



# SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

October 5, 1966

## Gen. Nickerson takes over 1st MarDiv

Major General H. Nickerson, Jr. assumed command of the 1st Marine Division October 1, relieving Major General Lewis J. Fields. General Fields is to take command of the 5th Marine Division, which has its headquarters at Camp Pendleton,

Calif.

The new First Marine Division commander arrived in Vietnam September 29 and toured First Marine Airwing and 3d Marine Division facilities prior to his arrival at Chu Lai.

General Nickerson entered

the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant in 1945. He was born in Boston and graduated from Boston University.

As a colonel during the Korean Conflict, he was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Cross, the Nation's second highest combat award, for extraordinary heroism on May 31, 1951 as Commanding Officer of the Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

For conspicuous gallantry in September 1950 as Liaison Officer, First Marines, 1st Marine Division, during the advance along the Inchon-Seoul highway and the Han River crossing, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

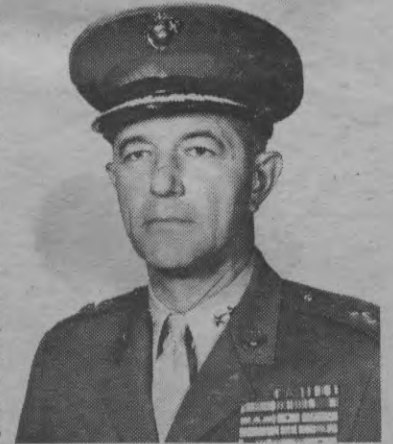
Once again, General Nick-

erson found himself with the First Division, when in June, 1962, he assumed command of the Division at Camp Pendleton. He was promoted to his present rank of major general on July 1, 1962 while serving with the First Marine Division.

General Nickerson was Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, prior to his assignment here.

General Fields has commanded the 1st Marine Division since August, 1965 and takes over his new command on November 1. The 5th Marine Division, currently in formation stages, now is commanded by Major General Robert E. Cushman, Jr.,

who also serves as Commanding General of the reserve 4th Marine Division, which has its headquarters nucleus at Camp Pendleton.



MajGen. H. Nickerson, Jr.



PFC Jerry Hummer tells a fellow Marine at 1stBn, 26th Marines CP of his experience of the night before Hummer and two other Marines on Operation Prairie were forced to spend the night in an enemy controlled village within 500 yards of the DMZ. Though wounded in the chest and back, Hummer managed to crawl 1000 yards back to his own lines.

(Photo by Cpl Bob Armstrong)

## Three thought dead make it back to unit

By: Cpl. V. M. Hagel

DONG HA—Three Marines with only three days of combat experience found themselves left for dead after a heavy fire fight in the middle of a heavily fortified Viet Cong village only 2,000 yards from the DMZ.

The Marine company from the 26th Marine Regiment on Operation Prairie had attacked the village three times on Sept. 20.

Lance Corporal David Higgins, moved with his fire team into the village as the company's point. Cut off from the company during a savage firefight, the team was thought to be dead when the company had to pull out to wait for tank support.

Private First Class Jerry Hum-

mer, suffered grenade wounds in the ambush. Private First Class Luz Arenello dressed his buddy's wound.

Darkness fell and the team moved out of the ditch they had used for cover. They managed to crawl 200 yards to a hedgerow without being discovered. Camouflaging themselves, they stayed the night. Throughout the night Marine mortars and artillery hammered into the village.

"It's a miracle, we weren't killed," Higgins said. "We could hear the enemy all around us. They were as close as three feet. We didn't know whether our own artillery or the North Vietnamese would get us first."

(Continued on Page 6)

## Pilot killed

## Non-flying aerial observer lands aircraft successfully

By: MSgt George Wilson

DA NANG — A Marine Corps aerial observer with no previous flying experience successfully landed an O1D "Birdog" aircraft near Mo Duc when the pilot was killed by ground fire.

Captain Frank H. Adams, 27, of Nashville, Tenn., grabbed the controls as the plane dove towards the ground, righted it, then flew blind 18 miles to Quang Ngai where Army pilots talked him in to a landing.

The 1st Division Marine, sitting behind and below the pilot's seat,

had to wrestle with the controls because the pilot's body had fallen across the control panel and his right foot was resting on the right rudder.

Captain Adams said he fought the emergency stick out of its place behind him as the plane dove toward the ground, jammed it into its hole and pulled the plane back into the air.

"We were flying west of Mo Duc at about 300 feet when we observed a Viet Cong soldier on a trail," Capt. Adams said. "We went down to 100 feet to look and

they (VC) popped out of the bushes and opened up on us with automatic weapons."

"I could see three of them firing at us," he said. "When I saw the rounds, I began looking at the map for the coordinates. Then I heard the pilot say 'Oh my God, I'm hit' and he slumped over the controls."

After righting the aircraft, Capt. Adams flew back to Quang Ngai and called the tower for advice and help on how to land the aircraft.

Army Lieutenant Dave Antonopolis, in the tower, talked Adams in to the field. Then Lt. Curt Lauer went airborne in another observation aircraft, flew alongside Capt. Adams to gauge his speed and altitude, then talked him in to a blind landing.

As the plane hit the ground it careened off the runway into a pile of empty ammunition cases and flipped over.

Captain Adams was uninjured. He was on his 115th mission since his arrival in Vietnam May 1. He went right back to work as an aerial observer the next day.

## Platoon smashes out of graveyard ambush

By: Cpl. Nick Harder

DA NANG—A platoon of Marines from a 1st Marine Regiment company fought their way out of a Viet Cong trap in hand-to-hand combat at a Vietnamese graveyard 16 miles south of Da Nang.

Using a large tunnel complex with spider traps within the graveyard itself, the VC, dressed in black, executed the ambush after the platoon had passed the unseen hideout.

When the last Marine was only 15 yards away, 15 VC leaped from their holes firing, screaming and throwing hand-grenades. The last man in the rear squad was separated from the platoon by the heavy fire and the rear squad was pinned down momentarily.

Though exposed in the open rice paddy, the first and second squads moved to envelop the attacking VC. As more VC popped into view from their holes, the Marines clubbed them with their

rifle butts or fired at point-blank range.

As the VC were clubbed, wounded or killed, they fell or were seemingly dragged back into their holes by unseen hands.

A second platoon was dispatched from the Marine company command post. Three am-

(Continued On Back Page)

## Artillery turns off lights

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

DONG HA—North Vietnamese soldiers turned on their flashlights—Marine artillery turned them off.

The lights were used to guide a night movement by the enemy soldiers just below the demilitarized zone during Operation Prairie. An Air Force C-47 "Spooky Bird" flare-gunship spotted a twinkling trail of about 15 lights. He called in the position.

A check revealed no Marine units in the area.

A battery of the 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division received the fire mission and sent a salvo of 155mm rounds into the enemy.

The pilot radioed back: "The lights are flying in all directions."

A Marine patrol the next day found twisted flashlights and other evidence the artillery had hit its mark.





# SEA TIGER

Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt  
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
Brigadier General Jonas M. Platt  
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force  
Major General Louis B. Robertshaw  
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing  
Major General Lewis J. Fields  
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division  
Major General Wood B. Kyle  
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division

Force ISO Editor Col. T. M. Fields  
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## General Americana

### The shoe that fits

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. (NAVNEWS)—An American yells for the government to balance the budget and then takes the last dime he has to make the down payment on a car.

He whips the enemy and then gives them the shirt off his back.

He yells for speed laws that will stop fast driving and then won't buy a car if it can't make 100 miles an hour.

An American gets scared to death if we vote a billion dollars for education, but is unconcerned when he finds out we are spending three billion dollars a year for cigarettes.

He knows the line-up of every baseball team in the American and National Leagues—then doesn't know half the words to the "Star Spangled Banner."

He'll spend half a day looking for vitamin pills to make him live longer, then drive 90 miles an hour on slick pavement to make up for the time he lost.

He ties up his dog but lets his 16-year-old son run wild.

An American will work hard on a farm so he can move to town where he can make more money so he can move back to the farm.

When an American is in his office, he talks about baseball, football or fishing; but when he is out at the game or on the lake, he talks business.

He is the only fellow in the world who will pay 50 cents to park his car while he eats a 25 cent lunch.

He is never ready for war but he has never lost one.

We're the country that has more food to eat than any other country in the world and more diets to keep us from eating.

We're the most ambitious people on earth, and we run from morning until night trying to keep our earning power up with our yearning power.

We're supposed to be the most civilized Christian nation on earth, but still can't deliver payrolls without an armored car.

In America we have more experts on marriage than any other country in the world—and more divorces.

But, we're still nice folks. Calling a person "A Real American" is the best compliment you can pay him. (Article from Caldwell County Times, Princeton, Ky.)



## Start your nest egg today

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# Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New pen-pals seeking Marines in Vietnam to write to are:

Joyce Hahn (18)  
5 Eastgate Road  
Massapequa Park, N. Y. 11762

Mrs. Sheila Furry (19)  
2130 Broden Apt. C  
Anaheim, California

Katie Pfister (16)  
618 W. 26th Street  
Erie, Penna. 16508

Rosemary Grosscup  
4201 W. Victoria  
Chicago, Illinois 60646

Joyce Long  
292 E. Baltimore Rd.  
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Sue Wold  
7403 Fifth Avenue  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Betty Tanner (40)  
15 Jordan Street  
Skaneateles, New York 13152

Jeanne Rielly  
100 Amackassin Terrace  
Yonkers, New York

Leathia Jirah  
168 Mankato Avenue  
Winona, Minn. 55987

Paula DeFor  
2404 13th Street S.W.  
Austin, Minnesota 55912

Gail Blasberg  
3565 Arborcrest Court  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Lucille Losito (22)  
17 Central Avenue  
Port Chester, N. Y. 10573

Mrs. Angie Lameka (28)  
531 A Milford  
Glendale, California

Paula Turnick  
34 W. Glenn Avenue  
Port Chester, N. Y. 10573

Shirley Eacret  
Route No. 1  
Commerce, Texas 75428

Alison Clement  
1271 Hodge Ave  
Charleston AFB, S. C. 29404

Linda Tissue (18)  
5829 Roslyn Street  
Boston, Penna.

