper had been told in colorful terms about his travels and battles in Vietnam.

To check the accuracy of the reporting, the newspaper editor wrote to Cpl. Peter Jette's First Sergeant for confirmation of the story about the Lisbon, Conn. Marine.

His 1stSgt. replied that the Marine had participated in several operations and had received a Purple Heart.

Shortly after this correspondence Jette's unit, the 1st Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment moved to Con Thien. As a member of "D" Co.'s 60mm mortar section he was assigned to provide security for a portion of the battalion perimeter.

One night the mortar section personnel heard movement in front of their lines and fired an illumination shell, but were unable to detect anything as the enemy had taken cover. As soon as the light flickered out, the enemy opened fire and assaulted the perimeter.

"They knocked out the two tanks nearby and the ran toward the bunkers with demolition charges. The charge they threw at our bunker wounded myself and the two men with me," Jette said.

The Marines opened fire with rifles and mortars as the first of several "human wave" assaults charged the perimeter.

Jette ran to one of the nearby tanks.

Following instructions from a wounded tank sergeant, he dismounted the .30 caliber machinegun and returned to his position with it.

For the remainder of the battle, he fired the machinegun, sustaining badly burned hands when he shifted the gun to meet new threats by the enemy.

The battle lasted until mid-morning.

All eight Marines of the mor-

tar section had been wounded. Only Jette and two others were still on their feet. There were 22 enemy dead in and around the position. More than 180 confirmed enemy dead surrounded the perimeter.

Having participated in the battle of Con Thien, tales about Jette will probably no longer need double checking.

Snake Drops In for Chow

DA NANG—A nine-foot snake came out second best in an encounter with Marines of the 1st Bn., Third Marines.

The viper snake made its mistake when it dropped out of a tree into the midst of the battalion's reconnaissance and tactical control team.

A short time later, four Marines were enjoying their first fresh meat in more than a week—snake-on-a-stick.

"The snake didn't have a chance," commented radio operator LCpl. David O. Brents (Montgomery, Ala.). "It started us when it landed, but within seconds it had been shot."

LCpl. Jackie L. Stribling, of Grand Prairie, Texas, a recon team leader, reacted the quickest and blasted the snake with a M-16.

1st Lt. N. J. Hart, 24, (Muncie, Ind.), a Marine attack jet pilot and air liaison officer, was the chef. He is a graduate of Jungle Warfare and Survival Training School, Philippine Islands.

LanceCpl. James W. Lyles, 19, (Bay Spring, Miss.) readied the meal.

The snake provided food for 15 Marines.



Tank and Infantrymen Sweep Near the DMZ

Infantrymen of the Ninth Marine Regiment team up with Marines of the 3d Tank Bn. in a tank-infantry maneuver to sweep the area south of the DMZ. The units worked out of Con Thien seeking elusive North Vietnamese enemy soldiers.

Marines, Villagers Dig Well

By: LCpl. Chuck Giesler

CAMP CARROLL — In the Hung Phu (refugee) hamlet, seven miles below the demilitarized zone, American economic assistance came in the form of Marine sweat and a few bags of cement.

Civil affairs representatives from the Twelfth Marine Regiment had visited the hamlet and learned from the elders that a new well was needed. The old well was contaminated and was causing illness. The hamlet residents had been forced to resort to getting water from distant hamlets.

Volunteer Marines from both "C" Btry., 1st Bn., and "I" Btry., 3rd Bn., of the Twelfth Marines at Camp J. J. Carroll, began working with the villagers to dig the well by hand.

At first, the Marines alternated shifts with the hamlet laborers. But soon after breaking the language barrier with sign language, they began working together.

After a few days, the villagers began inviting the Marines into their homes for lunch and snacks of rice, pineapple, breadfruit and beverages.

The well was completed in less than two weeks, complete with a cement-brick liner. The well is 30 feet deep and eight feet wide.

1st Lt. J. A. Schwerer (Peoria, Ill.), the civil affairs officer in charge said the job was done by hand, without the aid of modern machinery as "the Vietnamese understand sweat and callouses more than they do well-digging machines."



Crude Aiming Device

Marine Cpl. Richard A. Haeg (Mattituck, Long Island, N.Y.) looks through a North Vietnamese Army sighting device made from bamboo and vines. Haeg is a member of the 1st Amphibious Tractor Bn., engaged in operations along the Cua Viet river where the crude rocket or mortar aiming device was found just south of the demilitarized zone.

(Photo by: LCpl. L. Preston Brown)

81mm Mortars Provide Vital Fire Support

By: LCpl. Jim Barclay

CAMP EVANS—"Fire Mission... Range... Elevation... Charge"—frequently heard orders in the 81mm mortar section for the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment.

Sgt. Aronia D. Mosely (Dade City, Fla.) heads the vital section furnishing support for the rifle companies.

"Our targets vary quite a bit," said Mosely, "but the forward observers in the rifle companies are usually the ones to call in the targets."

"Whenever the VC are found in the open, we fire rounds into the area to neutralize their movement until a rifle company can move into position," he said.

The Fire Direction Center (FDC) headed by Mosely is responsible for giving the range,

DI and Recruit Serve Together

CAMP CARROLL — Marines leaving Boot Camp, never expect to see their drill instructor again, the man who had been their teacher, protector, guide and final say in the molding process from a civilian to Marine.

For LCpl. R. M. Redd (Old Bridge, N.J.) it was different. Redd, serving with the 1st Bn., Ninth Marine Regiment, here, walked out of his tent and there he was, his former DI.

SSgt. R. G. Lee the DI., (Panama City, Fla.), had just arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the Ninth Regiment.

"I recognized that face right away," said Redd. "A Marine never forgets the kind countenance of his DI."

"Back at Parris Island," Redd continued, "he gave me some pretty straight scoop. 'I can and I will' he used to say. I can honestly say I appreciate the long hours he yelled at me. I apply myself and do as I was taught. I'm still alive."

direction and charge to the gun crews.

"It depends on what type of round we are firing as to what information given," Mosely stated.

The gun crews consist of four to five men. Each has a task that must be accomplished before a round is fired.

Besides the 60 pounds of gear the crewmen carry, they also lug extra small arms.

A minimum of 30 rounds of illumination are carried and 10 times as much high explosive ammo.

When the mortar section is at the battalion command post they fire Harrassment and Interdiction missions and illuminate the camp perimeter when requested.

Whirlwinds

CAMP EVANS—The whirlwind phenomenon is taking hold of this Marine Combat Base.

Scores of the spiral-shaped air-currents-gone-wild run rampant here daily, blowing dirt and debris in their path and showering unwary Marines with a cloud of dust.

The whirlwinds "dustdevils" some growing to heights of 100 feet or more, have been known to collapse tents and send even the most combat-hardened Marines scurrying from their paths.



Little Samaritan

A thirsty Marine from the 1st Amphibious Tractor Bn., gets an assist from a Vietnamese boy as he fills a canteen at the village well. The Amtrac Marines were on a search and destroy mission south of the demilitarized zone, along the Cua Viet river. (Photo by: LCpl. L. Preston Brown)

New 'Flare' to Reporting

CAMP EVANS — First Sergeant Charles H. Streeter (West Palm Beach, Fla.) of the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment was peacefully sitting at a field desk when he heard a "pop," then a whining noise.