Katherine Dunn  
1100 So. 21st Street  
Arlington, Va. 22202

Geraldine Owens  
136 North 2nd Street  
Allentown, Penna. 18101

Linda Winslow (19)  
c/o Woodlawn Hotel  
Cleverdale, N. Y. 12820

Barbara Schofield (31)  
9008 Snow Heights Bldg. N.E.

Albuquerque, N. M. 87112

Linda Dyleski  
3815 Carney Avenue  
Erie, Penna. 16510

Kelly Lincoln  
General Delivery  
Spivak, Colorado 80028

Theresa Kimball (31)  
24 Waldo Avenue  
Belfast, Maine

## Makeshift post office

DONG HA—Neither wind nor rain—nor the fortunes of war—can stop that letter from home to a Marine in Vietnam.

Even while fighting the North Vietnamese a scant two miles from the Demilitarized Zone, Marines can count on the reliability of the U.S. Mail.

Manning a makeshift post office at this outpost is Sgt. Thomas D. Harrington.

Using "scrounged" articles, Harrington built counters, letter boxes, a money-order window and package mailing facilities. With the essentials taken care of he is now providing speedier service for outgoing mail.

## Good career bargain at PX

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DA NANG—There's a place in the Da Nang area where a Marine may come for a bottle of bleach and stay for six years.

If the Marine "stays" for six years, then he's probably talked with Sergeant J. A. Rossillo, the man in charge of the first Marine Corps career advisory booth of its kind in Vietnam.

The booth is located in the Army & Air Force Exchange across the street from the 3rd Shore Party Battalion on Hill 327.

Displaying the prominent sign "Ask Me" overhead, the booth was officially dedicated by the Exchange Officer August 7, shortly after the exchange itself was opened.

From its opening until the first week of Sept., 1,545 Marines have consulted Rossillo about a variety of subjects concerning their potential Marine careers.

What do most Marines ask Rossillo about?

"They ask mostly about voluntary extensions of their enlistments, the Variable Reenlistment Bonus program, the 30 days leave policy being proposed for those extending six months in Vietnam, and the early release from service of those going to school," said Second Lieutenant Charles E. Schuette. The lieutenant, Third Marine Division career advisor, also said the unique problem facing advisors in Vietnam was the difficulty of reaching "the line trooper."

"That, and the fact that many of the units are so spread out, makes it difficult to reach the men and really push the career program," he said.

Rossillo furnishes interested Marines with literature and information about the problems, programs and policies they ask about. At the booth he has a supply of literature, posters, and other general information which will answer the wide range of questions asked during a normal day.

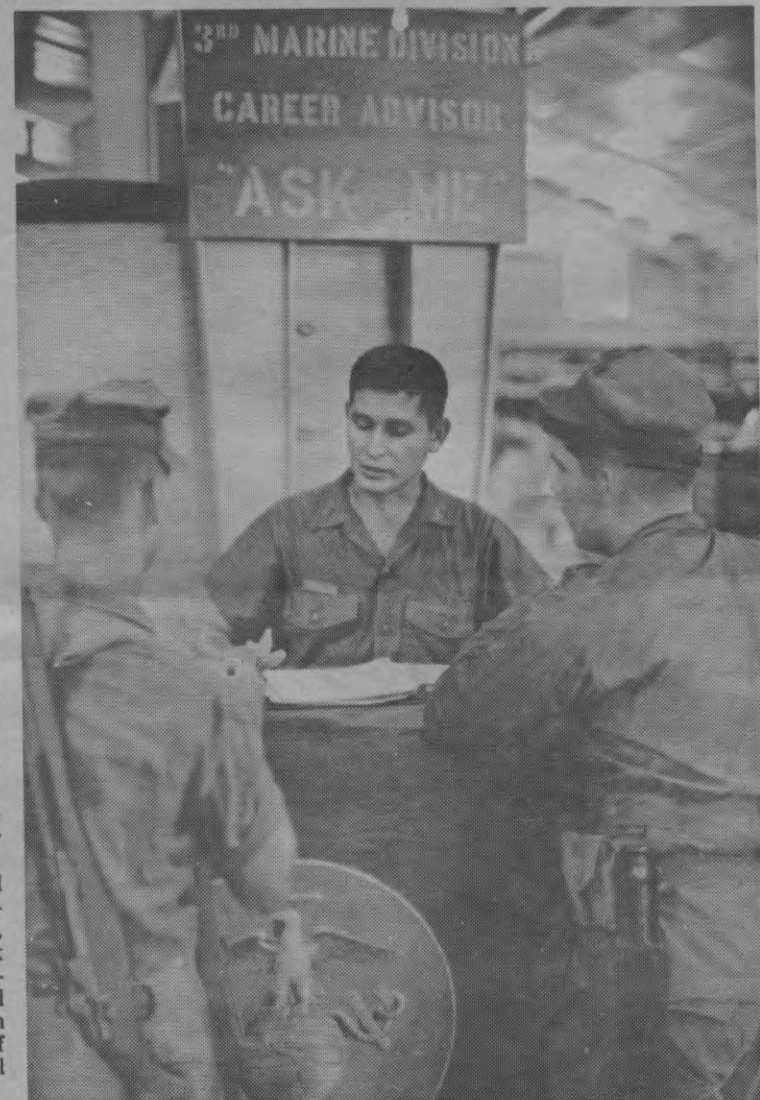
Rossillo maintains the same hours at the booth as does the exchange: from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sun-

day.

Lieutenant Schuette said a career advisory bulletin quoted a Marine general's speech, given in Washington, D.C., that approximately 10,000 Marines presently on active duty will be due for release, separation or discharge from the Corps during October. (October is the month designated

as the cut-off date of the last of the involuntary extensions ordered last year.)

The lieutenant, together with Gunnery Sergeant J. O. Salcedo the career advisory NCO at the 3d Marine Division, comprises the mobile team which visits each of the units in the Division periodically.



ASK ME—Two potential reenlistees query Sgt. J. A. Rossillo about Marine Corps programs. Rossillo operates the Career Advisory Booth in the A&AF Exchange near Da Nang.



# A world at peace in middle of war

By: Sgt. Jim Garffer

DA NANG — "If we have time I'll take you to meet a priest in the village of Khe Sanh. You'll like it there . . . it's different," said Major Wyman U. Blakeman, Operations Officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron.

With those words, a routine resupply mission was transformed into an exciting and memorable experience.

The resupply mission involved two lifts of material needed by elements of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment. The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Van D. Bell, Jr., was engaged in a search and clear mission.

The four UH34D helicopters, standing by the Army Special Forces camp in that mountainous region, were responsible for resupply, medical evacuations (medevacs) and the movement of troops.

The Marines who gathered the

supplies were drenched to the skin, the result of a torrential downpour moments before. Otherwise, they were grateful for the material, and, as yet, had not encountered the Viet Cong.

With the mission accomplished, Maj. Blakeman kept his word.

As the helicopter approached the village, he expertly settled the "chopper" into a clearing, the huge rotor blades creating a billowing dust cloud and sending children scurrying for cover. Seconds later, when the blades stopped turning, they emerged, smiling and running up to the pilots and crew to greet and walk with the Americans.

The walk from where the helicopter landed to the church was picturesque and beautiful. Lush with greenery, a lazy flowing clear river passing underneath an old foot bridge, flowers growing wild, coffee beans hanging from trees, rich-looking red soil, all made the major's remark a reality.

Suddenly there was no war, no search and clear mission among the many military operations taking place simultaneously in Vietnam. It was pleasant walking down a tree shaded, gently sloped, paved road, watching happy people with smiles on their faces, seemingly unaware that their country was experiencing military and political strife.

Major Blakeman's intentions were good but the priest was out, in Da Nang, according to a local woman.

She allowed the Marines to look into the small, simple church with an almost antiseptic cleanliness to it. The stations of the cross were on the walls leading up to a plain, wooden altar, bare, except for a foot high cross.

It was a humble church in a simple village, barely five miles from the Laotian border, and the religion in that church matched the beauty and serenity of the surroundings.

## E-8, E-9 Board

Headquarters Marine Corps announced that a selection board has convened to select eligible staff NCOs for promotion to sergeant major/master gunnery sergeant and first sergeant/master sergeant.

The board, headed by Col. Harry F. Painter, is scheduled to be in session approximately eight weeks. It is authorized to select 214 sergeants major and 182 master gunnery sergeants. The allocations for first sergeant and master sergeant have not been announced.



**LONELY VIGILANCE** — A lone Marine sentinel's image reflects in the water as he searches the surrounding rice paddies for any sign of Viet Cong.

(Photo By Pfc Russ Cowen)

## Newbreed no longer

By: Cpl. Vince Hagel

DONG HA — Operation Deckhouse IV which concluded this week gave the 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment their first taste of combat against an organized enemy.

Private First Class John DeFelice was one of them.

Moving on a search and destroy mission 1,000 meters south of the demilitarized zone, DeFelice's company swept through a village. As the unit came to an open spot, enemy small arms fire from a tree line 300 meters to the front began.

The Marines hit the deck, then mortar rounds smashed through the trees, exploding over the entire company area.

"When they were coming in I didn't bother to count," said DeFelice. "I was too scared."

Ten yards away lay a wounded Marine calling for help. DeFelice jumped over his buddy and ran low toward the wounded man.

Another mortar round hit, wounding DeFelice. While giving aid to the other Marine, DeFelice was hit in the foot by a bullet.

Neither of DeFelice's wounds were serious.

DeFelice now carries a 7.62mm rifle round dug out of his foot in a small prescription packet.

He isn't a "new breed" troop anymore—nor is the battalion.

# 'Birds' looked great after 4 tough days

By: Sgt. Walter Warneka

DA NANG — Four Reconnaissance Marines dashed for the safety of a helicopter as it hovered six feet above the side of a hill during an evacuation mission 20 miles southwest of Ky Ha, Sept. 20.

The Recon Marines were in the area four days to observe Viet Cong activity.

As the Marines dashed for the hovering 'copter, Corporal William T. Sherman, crew chief from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362, stepped out from behind his M-60 machine gun and pulled the Marines up and into the helicopter with the help of his assistant gunner, Corporal Frank G. Matucheski.

"As I reached down to help a machine-gunner into the helo," stated Sherman, "I was forced to grab the barrel of his weapon,

because he was rather short in height and we couldn't reach his arms."

"As I grabbed his weapon, I got quite a jolt," continued the crew chief. "The barrel was almost red hot from the fire fight these Recon Marines just had as we were approaching to make our pick-up, so I ended up with a couple of blisters on my hand."

As soon as the lead helicopter, flown by Major Richard "Pat" Bray, was loaded and left the landing zone another 'copter took its place. This process was continued until all five 'copters picked up the remaining Marines.

As the UH-34D's were picking up the Marines, UH-14 helicopters from VMO-6 were making strafing runs on the fleeing Viet Cong on the opposite side of the hill.

## 'Operation Golden Fleece'

CHU LAI — The Viet Cong grew the rice, cultivated it and intended to harvest it for their own use.

It didn't quite work out that way.

Under protection of units from the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, an average daily working force of 9,961 Vietnamese harvesters collected 7,620 tons of rice during Operation Golden Fleece which concluded this week.

In addition, 727 tons of harvested rice stored by the VC for their own use was discovered in the hamlet of Van Ha (1), and turned over to local villagers.

Vietnamese officials estimated approximately 90 per cent of the rice harvested during the past four years had gone to the Viet Cong.

The officials estimate only 30 per cent of this harvest was collected by the VC — much of this was rice harvested prior to the arrival of the Marines, they said.

The rice belt stretches for several miles from Quang Ngai to the north, past Mo Duc to the south; from the mountains to the sea in a maze of hundreds of inter-connecting paddies. The VC have long controlled the area which produces almost 50 per cent of the rice for Quang Ngai

province.

During the operation Marine and ARVN forces killed 244 VC. Artillery and naval gunfire accounted for over two-thirds of the confirmed kills.

## Silver Star

By: SSgt. W. C. Hough

DA NANG — Navy Hospital Corpsman Lawrence C. Bollinger was presented the Silver Star Medal last month for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on May 21 while serving with the Ninth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

Bollinger received a hand wound while treating casualties of his platoon which was heli-lifted into a blocking position of a large Viet Cong force being pursued by other Marines.

Despite his wound Bollinger remained with another wounded comrade, and was credited with treating seven others while exposing himself to intense enemy fire during the fighting.

Later he supervised medical evacuation helicopter landings in the area and refused evacuation until all seriously wounded Marines were loaded first.

The Silver Star Medal was presented Bollinger by Colonel D. J. Barrett Jr., commanding officer of the Ninth Marines.



## Deadly duo

A 1st Bn., 26th Marine Regiment machine gunner and his assistant pour fire into enemy positions near the village of An Dinh, 500 yards from the DMZ. The 3rd Division Marines pounded both An Dinh and Gia Binh for three days with artillery, air and naval gunfire before capturing the village. (Photo by PFC Ed Cole)



## Supporting fire

Smoke rises from the village of An Dinh, 500 yards south of the DMZ as 3d Marine Division Marines move to the attack position on Prairie. Planes, artillery and Naval guns pounded the village for three days while 1st Bn., 26th Marines made the attack. (Photo by Cpl. Bob Armstrong)





## Big blast from 13

Marines of the 13th Marine Regiment fire their 105mm guns at North Vietnamese positions in support of 26th Marine Regiment troops during Operation Prairie. Third Marine Division units have accounted for over 600 North Vietnamese killed during the operation as of September 25.

(Photo by Sgt. J. A. Cothran)

# N. Vietnamese army insists U.S. pilots remain overnight

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

PHU BAI—Two Marine helicopter pilots of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 who intended only a short visit to the mountains northwest of Dong Ha, found themselves staying overnight at the insistent invitation of the North Vietnamese.

First Lieutenant David A. Williams was piloting a UH-34D helicopter on an emergency resupply of companies cut off and surrounded on Sept. 17.

As the chopper descended into the landing zone, it was hit and downed by heavy enemy fire. The pilots and crew escaped without injury.

Although the positions of the embattled Marines remained under intense fire, other helicopters were flown in to bring supplies and evacuate the wounded. The downed copter crew chief and gunner were evacuated on one of the planes, but due to lack of space, Williams and his co-pilot, First Lieutenant L. M. Cherbonnier, remained with the ground forces.

The fighting continued from the time the pilots were downed, early in the afternoon, until nightfall. During the night, heavy concentrations of artillery and air support kept the communist forces at bay.

During their stay with the infantry, the aviators gained a great amount of respect for their counterparts on the ground.

"I stayed in the company command post most of the time and watched the company commander and first sergeant. They were great."

The respect between the Marines was mutual. The infantrymen praised the chopper pilots and crews. They were especially grateful for the water brought in by the helicopters — their supply had completely run out.

When the pilots left the next morning, they left their plane's two machine guns with ground forces who "needed them more than we did."

It was Williams' second time to spend a night with the infantry. In March, he was downed while flying the same type of mission near Da Nang.

## New USAFI course

Course No. D 794, Introduction to Diesel Engines has been announced by USAFI. It consists of 13 lessons and is aimed at the technician rather than the engineer and treats all types of diesel.

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## Beautiful swan dive —executed from tree

By: Cpl Jim Des Roches

PHU BAI—The 3rd Division Marine had been in Vietnam two weeks before going on his first patrol, and it turned out to be an exciting one.

Private First Class Donald W. Knapp didn't know what to expect when he moved out with an 18-man patrol.

The patrol edged its way through brushy and mountainous terrain southwest of here.

The patrol crossed a river and came upon some abandoned huts. While the Marines searched the dwellings, an enemy force closed in.

As the patrol filed out of the area it was attacked by an estimated 90 VC firing small arms weapons.

Knapp recalls his knees began to shake when the first shots were fired. "But I began firing back and it was like I had been doing it all of my life. I didn't think much about it until the fight was over," he said.

The outnumbered patrol fought off the attackers until only a few rounds of ammunition were left.

Knapp climbed a tree to signal a helicopter that had been sent to take out the Leathernecks.

Perched high above the thick jungle vegetation, Knapp removed his hat and waved it at the descending helicopter.

"I was glad to see the 'chopper' until the rush of air from its rotor blades caused the tree to sway back and forth," said Knapp. The tree broke and Knapp made what a fellow Marine later termed "a beautiful swan dive."

Fortunately for Knapp, the thick maze of vines below the tree broke his fall and he was uninjured.

The Leatherneck patrol was picked up without delay. Its newest member had a busy day.

# Outnumbered units kill 58 in 5 hours

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA — Assaulting well-fortified and concealed enemy positions on a tangled jungle hilltop, two outnumbered 3rd Division Marine companies killed 58 North Vietnamese soldiers before breaking off contact just before nightfall, Sept. 24.

The Marines suffered light casualties.

Fought at times in a chilling rainstorm, the five-hour afternoon clash pitted "F" and "G" Co's of the Seventh Marines against the main elements of a North Vietnamese battalion.

The action occurred in the eighth week of Operation Prairie taking place in Quang Tri Province just south of the demilitarized zone.

A towering jungle canopy and poor aerial visibility prevented pinpoint artillery missions and air strikes on the enemy emplacements. The infantry Marines were on their own throughout most of the afternoon.

Marines attacked with all the weapons at their disposal against North Vietnamese machine guns and heavy mortars.

Fighting began at noon "G" Company advanced slowly up the hill's eastern face via vine-tangled trails and was struck by a North Vietnamese "suicide squad" which hit and ran. The "G" Company Marines closed with the enemy and inflicted heavy losses on the small unit.

A "G" Company radio report said enemy snipers were tied in trees and clothed in camouflaged capes. Enemy mortar fire was called in by the "suicide squad" on themselves and the Marines.

"G" Company called for support from "F" Company, which was located approximately 500 meters to the south and at the enemy's right rear flank.

Commanded by Captain Bob Vostry, "F" Company hurried from their positions toward the hilltop action.

When the unit was within 300 meters of "G" Company, the

leading elements of "F" Company came under light machine gun fire from reinforced bunkers on a knoll near the hill's summit. Advancing slowly over muddied footpaths hacked by machetes through the jungle, the ground troops matched enemy fire and steadily gained fire superiority.

Four Marines, led by Second Lieutenant Robert Willis, a platoon commander, swept past the automatic weapons emplacement to within hand grenade throwing range of enemy 82mm mortar tube pits in a gully between the knoll and the hill. The four Marines themselves accounted for seven enemy dead.

Marine jets circled on station overhead, but because of dense jungle growth and poor visibility, were unable to receive proper direction and could not enter the fray. Artillery pounded enemy avenues of escape but were unable to give direct support to the outnumbered Marines.

Captain Vostry said, "We think 'G' Co. ran into the rear security for the main force. There were about 50 individual positions between us and 'G' and at least a half-dozen of those were automatic weapons positions."

Finally, after slugging it out at close range with the North Vietnamese troops, the Marines broke contact and carried their casualties down the hillside trails to a helicopter landing zone hastily cleared from the jungle. The North Vietnamese, apparently reeling from the persistent Marine attacks, failed to harass the med-evac choppers.

## Blue Dragons adopt hamlets

CHU LAI — The hamlets of Lien Thi and Dong Tai were officially "adopted" by the Blue Dragons of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade Sept. 7.

On hand for the ceremonies which "made sisters" of the Korean Marine Unit and the villages were BrigGen. Lee Bong Chool, commanding general of the brigade; Dy Bai Hoanh, province chief of Quang Nagi; and representatives of USAID in Quang Nagi.

The "adoption" came about to improve friendships and to consolidate ties between the Korean Marines and the Vietnamese citizens.

Following the formal ceremonies, the Marines distributed bags of rice and wheat flour to each of the 100 homes. In addition, a Korean Marine medical team provided medical treatment for nearly 100 villagers.

## Mayor presents medals

By: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG — Mayor Le Chi Cuong of Da Nang presented three 1st Marine Aircraft Wing members with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for their assistance to Vietnamese National Police following a raid on a suspected Viet Cong terrorist ammunition cache Sept. 4.

The trio, acting as an explosive ordnance disposal team, were asked by the police to uncover munitions believed to be stored

in the suspected residence after the home was cleared.

Awarded the Cross of Gallantry are Second Lieutenant Stanley W. Main; Staff Sergeant Donald J. Hashagen, Marine Air Base Squadron-11; and Warrant Officer Irvin L. Fitzgerald, Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-17.