"I figured it was going to hit close by, but not on top of my tent," he said. "I could see it coming towards my tent, then I heard it hit on top and someone yelled 'Incoming... Flares!'"

Within seconds after striking the tent, the flare rolled off and headed straight for the record files.

3 Join Talents For Pig Roast

CON THIEN — An expert pistol shot, a master chef and a farmboy combined talents during Operation Hickory II to put roast pig on the menu for members of the Third Marine Regiment.

Second Lt. James R. Cannon (Fredericksburg, Va.) heard noises in front of his position.

A well-placed pistol shot killed the intruder—a wild pig.

SSgt. Billy L. Bethea, a farmboy from Dillon, S.C. and an old hand at butchering and dressing hogs on his father's farm, skinned the porker.

Cooking chores went to Sgt. Robert R. Foreit (Wiles-Barre, Pa.), before joining the Marine Corps he worked as a cook in the Catskill Mountain resort area of New York and as a master chef at a Washington, D. C., restaurant.

To spit the pig, he split it lengthwise, placed it between two upright forked branches and turned it over an open fire.

Their combined efforts brought the unexpected main dish of roast pig "a la three" to the company menu.

"Never knew we had so many people in the area," said Streeter. "They came running from all directions, carrying five gallon water cans to extinguish the fire."

Later it was revealed that returning listening post personnel fired the flare to alert the troops on the line.

"The Marine that shot the pop-up flare must have had his hand on a slant and it popped this way," said Streeter.

Streeter later called the company that had the LP that night.

"Would you please inform your listening post, that I don't need to know when they come in."

Phong Dien Gets Dentist

CAMP EVANS — The people of Phong Dien have a dentist for the first time.

Navy dentist, Lt. Joseph P. Nowak of Buffalo, N.Y., and assistant, DN Gary Pegg of Redkey, Ind., from the Fourth Marine Regiment, plan to make a twice a week dental medcap.

"Usually it's the kids that are the first to be treated," Nowak said. "But the first time we worked mainly on the elders."

The team treated 36 Vietnamese, pulling 38 teeth and 11 root tips at the refugee camp and the Phong Dien Buddhist hamlet.



SCHOOL DAYS AGAIN — GySgt. Robert B. Hill and "Johnny" head for a private Vietnamese school where the 14-year-old will start seventh grade. Hill's family is paying 150 piasters a month to send Johnny through school.

(Photo by: SSgt. M. M. Upton)

Holds Key to Future

Marine's Family Aids Viet Youth's Education

By: Sgt. Russ R. Thurman

DA NANG—Nguyen Duc Chien is an ambitious Vietnamese boy. The bright 14-year-old is eager for knowledge, and talks of becoming a lawyer or perhaps a doctor.

But as with many Vietnamese youngsters his family could not afford to continue the education to make the dreams come true.

Chien, however, has started his seventh year of studies, thanks to a Marine and his family.

GySgt. Robert B. Hill (Parris Island, S.C.) of the 11th Motor Transport Bn., 1st Marine Division, provided the chance.

"Since my arrival here in February," said Hill, "I've wanted to organize some type youth program for the Vietnamese in nearby villages but duties leave little time for that—this is at least a start."

Chien has learned to speak English and was tagged "Johnny", after becoming an everyday visitor to the MT Bn., a short distance from his village, three miles west of Da Nang.

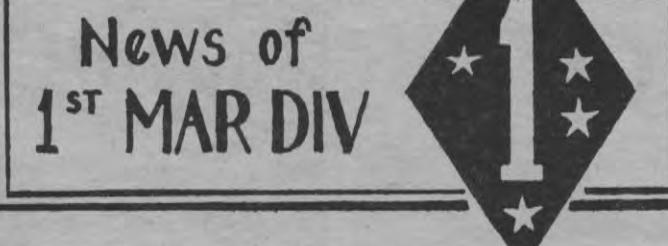
"When I first learned of Johnny I wrote my wife of my thoughts about sponsoring his education," Hill said.

A letter from his 13-year-old daughter, Vickie, asked if she and the gunny's four other children could give the necessary 150 piasters (about \$1.20) a month to send Johnny to the private school.

"That they were willing to give, made me quite proud," Hill said.

"We plan to pay for at least one year of his education. But if he wants to I'll send him right through college."

Hill says helping the young people holds the key to the future.



Viet Cong Prisoners Scared of Americans

By: Cpl. Robert M. Bayer

DA NANG — "Most of the Vietnamese people brought in here are scared to death of Americans because the Viet Cong have told them all sorts of lies about us. While they are here I try to explain to them why Americans are in Vietnam. One of our biggest problems is the basic lack of communication between the Vietnamese people and the Americans."

Speaking was Pvt. David R. Kincaid (Buena Park, Calif.), who works with prisoners and detainees captured by the 3rd Bn., First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Most people call Kincaid, "Limy", a nickname he picked up because he lived in England for more than ten years and speaks with a slight British accent.

"When prisoners are brought in I help interrogate them and explain the Chieu Hoi (returnee) program," he said.

The battalion compound is called "an R&R center for captured VC" by Kincaid. There is a shower for the prisoners to use. They receive all the "C" rations they can eat in addition to a hot meal of Vietnamese food which the prisoners cook themselves daily.

According to Kincaid, "most of the people brought in don't know basic hygiene. They have to be taught how to wash properly with soap and water.

"Above all, I stress cleanliness. I emphasize that they should boil water before they drink it, wash their food with clean water before they cook it, bathe their children and themselves regularly and thoroughly," he said.

Navy corpsmen treat prisoners and local villagers daily at the compound. They also dis-

tribute soap and vitamin pills to the people.

Kincaid has very little trouble speaking with the people. He taught himself Vietnamese and speaks the local dialect.

"Just treating these people kindly and explaining that Americans are here to help them does a great deal.

"The Vietnamese are warm and understanding people," said Kincaid, "but until now they have only heard the Viet Cong's side of the story."

Saves a Life

DA NANG—A Navy corpsman in "L" Co., 3rd Bn., First Marine Regiment used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to save the life of a seriously wounded Marine on a combat patrol 10 miles south of Da Nang.

HM3 James T. Mattson (of 348 E. Michelle, West Covina, Calif.), was with the squad-sized patrol when a Marine was seriously wounded after stepping on a Viet Cong booby trap.

The Marine lost consciousness and stopped breathing. The corpsman immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest massage.

The victim was revived, and evacuated by helicopter to a field hospital for additional treatment.

Pfc. Lucky—Mine Fails To Explode

DA NANG — "I guess somebody up above was with me." Pfc. Dennis K. Rock (Covington, Ky.) spoke of an incident on Operation Elliot when he stepped on a "Bouncing Betty" mine that failed to explode.

Rock is a grenadier with 3rd Plt., "H" Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division and has been in Vietnam for six months. Since the incident with the mine he has begun to believe heavily in luck.

He was walking on a trail towards a hut when he stepped on the mine laying hidden in some hay.

"I kept on walking for a few more steps until I heard the pop of the fuse and saw the smoke rising from where I had just stepped," said Rock. "It was then that I realized what I had done and I took off running."