The team found more than 50 hand grenades, several small arm weapons and a large quantity of bulk explosives behind a freshly plastered wall in a four foot square hole.



## Propaganda shower

Thousands of propaganda leaflets are showered upon a South Vietnamese hillside from a UH-34D helicopter of HMM-236. The leaflets are intended for the Viet Cong and ask, "What profit do you receive?" when you support the communist forces.



## Cool officer under heat

By: SSgt. N. MacKenzie  
DONG HA — An artillery forward observer's quick action aided a company of Marines to overcome a North Vietnamese ambush during Operation Prairie. Second Lieutenant Nelson V. Osborne, Fourth Marines, was moving north some three miles south of the demilitarized zone when the ambush occurred.

The first platoon and elements of the second had already passed the ambush site and were on high ground. The company's command group and third platoon were pinned down in a gully in thick jungle and mountainous terrain.

Osborne placed machine guns in position — exposed himself to heavy automatic weapons fire as he gathered ammunition — then braved enemy fire again to distribute the rounds.

In describing Osborne's actions, Captain Ron A. Fredrickson, company commander, said, "He's a cool officer under pressure. He has everything a rifle company commander could desire in a platoon commander, though he's an artillery officer."

Osborne has been in Vietnam for five months, most of the time with artillery batteries. This was his first operation as a rifle company forward observer.

## Family fight

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — Two Louisiana Marines are making the war in Vietnam a family fight. Sergeant Joseph Rachal, an aviation supply man with Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-16, First Marine Aircraft Wing, leaves Vietnam this month.

His younger brother, Private First Class Luke Rachal Jr., arrived in the country three weeks ago. The younger Rachal is assigned to "L" Battery, Twelfth Marines, Third Marine Division. The two brothers are stationed a few miles apart, south of Da Nang.

Sergeant Rachal was doing some paper work one day recently when he was interrupted by someone shouting, "Hey, Sarge!" "I didn't know what to think when I saw who it was," said Sgt. Rachal. "I knew he was coming over, but I didn't know when."

PFC Rachal is a driver in his battery's motor transport section. He dropped in on his older brother while on a job near the Marble Mountain Air Facility. Although he could stay only a few minutes on his first visit, he received permission to spend the following week-end at Marble Mountain.

Sergeant Rachal has plenty of advice for his little brother, but he says he isn't worried about him.

He says, "Luke can take care of himself."

PFC Rachal was still a civilian when the "Sarge" came overseas. This is the Rachals' first reunion in uniform.

## Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor awarded posthumously to Marvin Glen Shields marked the first time that a Seabee ever received the award.

Shields, a Navy Seabee Construction Mechanic Third Class, received the Medal "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life" while assigned in Vietnam.

JOIN UP...  
JOIN IN

SUPPORT YOUR RED CROSS



## Sandy soccer game

A quick defensive move by a Korean goalkeeper stops members of MAG-12 team from scoring during a soccer game between the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade and the Group. The MAG-12 team won 1-0 on Chu Lai beach. (Photo by PFC R. G. Gowen)

## Liberty Road VC sore spot

By: Sgt. Dave Small

DA NANG — Liberty Road, built by Marine Engineers, is a sore spot with the Viet Cong.

They have made many attempts to mine the road since July 4 — but they didn't count on the engineers.

The 1st platoon of "C" Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion, keeps the road open and clear of mines.

Sergeant Bobby L. Ferguson, platoon sergeant, and the rest of his engineers live on Hill 55, 10 miles south of Da Nang, where Liberty Road begins.

Each morning the Marines are up well before 6 a.m. to "sweep the road". The sweep teams consist of three men each, a sweeper, and two probers. There are three sweep teams on the road every

morning.

Protection is provided by a security squad from the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines, 3d Marine Division.

Ferguson said "The team has found a few mines on the road, mostly the box type". Lately however, the road has not been mined.

"One day as we were sweeping the road we came across something that made us laugh," says Ferguson. "The VC had stuck a scarecrow in the middle of the road; I guess to scare us off."

About every other day the VC leave National Liberation Front propaganda and safe conduct passes along the side of the road on sticks.

Ferguson comes along, removes these and replaces them with

U. S. safe conduct passes.

"The VC must be awfully frustrated," chuckles Ferguson.

Although their portion of the road sweep is some 6000 yards long, traffic moves on Liberty Road at 8 a.m. each day.

## Meet again

DA NANG—Second Lieutenant Thomas F. Kearney, was pay officer for Hq. Co., Ninth Marine Regiment, last payday.

Before the day ended, Kearney paid two men he'd brought in the Marine Corps while recruiting in Bloomington, Ind., two years ago.

Corporal David Wilson and Private First Class Fred Hilliard are members of the Ninth Marines' security platoon on Hill 55, 12 miles south of Da Nang.

"I had no idea these men and I were in the same company," said Kearney.

"I know that many of the Marines I enlisted are here in Vietnam, but, Wilson and Hilliard are the first I've seen so far."

Kearney was a gunnery sergeant when he was on recruiting duty in Bloomington. He was commissioned a second lieutenant six months ago, and is now the regimental assistant personnel officer. He's also the regiment's voting and special services officer.



## Short round

PFC Jim Diamont holds the mortar men's mascot "short round" in a 4.2 mortar gun pit. Diamont is a member of "W" Battery, 12th Marines, operating near the DMZ in support of Operation Prairie. (Photo by Sgt. T. F. Burch)

## Explosive results

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

DONG HA — A recent North Vietnamese attempt to sabotage Marine artillery fire by radio brought explosive results.

A battery of the 12th Regiment, 3d Marine Division, was firing with 155mm howitzers during Operation Prairie, three miles from the Demilitarized Zone.

In the middle of a mission, a cease-fire was radioed to the artillery position. This message was followed by a new fire command. A check of the proposed impact area revealed that it was in the center of Marine positions.

The Marines suspected the enemy radio was located near the original 155mm impact area. Another mission was called by the Marines with an 8" howitzer firing.

Moments later a barrage of 1200 pounds of dynamite and steel crashed into the suspected enemy radio position. The enemy radio hasn't been heard from since.

## 'Ike' chopper

By: Sgt. P. L. Thompson

KY HA—Helicopters, like people, can have a personality all their own. One such chopper belongs to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-364.

Sergeant William J. Rich, tells about it with a lot of pride.

The sergeant's plane is one of the oldest planes that he knows of in any helicopter squadron, and also the best running.

When you first see the UH-34 it looks like any other chopper that flies around Ky Ha. On closer inspection you notice that it has a few things the other choppers don't have. The inside of the plane is full of snaps that were once used for special padding. There is also a large radio unit just above the cargo door.

The reason behind this is simple . . . This UH-34, along with four other planes, was stationed at Marine Experimental Helicopter Squadron-1 at the Marine Corps Air Station in Quantico, Va.

These five helicopters had a very special job. From April of 1957 until November of that year, Rich's plane was one of the five that carried former President Dwight Eisenhower from different parts of Washington to the White House.

Since that time, according to the helicopter's service record book, it has served at more bases in the United States than most Marines will ever see. It has been in Guam, Japan, the Philippines, and since July 9th of this year the former Presidential Chopper has been in Vietnam.

## Navy Unit Commendation for Dominican Republic duty

The Secretary of the Navy has approved the award of the Navy Unit Commendation to commands and units listed below for exceptionally meritorious service from April 26 through April 30, 1965, in connection with the Dominican Republic crisis:

Commander and Staff Amphibious Squadron TEN; Tactical Air Control Squadron TWENTY-TWO, Detachment INDIA; USS BOXER with nucleus JTF-122 Staff embarked; USS FORT SNELLING; USS RALEIGH; USS WOOD COUNTY; USS RUCHAMKIN; USS YANCY; USS RANKIN.

Sixth Marine Expeditionary Unit, consisting of the following units: Headquarters, 6th Marine Expeditionary Unit; Headquarters, Provisional Marine Aircraft

Group 60; Marine Medium Helicopter Transport Squadron 264 (Reinforced); Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323; Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron 451; 3d Battalion, 6th Marines (Reinforced); Logistics Support Unit, 6th Marine Expeditionary Unit; Marine Security Guard, American Embassy, Santo Domingo.

All personnel attached to and serving with any of the commands and units listed above during the period April 26-30 1965, or any part thereof, are entitled to the Commendation and authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon Bar with appropriate star by those who have prior award or without star by those entitled to initial award.



# 1st MAW MARS making 1,400 phone calls monthly

By: Sgt. F. K. Burke

DA NANG—"Hi Mom. Gee it sounds great to hear your voice again . . ."

Thus some 1,400 monthly discussions begin between men serving in Vietnam and their loved ones back in the States via Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) station. The phone patch—as the process is actually called—goes via shortwave to the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., where it becomes a telephone call to "Anyone, U.S.A."



**TALKING WITH HOME**—Cpl. Walter H. Streicher of Port Penn, Del., uses the facilities of station NOEFB, Military Affiliated Radio System, at Da Nang, Vietnam, to talk to his folks at home. Non-commissioned officer in charge of the station, GySgt. Bernard Rosenberg maintains a perfect contact. (Photo By: SSgt. Chris Hantzis)

## Little time left to write Freedom contest letters

The 1966 Freedoms Foundation letter-writing contest deadline is fast approaching. The contest, which offers awards amounting to \$8500, seek letters from the military on the topic "Defending Freedom Safeguards America." Letters should be not less than 100 words and not more than 500 words and may be handwritten or typed. You should include your name, rank, serial number and military and permanent home address.

Entries are to be mailed to: Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, no later than 1 November, 1966.

The top award is \$1000 and the Defender of Freedom Award consisting of an encased George Washington Honor Medal. There will also be 50 awards of \$100, 50 awards of \$50 and additional Honor Medals, Honor Certificates. The top ten winners will be invited to Valley Forge for the presentation.

Freedoms Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization not affiliated with any sectarian religious group or political party, dedicated to creating and building an understanding of the spirit and philosophy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights . . . to inspiring love of freedom and to supporting the spiritual unity born of the belief that man is a dignified human being.