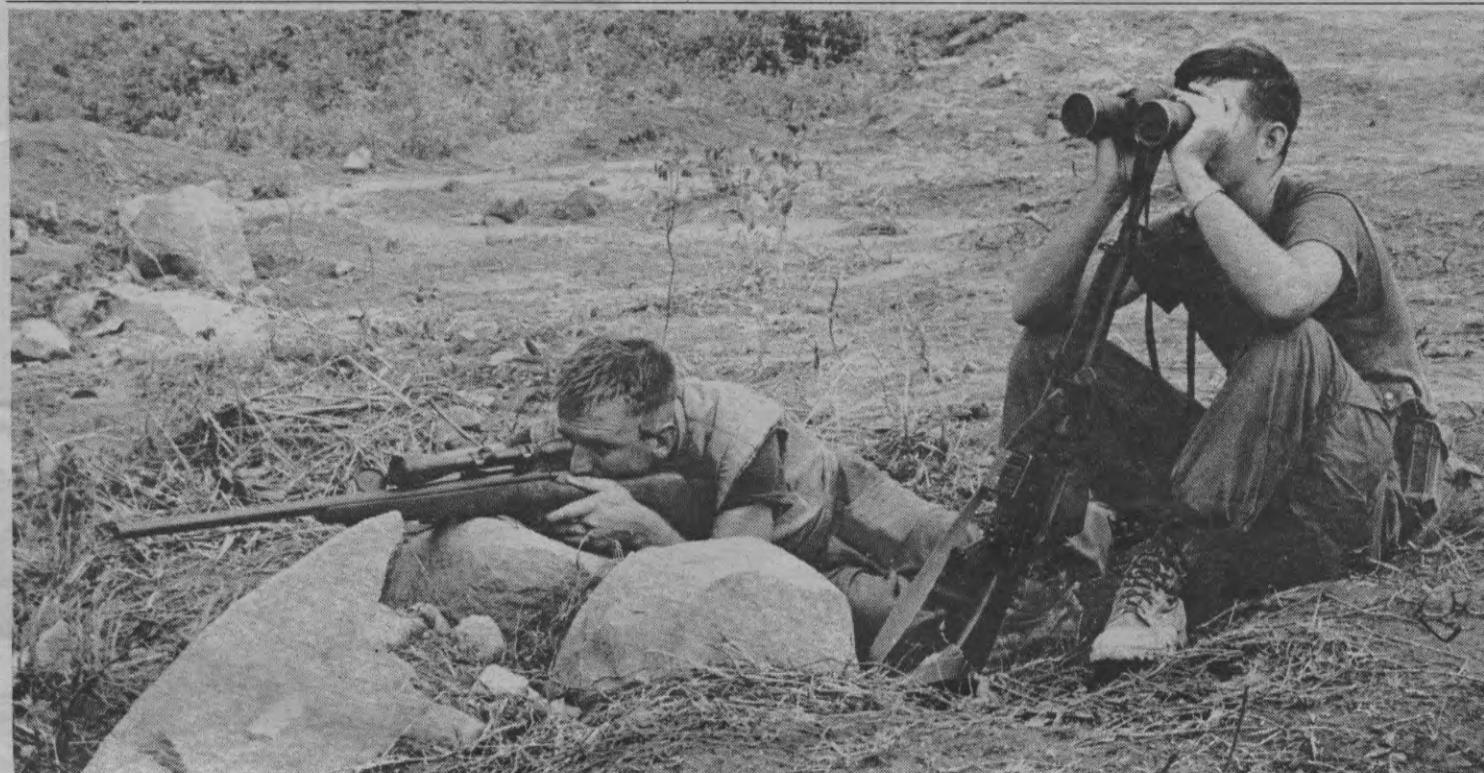
When engineers, attached to the company for the operation uncovered the mine, they determined that it failed to detonate due to wetness. There had been a rainstorm the night before.

Scout-Sniper Once Dancer

DA NANG — Well-mannered, softspoken LanceCpl. Fofo T. Tutele, Andrews Place, Los Angeles, is equally at home with a knife or a gun.

Since joining the Fifth Marine Regimental sniper platoon in Vietnam, he has killed two Viet Cong from 900 meters away.

His specialty, however, is knife dancing. Before he enlisted in the Marine Corps in April, 1966, Fofo was one of the main attractions at the Polynesian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. He and a partner hurled and slashed at each other with machete-like knives in a traditional Samoan dance.



Snipers Take Weekly Practice

LCpl. Martin E. Berry (Evansville, Ind.), a sniper with 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division aims at a target 1,000 meters away as his spotter reports where the bullet strikes in relation to the target. By weekly practice snipers make the required adjustments to their weapons to keep them on target for the VC.

5th Marines Messhall Has Official Opening

By: Sgt. Phil Hamer

DA NANG—Realizing the importance of hot chow served three times a day, the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division reserved its first official ceremony at a new command post area 20 miles southeast of Da Nang for the opening of the regimental mess hall July 22.

An invocation delivered by LtCmdr. Eli Takesian, CHC, USN, chaplain for the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, preceded remarks by Col. Stanley Davis, 44 (Niagara Falls, N.Y.), regimental commander.

SSgt. Edward H. Butt (Philadelphia, Pa.), regimental mess sergeant, had prepared a special cake for the occasion and he brought it to the platform. Col. Davis sampled the first slice of cake, after which he cut the ribbon to officially open the mess hall.

Steak, potatoes and gravy, green beans, ham salad, bread, butter and cake were served to all hands immediately following the ceremony.

In less than a week, engineers had graded a level area on the rock hillside and SSgt. Butt had organized his cooks and messmen to erect tables, tents, set up galley equipment, and store supplies. One of the most important considerations was construction of a grease trap to be buried in a sand pit behind the galley.

Fifth Regiment Marines ate their first evening meal at tables set up beside the mess tents.

Vietnam Language Class Held

DA NANG—Capt. George C. Romano (Lake Worth, Fla.), a forward air controller with the 1st Bn., First Marine Regiment, has established Vietnamese language classes for Marines.

Romano recruited a Vietnamese college teacher from Hoi An college to teach the classes, consisting of 12 two-hour sessions.

"So much more could be accomplished if our Marines could speak Vietnamese," said the former A4-A Skyhawk pilot who has previously flown more than 125 missions in support of troops in I Corps.

"If we could train 20-25 Marines from the battalion, we could have 10 times the success in our civic actions and daily dealings with the local people," he said.

He believes that Marines learning the language will find out more about customs.

"The point is," he said, "it's their country, and in this type of warfare we need to win the people over."

Romano said the 1st Marine Division conducts a 30-day Vietnamese language school in Da Nang. "But the battalion can't afford to lose a man for this period of time," he said. "Our classes are held for two hours daily. This way, the Marine can maintain his regular job."

Operational and tactical commitments break regular attendance in the class. But the Marines can pick up in the next class where they left off before.

Romano, a six-year veteran of the Marine Corps, returned to active duty last year for duty in Vietnam.

8 SEA TIGER

Booby Traps By the Dozen

By: Cpl. Steven L. Berntson

DA NANG—"There aren't any large units of Viet Cong around here, so what few are here resort to booby traps and mines," said 2ndLt. Dale Venuto (Omaha, Neb.).

Venuto, platoon commander in "A" Co., 1st Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division spoke of an area 10 miles south of Da Nang where Marines from 2nd Bn., First Marine Regiment, were operating July 5-7 and his engineers were basting the traps.

"You can find booby traps almost anywhere. Some of them are very crude but most are very effective," said Venuto.

Venuto had moved to the Da Nang area from Tam Ky area where the North Vietnamese Army regulars resort more to anti-tank and heavy equipment land mines. The Viet Cong make extensive use of booby traps he said.