The Letter Awards Program is part of an annual program in which Freedoms Foundation assembles outstanding expressions, projects, and programs from individuals, organizations, and schools throughout the Nation that build an understanding of the American Way of Life. An independent jury selects the most effective, useful, and inspiring. These are spotlighted, distributed, and published to provide "more and heavier ammunition in the struggle of free men for their personal liberty and dignity against every totalitarian, compulsive, tyrannical force."

Operating on a military frequency, the Navy-sponsored program is much like that of amateur radio operations in the U.S. The station here is run by four men whose primary jobs are in other fields and who donate their time to aiding the morale of men stationed in Southeast Asia.

NOEFB also operates as an emergency message relaying system in Vietnam, as a backup to the telephone system here and to pass on Red Cross messages.

The station transmits a vast number of standard form messages each day which notify relatives in the states that their loved ones have arrived safely, will be coming home soon, or offer holiday greetings. By this method a "MARSgram" message goes from Da Nang to Hawaii and then to the mainland for distribution.

While there are a number of MARS stations in Vietnam, each must go through a "gateway" station in the U.S. Five gateways are currently being used, on the West Coast at El Toro, Twenty-nine Palms, San Diego, Port Hueneme, Calif., and at Camp H. M. Smith in Hawaii.

Operating on 1,000 watts, NOEFB is staffed by Gunnery Sergeant Bernard Rosenberg; Sergeant Roger A. Smith; Sergeant Nathan E. Davis; and Private First Class Robert M. Barber.

## Give up vacations to study English

By: Cpl. Pat Collins

CHU LAI — Nineteen Vietnamese high school students are speaking fairly good English today after they gave up their summer vacation to master the rudiments of the language.

English classes for the students of Ky Ha hamlet near Chu Lai were conducted daily under the supervision of a volunteer Marine Corps teacher from Boston, Mass.

The summer session ended Sept. 10 with the opening of the fall school term. Classes were initiated July 13, as the result of a request to the Marines' civic affairs officer by vacationing students.

CWO 3 Lawrence V. Sheridan, Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division, volunteered his services to teach the class due to his familiarity with the Vietnamese language.

The classes were held from 8 to 11 a.m., six days a week.

"Their reception throughout the course of instruction was very good," said Sheridan, "and when the classes terminated, students were able to carry on a basic conversation in English."

The project was designed to assist the students in a secondary language requirement of Vietnamese schools, and to provide a better understanding between the Vietnamese people and the American military forces.

## Awards to corpsmen

Navy Hospital Corpsmen in Vietnam provide close, front line medical support to Marines during patrols or offensive operations. As of Sept. 1, they had earned 18 Silver Stars, 33 Bronze Stars, 25 Air Medals and 14 Navy Commendation Medals. More than 400 Purple Hearts have also been awarded.



**HANDLE WITH CARE**—2dLt. Frederick A. Randlett and SSgt. Carl Jozaitis remove a live mortar round from the flight line matting at MAG-12 in Chu Lai. The two Marines of the EOD team worked 18 hours locating, identifying and removing ordnance after an enemy mortar attack on MAG-12. The "dud" round was identified as a Chi Com 60mm high explosive round. (Photo by PFC Russ Cowen)

# MAG-12 area hit by enemy mortar

By: Cpl. Mike Saska

DA NANG—The enemy mortar attack ceased. A calm spread throughout the Marine Aircraft Group 12 area. Only the hushed voices of Marines discussing the sudden early morning attack could be heard.

Slowly the Leathernecks drifted back towards their huts from which they made a hasty exit minutes before. Some returned to the sleep from which they had been abruptly awakened.

But for one dedicated group of volunteers, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, the day had just started.

Two members of the team arrived at the command bunker immediately after the first mortar round exploded.

Second Lieutenant Frederick A. Randlett and Staff Sergeant Carl M. Jozaitis were at the bunker ready to answer calls while Gunnery Sergeant Bernard J. Mason stood the long phone watch at the EOD building, relaying all calls to his two counterparts.

The first call came soon after the "all clear" had been sounded from Marine attack Squadron 224.

A mortar round had penetrated the matting between two aircraft revetments on the flight line and had not exploded.

The team worked for approximately 45 minutes with hack saw and chisels breaking away the flight line matting to remove what later was identified as a Chinese Communist (Chi Com) 60mm high explosive round.

At first light the EOD team went to all known and suspected impact areas. Another dud had been retrieved from the sand between the main runway and the flight line of VMA-224.

Working until mid-afternoon, the team located 19 other detonations and recovered the two unexploded rounds.

The team was called upon later to search the suspected firing

positions of the Viet Cong mortars. A sweep of the area located four additional Chi Com high explosive rounds.

The EOD team checked the rounds for possible booby traps and picked them up to return them to the EOD area.

## Viet Cong leaves lasting impression

By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor

DA NANG — An encounter with a Viet Cong sniper left a lasting impression on Gunnery Sergeant Henry Hamel, supply chief for the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

On a routine supply run GySgt. Hamel received fire from a sniper approximately 100 yards to his front.

"The first thing I saw was two holes pop in my windshield," said Hamel. "I stopped the vehicle, jumped out drawing my pistol at the same time. The sniper fired two more shots and I heard them hit behind me. I thought they missed me," he added.

Hamel then fired back where he thought the sniper was hiding but evidently the VC had abandoned his position.

Later, as he removed his pistol belt, Hamel noticed a hole in the holster. The sniper's bullet had pierced the empty holster and nicked his web belt.

"That's as close as I ever want to come to a Purple Heart Medal," he concluded.

## Return—

(Continued From Page 1)

Dawn came and the three moved out.

"We had no choice," said Arenello, "we were afraid the company had pulled out for good."

"We crawled to the treeline," recalled Hummer, "then we crawled under cover beside the rice paddies . . . we crawled and crawled and crawled."

The Marines reached the road leading to their company and the end of their cover. The company position was still 300 yards away.

"We couldn't wait for the VC to find us," recalled Higgins, "so we said the hell with the snipers, ran to the road and out to the company."

At 10 o'clock the next morning three ragged Marines walked into their company's command post, tired but alive.



# First big battle roughest

By: GySgt. Jack Butts

DONG HA—"Baptism of Fire" would be a misnomer. The 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment received that in landings south, and then north of Saigon on other operations.

But this is the first big battle for the 3d Marine Division unit, the one taking place just below the demilitarized zone on Operation Prairie.

Since landing from the carrier USS IWO JIMA on Sept. 15, the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. A. Monti, has accounted for more than 150 North Vietnamese dead.

They've done it the hard way. They have dug troops from bunkers, reinforced concrete pillboxes, and from trenches. Artillery fire, bombs and napalm from attack aircraft and eight inch guns from a cruiser have pounded the enemy positions relentlessly.

Two NV-controlled villages, Gia Binh and An Dinh are within two miles of the DMZ, and well fortified. Trenchlines run the length of both villages. Fortified bunkers disguised as farmhouses with thatch coverings dot the area.

An estimated battalion of North Vietnamese soldiers are battling to the last man to hold the villages. It says so on the gates leading to the villages. Three times "B" and "D" Companies have been into the villages and have been forced to pull back.

"They've got a system of inter-connecting underground trenchlines to their bunkers that won't quit," said Captain Richard J. Weidner, "D" Co. commander. "As soon as artillery or air hits one position, they go through a tunnel and pop up somewhere else. When the bombardment is lifted and we try an assault, they move back into the original positions."

On one such attack "Delta" and one platoon from "B" Company, commanded by Captain James E. Simpson, made it to the center of An Dinh.

With "Bravo's" 3rd platoon, commanded by First Lieutenant Donald L. Davison, at the point, the unit wedged its way through fighting holes on the edge of the rice paddies ringing the village. Light automatic weapons fire greeted the Marines, but 81mm mortar and small arms and machine gun fire knocked out the positions. M-79's launched grenades to knock down tree top snipers.

Rapid movement brought the Marines to the center of town where mortars, machine guns and rifle fire came at them from their flanks and front.

When mortar fire fell to the front of the unit, it severed the lead fire team from the main

body. Private First Class David H. Higgins, Private First Class Luz Arellano and Private First Class Jerry Hummer were cut off from the rest of the unit. Hummer suffered slight shrapnel wounds in the back.

When word was passed to fall back to the original position, the men were unable to return because of the heavy volume of enemy fire.

The men waited till dark and

crawled their way back to friendly lines under the noses of the enemy.

Light mortar fire fell on the Marines the next day. The battalion's 81mm mortars swung in to action and knocked out two enemy tubes firing from the rear. As night fell, plans were being made of another attack on the village, this time from another direction.

## 8-inch battery helps children of Phu Hoa

By Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DA NANG — The hamlet of Phu Hoa, four miles southwest of Da Nang, has a new elementary school, thanks to the efforts of the Marines of the First 8-inch Howitzer Battery and the cooperation of the townspeople.

Built from materials salvaged by the Marines, the school was dedicated Aug. 31 and has an enrollment of 64 six to eight-year-olds.

Although the Marines furnished much of the building material and some guidance in the project, the school was constructed primarily by the villagers.

At the dedication Major Louis J. Cavallo, battery commander, said, "We are very proud of the

villagers of Phu Hoa and the school they have built. We only hope the young children can go to school in peace and happiness.

"We promise to do anything that we can in the future to help you and your school."

Gunnery Sergeant William E. Floyd, non-commissioned officer in charge of the battery's civil affairs section, and Staff Sergeant Nguy Thai Hong, Vietnamese interpreter, worked with the villagers throughout the project.

Classes began the day after the dedication. Each student was given a school kit. The girls were each given a doll and the boys new sport monogrammed T-shirts and baseball caps.



### Book of Luck

Maj. Gerald Mueller holds the Emergency Procedures Manual which stopped a VC slug from entering his leg. While flying an emergency resupply mission in a helicopter of HMM-161, the major heard a bullet tear through the side of his chopper and brush his leg. Closer inspection revealed the slug lodged in the manual.



FIRST BOOTS—Capt. James Tully (VMO) 2, helps a Vietnamese orphan try on his first pair of boots. They were part of 1,000 pounds of supplies sent the captain from the children of the Bay View Elementary School, Santa Cruz, Calif., and donated to the Sacred Heart Orphanage.

(Photo by: Cpl Paul E. Johnson)

## Children find friend in aerial observer

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — Captain James Tully, an aerial observer for Marine Observation Squadron 2, saw the suffering caused by war and decided to do something about it. By writing a letter to a friend, he has brought 20 tons of happiness to the children of Vietnam.