During the three day operation, "H" Co., 2nd Bn., 1st Marine discovered and destroyed 12 booby traps, burned a number of punji stakes and destroyed a haystack resulting in a large secondary explosion caused by munitions stored by the VC.



Marines Help Again

MajGen. Donn J. Robertson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, presents a check for 590,000 piasters (\$5,000) to the most Reverend Peter Chi, bishop of Da Nang. The money, a donation from the 1st Marine Division Catholic Chapel fund, will be used at Chu Lai New Life hamlet to help defray the cost of a new school and orphanage, and to help build a new hospital in east Da Nang.

(Photo by: LCpl. C. D. Thomas)

Champion Marine 'Dinger' Puts Div. Snipers in the Black (PJs)

By: MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—"These are the best trained snipers I've ever seen."

The man who said it ought to know. He is GySgt. V. D. Mitchell (Vista, Calif.), the National Service Rifle Champion in 1958 and currently the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the 1st Marine Division sniper school near Da Nang.

He was talking about 18 scout-snipers, the first class in a series now undergoing refresher training.

Reporting to the school with an impressive number of kills to their credit, the

scout-snipers are aiming to increase their proficiency, make sure their rifles are zeroed in properly, and get the benefit of Mitchell's 16 years as a competitive shooter.

Mitchell, who began his com-

petitive shooting at San Diego, Calif., in 1952, said the group could outshoot any snipers in the world today as he watched his students knock down man-sized moving targets at 600 yards.

First Division scout-snipers are equipped with more than a rifle to fight the enemy, Mitchell said. Most are trained as forward observers and when they can't reach the enemy because of the range or when the enemy ducks before he can be picked off, the scout-snipers can call in artillery, mortar and air fire missions.

As a result he is not only credited with the kills he gets from his rifle, but also from those eliminated as a result of his calling in supporting fire.

Mitchell retired from the Marine Corps in 1964 but returned to active duty early this year. Reporting to Camp Pendleton in February, he was immediately sent to Vietnam to head up the 1st Marine Division sniper school.

Skilled in instructing as he is in shooting, Mitchell's enthusiasm infects his fellow instructors and students alike.

In 1965 he won the National Individual Rifle Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio. When he won the National Service Rifle championship in 1958, Mitchell also shot a rapid fire record in the Coast Guard match with 15 of 20 bulletpoints in the smaller "V-ring."

He is a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict.



Ribbon Cutting

Colonel C. C. Crossfield, commanding officer of the Seventh Marine Regiment, cuts the ribbon, officially opening the new and enlarged Regimental post exchange at Hill 55, 10 miles southwest of Da Nang. Assisting the colonel is a Vietnamese exchange employee. Looking on is Capt. Carlton E. Land, 1st Marine Division exchange officer.

(OFFICIAL U.S. MARCOPPS PHOTO)



FLC Monthly Food Support for I Corps Totals \$4.5 Million

By: LCpl. Ron Howell

CAMP BOOKS—The monthly food bill for Marines in I Corps is \$4.5 million as Rations Co., Supply Bn., Force Logistic Command provides all of the three "squares" a day.

Supplying 160 messhalls, Rations Co. supports all Marine units in the I Corps, plus 30th Naval Construction Regiment and the Republic of Korea Marines stationed near Chu Lai.

Coordination of all ration supply is done through G-3 Operations, FLC, who requisitions and distributes rations after they are drawn from the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang.

Maj. A. D. Malovich, of North Springfield, Va., assistant operations officer, G-3, said, "It is our primary concern to get the rations out to the men on time, to see that their basic diet needs are fulfilled, no matter where the men are located."

Meals supplied include "A" and "B" rations and individual operational combat meals—"C" rations. "A" rations are made up of all perishable food stuffs, both chilled and frozen. "B" rations consist of canned food items and "C" rations are meals in themselves, usually issued to units on operations or to units without immediate messhall facilities.

A new item, long range patrol packages consisting of dehydrated food, is supplied to patrols and reconnaissance units. The demand keeps growing since they are light and easy to carry.

Patrol Wakes Up in Middle Of Minefield

By PFC Dennis Shutz

CHU LAI—Setting up an ambush in the middle of a mine field usually isn't considered the most desirable thing to do. Sleeping in the middle of one is even less desirable, but SP4 Rhiney J. Hyde (Sweetwater, Tex.) managed to do it and live to tell about it.

"Our patrol left camp that evening after dark to set up an ambush near a hill," Hyde recalled. "When we reached the position I took two men with me and set up in a good spot overlooking the road. We prepared our defense and began our shifts on watch."

The night passed without incident, but dawn brought with it a different story. "I was on watch when the sun came up," Hyde said. "I looked over at one of the men sleeping not far from me and noticed a piece of metal shining in the sun next to his hand. I studied it for a second and then walked over to it. I knew what it was, but I had to be sure."

"I was right, it was a mine. I woke him up and warned him to watch where he put his hand, and then the three of us began checking out the area. We hadn't looked far when we found another one under the first man's poncho liner. By then it was completely light, so we continued to search. To our amazement we found seven mines in about a 15-meter radius where we were sleeping."

Hyde radioed back to the company asking for EOD (Explosive Ordnance Demolition) team to be sent out to dispose of the mines.

"It didn't seem possible," Hyde thought, "that we could have walked and even slept in that area all night without stepping on one of them."

For those units not having exchange facilities at their disposal, ration supplement sundry packs, consisting of confections, stationery and toilet accessories are issued.

Outlying areas in I Corps receive food supplies from Da Nang by either air transport or surface craft. Almost all of the areas receive "A" rations and milk by air, daily. "B" rations and "C" rations are delivered by surface craft, and in some instances by truck convoys.

Fresh produce, bought mostly on the local market, is also supplied messhall facilities by the rations unit. In addition, approximately 10,000 pounds of fresh produce is flown in daily from Da Lat, south of Saigon.

Also under the supervision of rations are the bakery facilities and ice plants in I Corps.

With ice plants in Da Nang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai and Dong Ha, the unit tries to see that each Marine has at least one-and-one-half pounds of ice daily. To assure this, contracts with local vendors and NSA have been made.

Lt. R. E. Stewart, of Ocean-side, Calif., rations officer, said, "Through the efforts of rations and the personnel working there, the troops in the I Corps area are eating better than troops in any other war."



Screaming Eagles Search for VC

Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne's 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry advance in Viet Cong-infested territory during Operation Malheur II. Since arriving in I Corps the Screaming Eagles have killed more than 750 enemy.

(USA Photo by SP4 James Lohr)



New School For Duc Pho

DUC PHO—The 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division civil affairs team, working with CORDS (Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support) has drawn plans and begun work on Duc Pho District's first public school in over two years.

During the past years, the people have been dominated by the Viet Cong. Upon the arrival of the 3d Brigade last April, the civil affairs team found that establishing a school system was an important project.

Plans were drawn by 1st Lt. John Dickerson, Newport News, Virginia, the civil affairs engineering officer, and work began, with over 5,000 handmade bricks and lumber, on the five-room school house.

The high school, which will accommodate 250 students, is being built entirely by Vietnamese under the supervision of its designer, Dickerson.

Paratroopers Kill 22 Viet Cong

By SP5 William P. Singley

DUC PHO—Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne inflicted heavy losses on a stubborn enemy force defending a hospital and rehabilitation complex in the Song Ve valley west of here.

The action began when the 1st Platoon, Company A of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry discovered a hut complex late one afternoon during Operation Malheur II.

Employing stealth and strict noise discipline, platoon sergeant Robert P. Sherman, Columbus, Ga., moved the platoon toward

the thatch-roofed, jungle village.

Ten meters away from the first group of huts, a Viet Cong guard spotted the paratroopers. The Americans moved into the complex, surprised by its size. Lt. Jerry Barnhill, Houston, pulled his platoon back to the edge of the clearing to establish a defensive perimeter.

The strategy was to call in artillery and gunships. When darkness fell, a grass hut caught fire. Barnhill used it as a reference point to direct gunships and a medivac to lift out a wounded paratrooper.

Throughout the night, bullets split the air. Combat engineers and infantrymen cleared a landing zone in the darkness under enemy fire.

"There was no sleeping that night," said SP4 James N. Page, Dayton, Ohio.

At daybreak, the paratroopers resumed their search of the village.

"We found 22 VC bodies and secured four detainees," said Sergeant Sherman. "And we found enough hospital and field equipment to fill a two and a half ton truck."

Duy Tan Hospital Staff—Ten Years of Dedication

DA NANG—For more than ten years, a dedicated group has been treating the wounded, the sick and the dying here.

It is the staff of the Duy Tan hospital—one of two Vietnamese Army general hospitals in Vietnam. Its members treated 10,124 patients during 1966.

Of these, more than 8,000 were Regular, Regional and Popular Forces soldiers. The rest were military dependents.

Total out-patient care last year was provided for 47,993 people.

Impressive statistics? Yes, but the value of the service can be measured in other terms.

A look at some of the 1,069 patients at the hospital tells the story. They display gratitude and appreciation, the appearance of hope where there was once despair...

With the highest number of patients now in its ten-year history, the hospital staff consists of 43 doctors and 12 nurses—supported by 449 others.

There are also 300 civil service employees at the 1,000 bed hospital.

Major Pham Viet Tu, hospital

director, says each of the employees "are playing a vital role."

"They not only help the soldiers, but thousands of military dependents as well," he said.

Duy Tan has just celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, commanding general, I Corps, was among those present to honor the hospital and staff during the observance.

He decorated many of the staff and visited the sick and wounded. Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman, commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force, accompanied him.

Gen. Lam summed up the accomplishments of the hospital following his visit to the wards.

"Your life-giving efforts are worthy of the highest praise," he said. "But the easiest way to measure your accomplishments is to observe those you help."

"Their gratitude," the general said, "can always be apparent. Sometimes it might be hard to spot, but it's there. This should be more than enough thanks for your efforts."



Generals Visit — Two three-star generals, LtGen. Robert Cushman, commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force and LtGen. Hoang Xuan Lam, commanding general, I Corps, visit Duy Tan hospital patients.

FLC Disbursing Unit Tackles Mammoth Financial Problems

CAMP BOOKS — Working with money sounds like an ideal situation but for Marines who handle payroll, it is strictly work.

According to Lt. E. L. Clemmons (Sarasota, Fla.), deputy disbursing officer, Force Logistic Command (FLC) personnel receive from one-and-a-half to two million dollars a payday, which is drawn from the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang.

Since FLC began operations in March 1966, pay accounts have increased from 4,000 to the present 10,000 pay accounts.

To handle these records, the FLC disbursing staff, consisting of two officers and 11 enlisted are intermingled with the First Marine Division disbursing office. In addition, two FLC disbursing teams are located at Phu Bai and Chu Lai.

Pointman Finds Baby in Hut

DUC PHO — A pointman of the 101st Airborne had an unusual experience while leading his platoon through an enemy village. Instead of finding an enemy soldier inside a hut, he found a newborn baby.

Pfc. Leslie D. Thornton, Washington, D.C., found the baby in a hammock. The baby's skin looked diseased and his face was caked with dirt and grime.

The distance between Camp Books and the First Marine Division disbursing office presents a problem for FLC personnel but plans are underway to provide FLC with its own disbursing office at Camp Books.

"Whenever we do get our own office, we will have to increase the staff. Presently, First Marine Division disbursing personnel are assisting us," Clemmons added. "Each of our pay clerks are responsible for handling an average of 700 pay records."

In addition to preparing payroll, FLC disbursing clerks must audit the individual pay record. This consists of reconciling leave, checking existing allotments and verifying the Marine's current pay status.

Twice yearly, new pay records are made up on all Marines. Stateside, much of this

work is accomplished by electrical equipment. In Vietnam most of this information is entered manually.

The new pay records have to be extended, taxes and leave computed and periods of service verified. Once these extensions are made, the pay record is ready to be balanced.

Other duties performed by disbursing are: payments of re-enlistment bonuses, temporary additional duty pay and the processing of personnel upon joining and transferring. Special pay days are also arranged for Marines taking R&R.

Disbursing teams pay Marine medical evacuees aboard the USS REPOSE and USS SANCTUARY by Pay Adjustment Authorization, which is later posted to the man's pay record at disbursing.

Cpl. Richard R. Ruhl of Crestline, Ohio, chief clerk, says, "One of the big problems for us at disbursing is the individual Marine who is not properly informed of his pay and allowances. Many times as a result of rumors, men come to us wondering why they haven't received supposed pay raises."

Clemmons explained, "Working in a disbursing unit in Vietnam means a lot of work and long hours. It's not a glamorous job but it's a good morale factor assuring that each Marine gets all his pay due—on time."



Together Again

Pfc. Dale E. Barkley, (7143 Hagel St., Columbia, S.C.), shows his father, Army SSGT. Donald A. Barkley the location of his unit, the 1st Military Police Bn., Force Logistic Command. The Barkleys met at the Da Nang river bridge where young Barkley stands security watch. SSGT. Barkley is a member of the Army's First Logistical Command.

(Photo by: SSGT. R. P. Beam)

ARVN 'Copter' Unit Versatile

DA NANG — A versatile unit here evacuates the wounded, resupplies isolated outposts and carries Vietnamese troops where they're needed.

It's the 213th Helicopter Squadron (VNAF).

The primary mission of the

squadron is to support the ground troops. About 60 per cent of the total sorties are trooplift — transporting Vietnamese airborne, Ranger and Army soldiers to and from the field — and resupply missions.

About one in five helicopter missions is a medivac, and the remainder of the sorties range from search and rescue operations to liaison and VIP airlift.

"We're a pretty versatile outfit," says Maj. Dao Duc Tran, commander of the 213th Helicopter Squadron for the past three years. "We not only have a variety of missions but provide choppers to the 1st and 2nd ARVN Divisions which then frag their own missions."

Two of the unit's 16 assigned H-34's are on temporary duty to Hue. The 1st Division Headquarters there schedules crews for all missions. The remainder of the time is spent on ground alert.

Another two choppers are provided on a daily basis to the 2nd Division at Quang Ngai.

"Sometimes we have two at Hoi An," Tran said, "and normally two here. So an average of eight choppers are operational all the time."

The H-34 can carry 12-15 Vietnamese troops or 2,000 pounds of cargo. It has a range of 140 square nautical miles and can fly for three hours. These assets have been put to good use.

During the first half of 1967, the squadron airlifted 13,831 military passengers and 597 tons of cargo. It also medivaced 828 soldiers.