The captain began his personal campaign to help the children while serving as an infantry company commander with the First Marine Regiment. As he led his company in search of the Viet Cong, he noticed the poverty of the people in the villages through which he passed.

His special interest was the children. Poorly clothed, without access to proper medical facilities, many had never seen a school.

He wrote a friend, a reporter for the Santa Cruz (Calif.) Sentinel, asking for help. The journalist, Wally Traber, wrote a column asking his readers for contributions for the needy children.

There was an immediate response. Other papers picked up the story and gifts began pouring in from all over the country. They included medicine, clothing, school supplies and other necessities which the villagers could not afford to buy.

For six months Capt. Tully distributed the supplies among the villages in which he worked and noticed a marked improvement in the relations between the Vietnamese and the Marines.

When he was transferred to VMO 2 five months ago, the donations were still pouring in. He diverted his attentions to the Sacred Heart Orphanage near the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang, where he is now stationed. The orphanage is operated by the Roman Catholic Church and subsists entirely on contributions.

Last week the largest shipment received so far—1,000 pounds of supplies—arrived from the children of the Bay View Elementary School, Santa Cruz, Calif. The supplies were collected and packed by the children and shipped by a local Naval Reserve unit.

Most of the gifts solicited dur-

ing Capt. Tully's 11-month campaign have come from the mid-west and West Coast. The two largest contributors, aside from the captain's family and friends, have been the Catholic Daughters of America and a civic organization called the Silver Key Club. In all, Capt. Tully has received and distributed more than 20 tons of needed supplies.

## Village chief gets request

By: GySgt. James J. Oggerino

CHU LAI — A 24-foot bridge connecting two hamlets 10 miles southeast of here was completed Sept. 14.

Conceived as a civic action project by the Seventh Marines the span was built through the combined efforts of the local Vietnamese, the U.S. Army's 29th Civic Action Company, and Marines of the Ninth Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

"The bridge was originally built by the Vietnamese in 1963," said Captain Richard A. Widowe, Seventh Regiment civil affairs officer. "It was later torn down," he said.

The captain explained during the monsoon season about four feet of water prevented fording and imposed a hardship on villagers of both hamlets.

The bridge was rebuilt as a civic action project, at the request of the village chief of Binh Nghia.

Using the old concrete abutments, which included one about seven feet in the center, measurements were taken. The pre-cut lumber was delivered and the bridge rebuilt.

## Casualty list

Latest DOD casualty report shows 4,993 U.S. service personnel lost their lives in Vietnam through actions of hostile forces from Jan. 1, 1961 through September 3, 1966. Non-hostile actions claimed lives of 1,058.

SEA TIGER 7

## Thank you Pottstown

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

KY HA — Marine Staff Sergeant Robert W. Christman, a crew chief with Marine Aircraft Group-36, isn't on the home delivery route, but he seldom fails to read the Pottstown (Pa.) Mercury.

Christman's hometown newspaper is sent to him and over 100 servicemen from the Pottstown area while they are in Vietnam.

Each week they receive a bundle of seven papers and a card telling them who donated the subscription cost.

The Mercury began the long distance subscription program in order to bolster morale and keep Pennsylvania servicemen aware of the news.

According to Christman, it has been doing just that. "All of us from the Pottstown area are really thankful to the Mercury and all the fine people who've made it possible for us to receive the papers," he said.



# 19 Marines face 110 N. Vietnam troops

By: Cpl. Vince Hagel

DONG HA — "We were fighting like animals," said Staff Sergeant Richard Lamoreaux. "When you fight for your life, you fight any way you can," he added.

Lamoreaux took command of a 21-man patrol supporting Operation Deckhouse IV, only a few hundred yards south of the demilitarized zone, when the patrol leader was killed.

The Marines fired with automatic weapons — 19 men were facing 110 North Vietnamese soldiers at less than 75 yards.

"We couldn't see them," said Lamoreaux, "only muzzle flashes. Two grenades landed by my feet and rolled away. They didn't even knock me down, but the man next to me was wounded."

An hour later, Lamoreaux was

shot in the hip.

"It didn't hurt, but my leg was numb," he said. "At least it didn't break a bone."

Sergeant Ron Sommers took over when the platoon sergeant was hit.

Sommers pulled his men in a tight perimeter and called in an air strike. Napalm burst 50 yards from the Marines. Fighting continued, and he called for artillery support. Howitzers laid their 105mm shells less than 25 yards from the patrol's fighting perimeter.

The VC pulled out.

After the patrol was heli-lifted from the zone, a North Vietnamese sergeant was captured. He told interrogators that of his 110-man reinforced company that hit the Marine patrol, only 37 were effective enough to continue fighting.

He said the communist force felt they were battling a much stronger force.

In spirit, they were.

## Old hand at home

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

PHU BAI — It was a hot zone, completely surrounded by North Vietnamese regulars, but some of the Marines on the ground were wounded and they needed supplies badly. Major Lewis Jarman circled his UH-34D helicopter and began his approach. He made it, although he received heavy fire both going in and coming out.

His co-pilot was newly arrived in Vietnam, but no new-comer to combat flying. In fact, this is Lieutenant Colonel Charles Wydner's second tour with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161.

LtCol. Wydner joined the squadron for the first time in Korea, 1952, when it was making aviation history. HMM-161 was the first helicopter squadron to participate in combat operations and pioneered the techniques of vertical assault and air medical evacuation which are a vital part of Marine operations in Vietnam today.

Comparing today's tactics to those of Korea, the colonel finds them very similar though more complicated. He feels that the major differences are in the type of warfare rather than in the newer aircraft.

He had this to say about returning to his old outfit:

"It's an honor coming back to 161, being one of the first ones in it. From what I've observed the last couple of days, these people are really on the ball."

### In San Francisco:

#### The Marines Memorial Club

Invites returning Marines and their families to use its Hotel-Club facilities. Membership is available to all.

- Downtown-2 blocks from Union Square

- 120 rooms-all with bath, TV and courtesy coffee

- Large family suites-laundrette-baby sitters

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- Skyroom Cocktail Lounge with panoramic view of the city.

- Swimming pool-gym-steam-sauna

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- 10% discount to active duty Marines and their dependents

Note: Advance reservations recommended: write 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94102



The Sikorsky CH-53A, the free world's most powerful heavy assault helicopter. The CH53 on a normal military mission can deliver over four tons of cargo at a cruising speed of over 170 mph. The helicopter can accommodate 38 fully equipped Marines. It has a combat operating radius of a hundred miles.

## New heavyweight joins Corps

WASHINGTON — Five CH-53A Conn.

These aircraft will be used in a fleet indoctrination program before entering active service with the Marine Corps. HMM-463 is the first Marine squadron to get CH-53As. The fleet indoctrination, including shipboard shake-down, is expected to take 30 days.

The new helicopters have previously undergone exhaustive pre-delivery tests at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland.

A heavy transport, the CH-53A is the largest and fastest production helicopter in the free world. It has flown at speeds of 230 miles an hour at its normal gross weight of 35,000 pounds.

Major General Keith B. McCutcheon, Marine Corps Deputy Chief of Staff (Air), told the Sikorsky Aircraft officials (makers of the planes) when he accepted them on behalf of the Corps that: "This is another milestone for Sikorsky, the Naval Air Systems Command, and the Marine Corps."

The general praised the Sikorsky designed UH-34D, a veteran Marine helicopter, for doing a fine job in Vietnam. He also added "We have plenty of room out there for the CH-53A."

## Special Forces laud 11th Marines artillery

By: Cpl. Cliff A. McKenzie

DA NANG—The Viet Cong defector sat wide eyed looking at the towering Americans around him.

His eyes swept the area, locking on four 105mm howitzer artillery pieces that played an important part in breaking his fighting spirit and that of 80 per cent of his company.

"Our outpost is surrounded by Viet Cong," said Army Special Forces Captain Louis A. Mari, commander of Tien Phuoc Special Forces camp 25 miles northwest of Chu Lai.

"But that doesn't bother us. Our Marine artillery is really shooting them up. This is a decisive factor in our favor."

The Army captain was speaking of elements of "D" Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, who have been assigned to the Special Forces camp since June 18.

During their three month tour in the hill-locked American-Vietnamese camp, the battery has fired over 900 missions, expended more than 10,000 rounds and has a confirmed count of 111 artillery blasted Viet Cong.

Recently a Viet Cong defector came to the camp explaining he had given up because of the continued air and artillery harassment. He said that 80 per cent of his company felt the same way he did.

"We have no peace from the artillery," the defector said. "If we stay in one place too long it comes crashing at us."

The unhappy Viet Cong only fortified the Marine artillerymen's conviction of their weapons' effectiveness.

## Pays to be bookworm

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — If Major Gerald Mueller, a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, becomes a bookworm, he will have a good reason. If it weren't for a book he was carrying, he would probably be walking with a limp today.

Major Mueller was flying co-pilot on an emergency resupply of besieged Marine ground forces northwest of Dong Ha on Sept. 16, when a North Vietnamese bullet ripped through the side of his UH34D helicopter.

"It felt like something brushed my leg," he said, "but I thought it went through the roof."

Closer inspection on the way back to base proved otherwise. The .30 caliber slug had not passed through the aircraft but was lodged between the pages of the Emergency Procedures Manual he carried in a pocket of his flight suit. Without the manual, the bullet would have entered the calf of his leg.

Although he is having the old manual framed as a souvenir, he plans to get another one — or maybe something bigger, like a set of encyclopedia.

## MAG-36 record

DA NANG — Marine Aircraft Group 36 completed its 75,000th hour in the air over Vietnam in one year and 13 days.

The historic hour was flown by a crew from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364. The pilot was Second Lieutenant David L. Golding. Co-pilot was First Lieutenant Jack McCracken, and Sergeant C. C. Buss was the crew chief.

During the 75,000 hours in the air, the group carried more than 2,400 tons of cargo and 75,000 men. The group has flown in 11 major operations and has accounted for more than 300 confirmed Viet Cong deaths.

## Gifts make life tolerable

By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor

DA NANG — "I hope Vietnamese-American friendship will be long lived."

These words were written by Ran-Nguyen, Headmaster of Ky Khuong School near Chu Lai, to leathernecks of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

The letter read in part:

"I was deeply moved when my students got your presents. Representing them, I send you my deep thanks."

"You know how pitiful my students are, they must leave their dear fields where they lived peacefully. Their boyhoods are taken away by war. Everyday anxieties appeared on their faces. Nobody consoles them. They must live in small and uncomfortable houses. Your presents console them very much."

The gifts included school supplies, sporting equipment, medicines, and wood to build school desks and chairs.

Ran-Nguyen also thanked the Americans for leaving their families and country to help the Vietnamese fight for their freedom against communist aggression.

Hospitalman 1st Class H. M. Fisher, USN, (Baltimore, Md.) received a similar letter. Attached to the Combined Action Company in Ky Phuong, he is well known by the villagers for treating and caring for the Popular Forces and their families in the Ly Tin District.

## Trap—

(Continued From Page 1)

phibious tractors and two anti-tank (ONTOS) vehicles also raced to the scene of the action.

As Marine reinforcements were closing in, a dozen more VC emerging from holes to the first platoon's rear began firing and hurling grenades.

Artillery was called in and hammered VC positions only a few yards from the Marines.

Two Marine Skyhawks circle the blazing area, but fighting was so close, often man against man, that the jets could not safely attack.

After two and a half hours of fighting, the second platoon arrived at the action site and the VC disappeared into tunnels or nearby wooded areas.

The amtracks and Ontos, setting up in a blocking position, away from the fire fight, spotted five VC running across a rice paddy a few minutes later and opened fire. All five were hit and fell, but three crawled or were dragged away.

The amtracks which had brought the second platoon of Marines to the fight were taken under fire by VC recoilless rifles.

Three VC bodies were found along with one rifle, cartridge belt and ammunition and a diary following the battle.



## Over there

2dLt. James J. Doyle (right) points out the perimeter defenses of his Third Marine Regiment Company to his brother John, when the two met near Da Nang. James is a platoon leader with "H" Co. John, a veteran of more than 11 years service in the Corps, is a disbursing officer with the 1st MAW.



# Warrior, humanitarian and diplomat

By Sgt. Jim Garffer

DA NANG—The Vietnamese conflict has become a twofold mission for Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. It's no longer simply a shooting war backed by legions of logistical and administrative personnel, typical of wars of the past. No longer, either, is the physical capitulation of the Viet Cong considered to be the essence of victory; the ultimate result of the Marine offensive here.

With the advent of the modernistic sixties, a decade, which, thus far, has produced enlightenment in heretofore dark areas, a historically unpopular business, warfare, has come in for its share of sophistication, too.

The Civil Affairs Program or the "war within a war", as it has been referred to, has taken remarkable strides forward since its first fledgling paces a little more than a year ago.

Never before in its 190-year history has the Marine Corps been so largely committed to the humanitarian aspect of armed conflict while still maintaining its role as an effective fighting force.

The objectives of the Civil Affairs Program are simple and logical: build the respect, confidence and loyalty of the people for the legally constructed government of South Vietnam. In other words, help the people, downtrodden and void of nationalistic spirit after years of abuse, regain a feeling of pride in themselves, their country and their leaders. Secondly, help improve the economic and sociological conditions within the III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) tactical area of responsibility (TAOR).

In short, the Marine in Vietnam transcends merely being warrior. He must be a humanitarian with the patience of Job and a diplomat with the corresponding amount of tact.

Because of the various agencies operating in Corps with Civil Affairs as their primary interest, the I Corps Joint Coordinating Council was formed to coordinate agency/military efforts by minimizing duplication of effort and mutual interference.

Chairman of the council is Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The general represents Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General of the III MAF and the man who first proposed the councils origin. Members of the council include representatives from the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO); III MAF; I Corps Advisory Group, MACV; U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Naval Support Activity, Da Nang; Government of Vietnam, I Corps; U.S. Embassy, Political Advisor to III MAF C. G.; and MACV, Combined Studies Division.

The council is not intended to have directive authority, nor have they the funds to launch their own projects over the already established formal agencies existing in I Corps. Their sole purpose is to exchange information and ideas between the already mentioned agencies. Also, the rank of the men and the organizations that they represent on the council, lends authority, determination and singleness of purpose to the Civil Affairs Program.

The Marine Corps has placed such importance on civil affairs as to create a G-5 section which deals exclusively with the successful outcome of the "war within a war."

The Third Marine Amphibious Force, as the senior Marine command in the republic, and the component organizations which comprise it i.e., 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and the 1st and 3rd

civil affairs specialist.

Assisting the major is First Lieutenant Peter H. Lowry, also a Harvard alumnus with a B. A. Degree in Far Eastern History. Along with studying the Vietnamese language, Lowry attended the combined JUSPAO-MACV-USAID Advisor's Orientation course in Saigon before being assigned to the special staff billet.

Also laboring in the Civil Affairs Office are two enlisted Marines. Sergeants Danny Thomas and Melvin C. King. Thomas handles the administrative section while King is primarily a field man. Recently arrived from the States is Staff Sergeant Frank Hart, a former Drill Instructor at San Diego who will shortly assume duties as Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the section.

The Civil Affairs Program is not just a "giveaway" program intended to buy the peoples friendship as Maj. Morley explains that, "One of the aims of the (Civil Affairs) program is to help the Vietnamese help themselves and demonstrate that there is a viable alternative to Viet Cong terrorism."

Specifically, Morley points with pride to "Marine Wing Headquarters Group (MWHG)-1 and Capt. Matlock certainly represent a thorough productive effort in the right direction."

"A first among equals," as the major puts it.

Captain Paul E. Matlock is Civil Affairs Officer of the comparatively smaller, though equally important, Group level. It's at this level and the still smaller echelons of squadron and battery where the actual Civic Action Program is carried to the people. Civic Action is a derivative of civil affairs. It's performed by military forces in cooperation with civil authorities and its objective is the socio-economic improvement of the civilian population. This, in turn, would hopefully reinforce mutual respect and fellowship between the military and civilian communities.

On Ky Hoa Island off Chu Lai, the 2nd Light Anti Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion, a unit administratively attached to MWHG-1, averages 14 Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) visits per week to the four friendly hamlets on the island.

Major diseases and illnesses have been cured and individual Leathernecks and corpsmen, working side by side, hold classes in English and basic hygiene. The Missilemen are presently trying to improve the quality and quantity of both hogs and chickens through animal husbandry. Roads are being improved by the islanders themselves.

As encouraging as these facts are to Marines involved in Civil Affairs, the side effects are equally as gratifying to Marine intelligence experts. The islanders, pleased with themselves and the improvements which have taken place on their beautiful island, are quick to expose known Viet Cong in their midst as well as Viet Cong activities on Ky Hoa.

"They tolerated Marines there for a long time," says Capt. Matlock, referring to just one unit in the MWHG-1 civic action program. "Now it's just open friendship."

The Civil Affairs Program in South Vietnam is proving to be well worth the time and effort involved. For when the shooting and smell of cordite lift, it may well be success in the "war within a war" which carries the United States over the peaks of total victory.

## HMM-161 mechanics keeping them flying

By: Sgt. Jim Garffer

HUE/PHU BAI—"A professional pilot lives by his knowledge, skill, alertness and the integrity of his ground support personnel," states a slogan on the squadron's ready room wall.

No one questions the integrity . . . or dedication of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-161's ground personnel. Particularly when it comes to keeping the UH-34D 'choppers in the air.

The mechanics have been breaking records both with man hours worked on their helicopters on the ground and flight hours flown in the air for the past three months. And they have been doing it with an esprit' described as, "incredible," by 26-year Marine veteran MSgt. Joseph Janusz, squadron maintenance chief.

Since their re-entry into South Vietnam four months ago, HMM-161 has been averaging 1,807.5 flight hours per month; more than any other 'chopper squadron presently in country.

"You can figure roughly that it takes 15 hours of work a day to keep a helicopter in the air for 100 hours," intones Gunnery Sergeant E.L. Marks. The "gunny," is assistant to "Top" Janusz and primarily concerned with seeing that "the job gets done," as he puts it.

Janusz and Marks treat their mechanics "the way they would be treated . . . as men. Our people have a lot of pride in themselves and this pride is responsible for the competitive spirit they have," says Janusz.

Marks again:

"Often they spend an entire night working on a battle damaged aircraft so that it can be ready to go the following morning."

Three nights a week all available mechanics in the maintenance section, those on flying status or otherwise, muster in one of the hangars for technical training. The teachers are section chiefs and crew chiefs with at least three to five years experience with the UH-34D helicopter.

"It's up to us to share our knowledge with the younger mechs in the squadron," says Staff Sergeant Bob Bryant.

## Aussie visit

DA NANG — Lieutenant General T. J. Daly, Australian Chief of Staff for the Army, visited Hill-55 today — the "home" of the Ninth Marine Regiment — as part of his seven day tour of Vietnam.

Brigadier General Lowell English, assistant commander, 3d Marine Division, accompanied the Australian general on his tour.

Previously, General Daly and his party toured the Da Nang TAOR by helicopter.

Other members of General Daly's party include: Major General D. L. MacKay, commander of Australian Forces Vietnam, and Major C. D. Burnard, military aid to the chief of staff.

SEA TIGER 9



**HARD HAT** — PFC Larry Jones holds his dented helmet which deflected a North Vietnamese 82mm mortar round.

(Photo By: Sgt. T. F. Burch)

## Jones uses his head

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

DONG HA—Private First Class Larry Jones, a rifleman with Echo Company, Fourth Marines, 3d Marine Division really uses his head.

He uses it to deflect 82mm mortar rounds.

Jones was on a tank-infantry sweep with his company during Operation Prairie three miles south of the demilitarized zone.

"I was walking in the tank tracks as we approached a hedge-row," he recalled, "the next thing I knew the air was full of mortar rounds whistling in."

Jones took cover in a small furrow. A split-second later he was jarred by a heavy blunt blow in his helmet. His rifle was torn from his grasp.

The blow shocked and stunned him momentarily and when the shooting stopped he rose to his hands and knees.

Still not realizing what had happened he reached for his helmet which lay close by. The top of the helmet was caved in.

He found his rifle next, the stock was shattered and the metal twisted. Near it lay the pieces of a disintegrated but undetonated 82mm mortar round.