On a recent mission north of Hue, choppers lifted 10,000 pounds of ammunition to a unit in heavy contact. It then medivaced 40 wounded and dead troops. All in a day's work. . . .

"We haven't lost a bird to ground fire in the past year though," says Maj. Edwin G. Flanigan, one of two US advisors to the unit. "We get battle damage about once a week but we've been lucky."

The 213th has 35 pilots and four staff members. The majority of the pilots have between 800-1500 hours flying time, but many have 4,000 hours.

MAERU Tests, Evaluates, Rebuilds Ammunition

By LCpl Ron Howell
CAMP BOOKS — To test, evaluate, and rebuild ammunition is the primary concern of the Mobile Ammunition Evaluation Renovation Unit (MAERU), currently working in South Vietnam.

Under the direction of the Naval Ammunition Department, Weapons Production Engineering Center (WPEC), Crane, Ind., MAERU came to Vietnam at the request of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In 1966 the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commander of the Naval Weapons System Command, asked the

United States Navy Department through WPEC to review and report on MAERU capability in the Republic of Vietnam. The end result indicated that inspections, evaluations, and renovations would mean much lower labor costs to the government.

Presently located at Ammunition Supply Point-1 (ASP-1), Ammunition Co., Supply Bn., Force Logistic Command, west of Da Nang, the eight-man crew is working to assure that the fighting Marine has a fully serviceable and dependable supply of 'ammo.' In addition, this saves the Marine Corps time and money by rebuilding defec-

tive 'ammo' on-the-spot.

Under the supervision of Albert Nulty, technician in charge, the MAERU unit arrived in Vietnam June 11. Designed to travel completely self-sufficient to any place in the world the civil service crew will spend a 120-day tour in Vietnam. The all volunteer unit will then return to the states, being replaced by another crew.

Joseph Pavao, assistant technician in charge said, "It looks like a MAERU team might be in Vietnam, at the discretion of the Commandant, for the duration."

The presence of the mobile

team precludes shipping defective ammunition stateside, greatly decreasing the time element for reconditioning.

Most of the defective 'ammo' is rejected and rebuilt because of rapid deterioration. "Outside storage takes a heavy toll on ammunition in Vietnam," C. J. Oakes, senior quality evaluation technician said.

Once testing begins by determining the number of rounds in a section. A sample number of rounds are brought in, the number mathematically determined according to the total number of rounds in a section. All components within a round are completely disassembled. Then the components are passed on to quality evaluation which tests each part separately.

In addition to breaking down the rounds, samples from each section are test fired. With the smaller caliber ammunition, electrical devices are used for test firing purposes. For larger caliber 'ammo,' such as mortars, a drop firing test is used, using a device very similar to a mortar tube.

Ordnance has been selected and tested on the basis of priority and the most critically needed. First tested were the 4.2 inch mortars and 81mm mortars. To date, approximately 2,000 rounds of the mortar 'ammo' have been tested by the MAERU team. Thus far, some of the 'ammo' tested has been found non-useable and has been rebuilt.

Once a section of ammunition has been tested and or reconditioned, it is then considered to have the equivalency of new 'ammo.'

All findings and evaluations from the MAERU tests are sent to various ammunition facilities throughout the United States, so that the same procedures may be used on ammunition of corresponding type at these units.

While at ASP-1 the MAERU team is being assisted by 16 Marines from Ammunition Co. The Marines, working with the different MAERU sections, are taught the proper procedures for the servicing and revamping of defective ammunition.

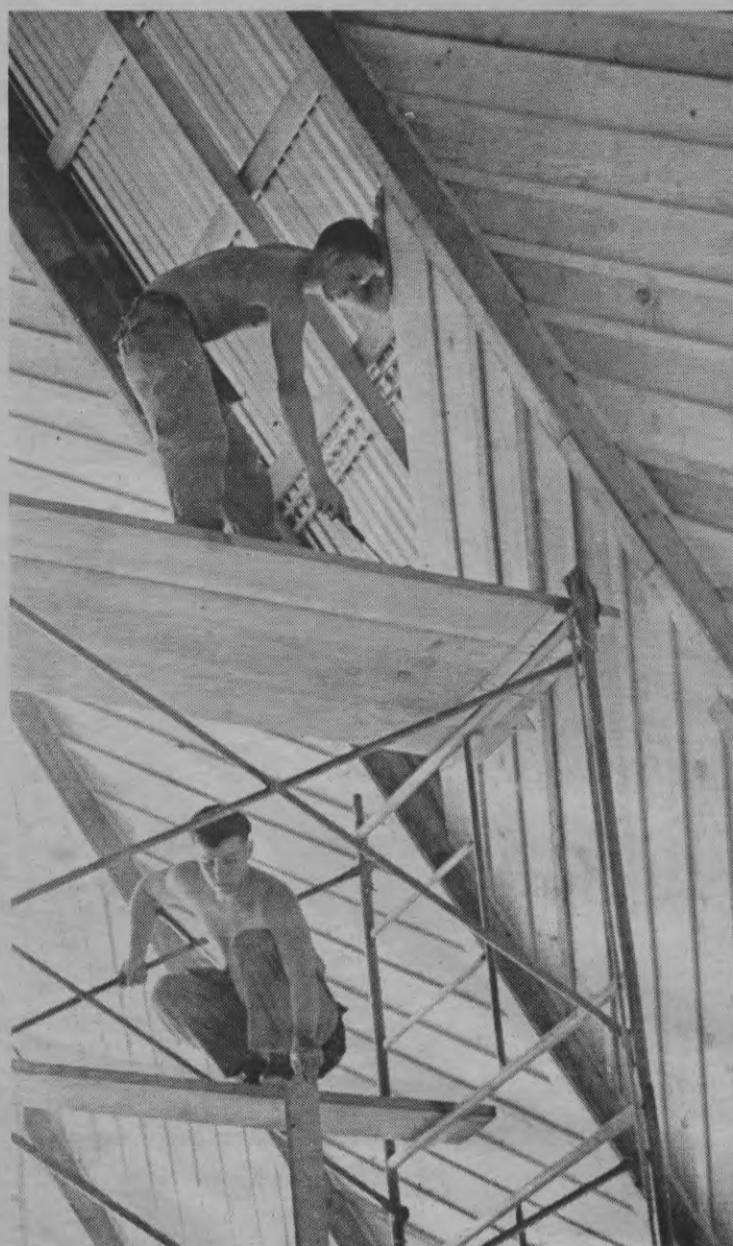


ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING — Quality Evaluation Technician H. A. Westmoreland, a member of the Mobile Ammunition Evaluation Renovation Unit supervises the disassembly of a fuse from a 90mm projectile. Removing the fuse so it can be given a quality evaluation test, is Cpl. Robert A. Young of Austin, Minn., while LCpl. David M. Workman, of Houston, Tex., protects the primer with his hands.

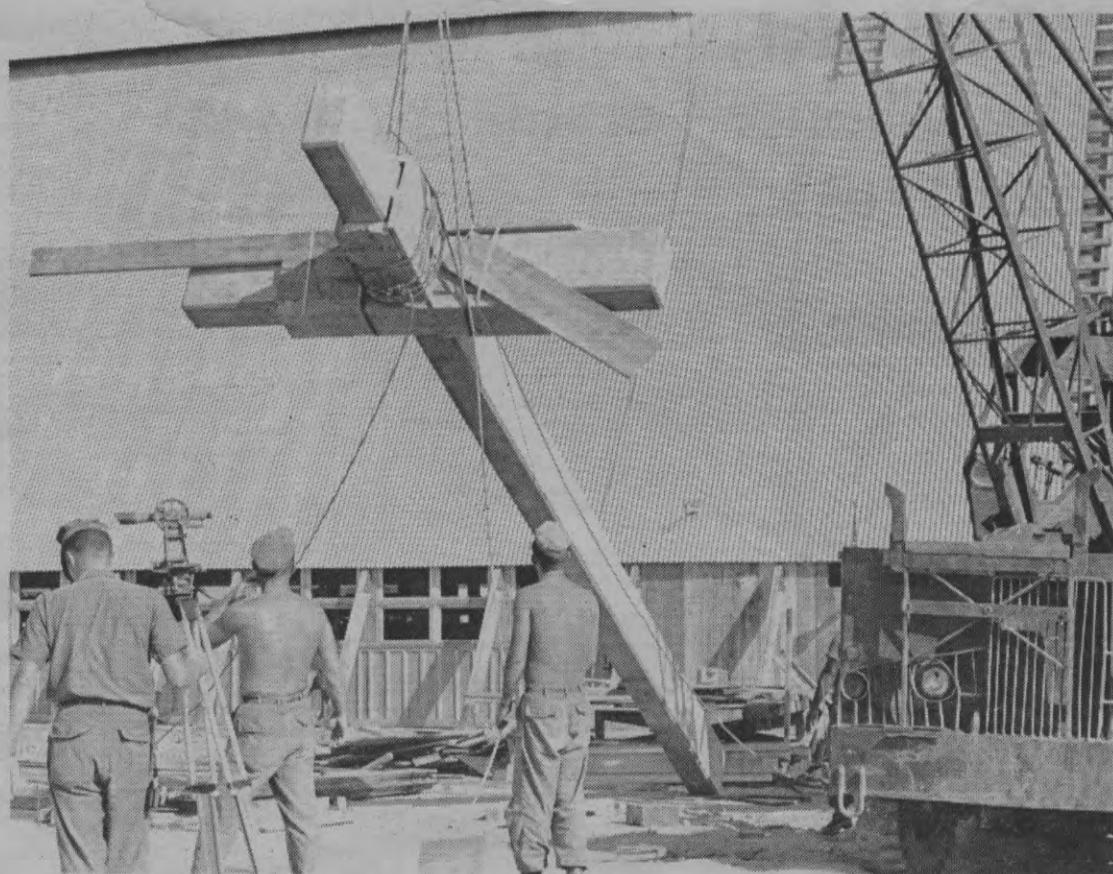
(Photo by: SSGT. R. P. Beam)



BUILDING PEWS — Carpenters build pews which will provide for a seating capacity of 190.



LAST BOARDS — The last boards are placed in the ceiling.



CONCRETE CROSS — A 21 foot concrete cross weighing approximately 8,000 pounds is hoisted into position beside the chapel.

Sea Tiger Spotlight on: Building a Church

Rising out of the dusty plains of Rosemary Point, Republic of Vietnam, is a unique structure, revolutionary in design and spiritual in purpose. It is a chapel for the Naval Support Activity Detachment and was built by Seabees of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion EIGHT.

Dwarfing its neighboring Butler buildings and strongback huts, the A-frame structure rises 41 feet into the air with a glistening tin roof visible for miles.

The 42x108 ft. chapel utilizes modern methods of design which would make its appearance as much at home on Main Street, U.S.A.; as it will be in Vietnam. The structure is made entirely of wood with the exception of the tin roofing, a concrete floor and a stone wall located on the northwest corner and surrounding the chaplain's offices.

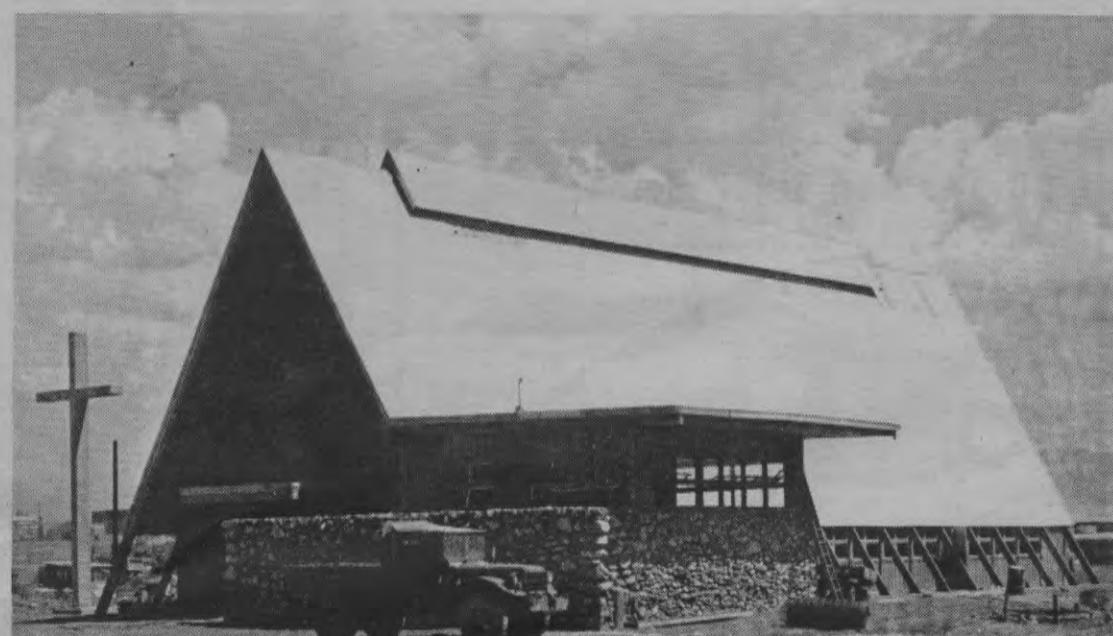
The building of the NSAD chapel has become a labor of love for the Seabees of EIGHT who normally must be content with the routine construction of Butler buildings, strongback huts and helo pads. "We are very proud of it," stated Builder Chief J.W. Gastor, crew leader for the project. "It's a break from the ordinary type of construction work over here."

Before the completion date mid-July was reached, approximately 1600 man-days and 9,000 board feet of lumber was expended by the Seabees of NMCB EIGHT. The job is a joint effort of three companies of the Battalion; Charlie Company, the prime contractor; Alpha Company which accomplished the earthwork involved, and Bravo Company which installed the utilities.

The chapel contains a choir loft, a small sanctuary, seating capacity for 190 people and an altar. Outside of the building, a 21 ft. cross has been erected.



ALTAR WORK — A Seabee works on the altar erected in front of this wooden cross.



FINISHED PRODUCT — The NSAD Chapel — A labor of love built by MCB-8.

VC Murder 21 Civilians Last Week

DA NANG — Twenty-one Vietnamese civilians were murdered by the Viet Cong July 29 in two separate acts of terrorism. Two more were killed and six wounded in separate incidents.

Reports received July 31 said 14 were killed and two children wounded in Thua Thien Province. The Viet Cong entered the Bang Lang hamlet late in the evening and shot them.

The victims all had relatives in the Armed Forces. The scene of the atrocity is eight kilometers south of Hue.

Another seven civilians were shot and killed by Viet Cong at 9 p.m. at the An Diem hamlet six kilometers southwest of Binh Son in Quang Ngai Province.

The village chief, Nguyen Lao, and the assistant village chief were killed in the incident.

Two more civilians were killed and one wounded late July 29 following an attack on an ARVN position near Tam Ky. The unit was in night ambush positions four kilometers southeast of the city when it was attacked by a VC company firing semi-automatic weapons and 57 mm recoilless rifles.

The other three civilians were wounded the morning of July 30 when Viet Cong hit the Tuy Loan dispensary in Quang Nam Province—with five rounds of M-79 grenade launchers. One of the injured was a pregnant woman.

Elsewhere, five VC entered a home the day before in the Huong Thuy village and destroyed 75% of it with explosives. There were no casualties in the incident six kilometers southeast of Hue.

Surrounded...

(Continued From Page 1) six Marines fixed bayonets. Horney suggested a prayer.

Pfc. Eddie Rackow of Odessa, Tex. saw the NVA assaulting within 20 yards of his position on the outpost's unprotected flank, and opened up with his M-16 to keep the enemy at bay.

The sweat-drenched relief force, which had run all the way from the command post, came sweeping on line through the area.

"When Charley Company came charging across that field, they looked like a bunch of green angels," said Pfc. Raymond G. Pistole of Sherman, Tex.

"It was just like the movies," said Hornby. "Charley Company coming through there on line was one of the greatest sights I've ever seen."

The NVA battled the relief force for a few minutes, then fled, leaving two more dead and two automatic weapons.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

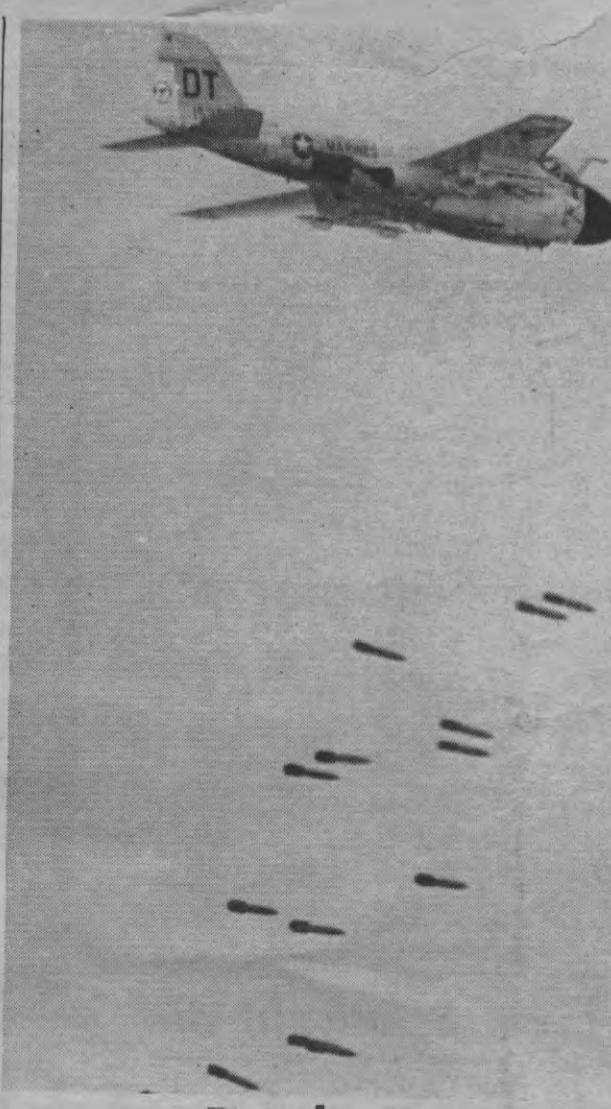
FROM: _____

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

TO: _____

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

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



Bombs Away

500-lb. bombs drop from an A-6A Intruder jet of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron-242 during a mission south of Chu Lai July 24. (Photo by: SSgt. William L. Brown)

1st Div. Has Moving Tank

By: LCpl. Paul W. Reneau

DA NANG—Marines of 3rd Plt., "C" Co., 1st Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division, get as much mileage out of a tank as they can—particularly "Charlie 3-2."

The battle-scarred tank, officially designated an M48-A3, has hit seven enemy anti-tank mines, six of which were the heavy destruction type.

Normally a tank is returned to the States for a complete overhaul after hitting three mines or logging 3,000 miles. "Charlie 3-2" has logged over 4,600 miles since it was brought to Vietnam in April of last year.

"But it's just as operable as any other tank in our platoon," said Sgt. Albert L. Barton, (Oceanside, Calif.).

Fifty-three heads are painted on its turret, representing 53 VC kills. It is also credited with sinking five sampans. Recently, in one day alone, the tank was responsible for 11 kills and two sunken boats.

The heavily-armored vehicle carries a four-man crew including a tank commander, gunner, loader and driver, and totes three guns—.30 and .50 caliber

machineguns and a 90mm gun.

It is used primarily in support of infantry troops of the 1st Bn., First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, who operate in an area 10-15 miles south of Da Nang.



Rugged Country for Helicopters

Leathernecks of the 1st Bn., Seventh Marines move through thick brush after getting off a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Sea Knight helicopter during the first day of an operation July 27 west of Da Nang.

(Photo by: SSgt. Bill Brown)

Sea Stallion Effects Rapid Heli Recovery

By: Cpl. Chris Dunn

DA NANG — "Ten feet forward, five down and hold—we got him, let's get out of here."

Cpl. Ben Krenk (Ida Grove, Iowa), a crew chief with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-463, had quickly given the instructions to hook a cable from a hovering CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter onto a downed CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter near Con Thien, July 25.

The Sea Stallion, piloted by Major George Ebbitt (Oneida, N.Y.) had been assigned the mission of recovering the damaged helo early that morning. But heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire in the pick up zone had forced the mission to be delayed until mid-afternoon.

With Krenk standing by the lifting cable to make the hook up, the CH-53 made its first approach to the zone at 10:15 a.m. The enemy began firing forcing Ebbitt to turn the big

chopper around and head back to Dong Ha. Air strikes were called in and Marine jets bombed and strafed the enemy positions.

The Sea Stallion made its second attempt at 11:30 a.m., but again they were forced to leave the area due to heavy enemy fire.

On the third try, Ebbitt approached the area at tree-top level, using the cover of a small hill hoping the enemy wouldn't spot the big helicopter. He hovered the Sea Stallion almost directly over the CH-46.

Krenk gave the pilot two quick distance adjustments, and a recovery team member standing atop the Sea Knight quickly hooked the lifting cable in place.

"I think it took that guy on the Sea Knight longer to climb down," Krenk said, "than it took to make the actual hook-up. "From the time we entered the zone to the time we started to lift out, it couldn't have been more than 30 seconds."

Wounded Pair

DA NANG—Two Vietnamese women appeared at the gate of Combined Action Platoon D-6 recently, seeking treatment for wounds caused by a hand grenade.

As they were being treated they told how a Viet Cong stood guard outside their home while two others took a nap inside.

At daybreak the guard went into the hut to wake up his friends.

As he entered the hut, he stumbled and a grenade fell from his belt and detonated, wounding the two women and killing one of the VC.