The young Marine then checked himself for blood and when he found none he called a corpsman and asked him if he had anything for a headache.

## VC caught digging trench

DONG HA—The 3rd Marine Division patrol moved cautiously northward toward the demilitarized zone along a narrow trail. On both sides of the trail thick clusters of foliage cut down visibility.

The lead scout spotted six figures moving near a hut to the east flank, and several Marines went to check them out.

As they crept closer, Private First Class Donald P. Julin, a scout with the 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marines, saw they were North Vietnamese soldiers. He drew a bead, fired, and saw one fall. The others fled into a thicket.

Captain Bud Leonard directed his men to fire. The unit had caught a platoon of North Vietnamese soldiers digging trenches. They killed five, before the enemy withdrew into the jungle.



**RAPPORT**—A little Vietnamese boy gazes intently into the eyes of HM3 J. A. Peterson, as the corpsman cleans a wound on the child's chin. The boy had fallen on a sharp object two weeks previously. By the time treatment was administered the wound had become infected. As Peterson cleaned the wound and applied medication, the boy's worried mother looked away.

Marine Divisions, all have G-5 sections. . . with the exception of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, which, instead, has a special staff designation.

The officer assigned as the Wing Civil Affairs Officer is Major William E. Morley, who is presently on leave of absence from the Interstate Commerce Commission where he is employed as an attorney in the Bureau of Enforcement.

The energetic Morley, a Harvard Law School graduate, has attended the U.S. Army Civil Affairs School at Fort Gordon, Ga., and also studied the Vietnamese language at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, Calif., prior to being assigned to Vietnam. Previous experience related to civil affairs includes duty as the Marine Corps Navy Foreign Claims Commissioner during the Lebanon crisis of 1958.

A longtime believer of the civil affairs concept, Morley is proud of the role that the 1st MAF is playing in the over-all scheme of things.

"I certainly appreciate the opportunity of assisting MajGen. Robertshaw by executing his civil affairs program, which is one of the most comprehensive in the Marine Corps," says the veteran

JOIN UP...  
JOIN IN

SUPPORT YOUR RED CROSS





# Short Rounds

## Cloudy flight

DA NANG — Two pilots were required to dive through holes in layers of clouds before being able to expend their ordnance during a strike 20 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

First Lieutenants John Herrera and Harvey Crouch were called out on an alert scramble to give air support to a Special Forces Camp under heavy attack by a large force of Viet Cong.

Armed with four 500-pound bombs, the two pilots flew their A4E Skyhawks over the mountainous terrain. Under heavy ground fire the pilots of Marine Attack Squadron 223 made three passes, dropping their ordnance with pinpoint accuracy within 500 yards of the friendly troops.

Because of the weather and available light, the area had to be marked with flares. But even with the lighted area, the pilots were forced to pick their way through a cloud formation before completing their mission.

## Silver Star

DA NANG — An anti-tank assault Marine with "A" Company, Ninth Marine Regiment received the Silver Star Medal, for his heroic actions last May.

Lance Corporal Anthony Restivo Jr., of Jersey City, N.J., was cited for his gallantry in action on the day his platoon was heli-lifted to a blocking position.

When the 'copters began landing they were hit from four sides by a mortar barrage and heavy small arms fire from a large Viet Cong force.

The 3rd Division Marine began firing his 3.5-inch rocket launcher at the hidden Viet Cong. Running out of ammunition, Restivo then picked up a light assault weapon and continued to fire.

Thirteen times Restivo ran into the open and exposed himself to intense enemy fire to gather up ammunition from the casualties.

"I didn't actually realize we were surrounded, but I knew every man in the platoon was fighting for his life. All I could think about was that I needed more ammo for my weapon," said Restivo.

Restivo's platoon was credited with 53 Viet Cong killed and 17 weapons captured.

## MARS

CHU LAI—The 1st Marine Division's Military Affiliated Radio Station (MARS) topped all MARS units in Vietnam during July with 1,311 phone patches to the United States and foreign countries.

Besides allowing Marines to call free of charge to the United States, the MARS personnel also handle messages which are transmitted to families, friends or relatives. The station also receives messages sent to Marines at Chu Lai.

Incoming and outgoing message traffic for July totaled 813.

Working a rugged 17-hour schedule daily, the MARS Marines also transmit to other bases in Vietnam, Okinawa and some stations in Japan.

Emergency phone calls in cases of serious illness or death in a family have immediate priority.

Manning the station are Gunnery Sergeant Robert P. Rotella, chief operator, Sergeant Don R. Chilcote, and Lance Corporal Willard W. Dunn.

Since the bulk of the Marines' work is conducted at night, from 8:00 p.m. until 12:30 a.m., the radio team puts in long hours.

10 SEA TIGER

Commenting on the working hours Staff Sergeant Curtis H. Parks, headquarters, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and coordinator for the station said, "They work, 'eight' days a week and the troops really appreciate what they are doing for them."

## Translation

U.S. Servicemen in Vietnam may have legal documents of any kind translated and certified, free of charge, by the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) AG Translation Division.

The service is an important one, since documents such as those for adoption or marriage, for example, must be certified true translations to be recognized as valid by the U.S. Embassy.

Also, it saves the Serviceman considerable money, because civilian costs for a similar service run quite high.

The Translation Division is in Room 322 of the Tax Building in Saigon. Telephone: Tiger 522. Written inquiries may be directed to Chief, Translation Division, MACV AG, APO 96243.

## Letter

DA NANG—The letter was addressed to the 1st squad leader, 3rd platoon, "I" Company, Third Marines South Vietnam.

It was signed, Bill Gallagher . . . former master sergeant . . . former squad leader of YOUR squad.

Sergeant Richard Petrie received the letter. "I wondered who had sent it and was pleased when I read it. I've never heard of anything like this before," he said.

During World War II Bill Gallagher had the job Petrie has now.

At a 3rd Marine Division Association meeting Gallagher suggested that members write their counterparts in Vietnam.

He offered, in his letter, to give Petrie any information he desired on World War II Marines that were in his squad.

"Of course I'll write him back," said Petrie. "I know we fought different wars, but with the same kind of Marines. He really touched me when he said, 'To wrap it up—stay loose—you have the prayers and best wishes of the Gallaghers.'"

## 100 missions

DA NANG — Second Lieutenant David A. Marshall chalked up his 100th combat mission Sept. 16, the first anniversary of his completion of Advanced Naval Air Training at Kingsville, Texas.

Marshall reported to Marine Attack Squadron 223 in May. Since then, the 24-year-old pilot has averaged seven missions a week.

Flying an A4E Skyhawk with Marine Aircraft Group 12, he has taken part in six operations, and currently holds the squadron record for night flying with 33 hours. He has been awarded six Air Medals.

Marshall volunteered for duty here, "because I wanted to see some action." It didn't take him long — his aircraft was hit with a .50 cal. round during his third mission.

The best missions, according to Marshall, are those in direct support of the infantry. "I feel I'm really doing my part when I can aid those on the ground from up here," he said.

He expects to have his 200th combat mission logged long before his second anniversary of the completion of his advanced training next fall.



## Manhunt in the jungle

Marine infantrymen follow a tank into heavy jungle growth during Operation Prairie, just three miles south of the demilitarized zone. (Photo by Sgt. T. F. Burch)

## Compasses, smoke aid rescue

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA — Compasses and colored smoke proved the best allies for a rescue force which cut, hacked and thrust its way over 6,000 meters of densely-jungled terrain Sept. 18 to successfully link up with two surrounded Marine companies.

The rescue force, three companies of the Seventh Marine Regiment, battled its way for 11 hours enroute to the outnumbered Marines.

"B" and "D" companies, Fourth Marine Regiment, were

out off and surrounded by North Vietnamese regulars for some 60 hours before the overland force arrived.

Moving down from the chest-high grass of their previous night's position, the rescue force encountered thick jungle undergrowth. Unit-to-unit radios became almost the only contact the Marines had with each other. Maps and compasses were rarely packed away by unit leaders.

Crawling over steep ridges and through stream beds, movement was slow and hazardous. The

jungle floor, damp from frequent rains and slippery with leaves and moss, slowed the column.

As the canopy enveloped the Marines and visual contact ended, commanders called for flares and colored smoke from accompanying units. Spotter planes circling overhead were asked to spot the smoke and report the positions of ground units to other units.

The Marines started out at dawn. Three hours later they asked the encircled units to fire colored smoke pyrotechnics but thick jungle growth prevented the rescue force units from spotting them.

At 4 p.m. the column's leading elements came to an open area where air strikes and artillery had left shattered trees.

The rescue force, nearing the Marine hilltop positions at 6 p.m., found many abandoned enemy positions. Caves, fortified bunkers and fighting holes pock-marked the vicinity. Enemy equipment found included field gear, ammunition and hand grenades.

## Illumination great —if not too close

By: Cpl. Jim DesRoches

PHU BAI—To a Marine fighting a battle at night, close-in illumination of the battlefield by mortars is the greatest. Sometimes it can be too close in.

Like if the illumination round lands in your foxhole—and then goes off.

Three Marines from "I" Company, Fourth Marines were in their hole during a firefight when that happened—and they have singed clothing to prove it.

Corporal Ralph T. Coleman, Lance Corporal Carl E. Carter and Private First Class Richard E. Ferris were with the third platoon at Nuoc Ngot, south of here, when it was hit by a company of VC.

When the attack began, all three jumped into the same hole and began to return the heavy VC fire. Shortly after the fight started, they heard the first illumination rounds leave the mortar tubes.

"I didn't think anything of it," said Ferris, "but the next thing we knew a round came straight down, brushed against me, and landed right between us. When it hit we could just see a little glow, like a cigarette."

The three leaped from the hole but the ignited magnesium charred Carter's cartridge belt and seared Ferris' flak jacket.

"Lucky?" says Ferris, "I just can't believe it." Coleman and Carter agree.



## New doll

Nguyen Thi Kim Lan, a kindergarten student in St. Joseph's elementary school at Hoa Phat, clutches the new rag doll she has just received. The doll, one of 30, made by a junior troop of the Girl Scouts of America, was donated the 1st MAW along with soap and candy for the Marines Civic Action Program. (Photo by Sgt. Joseph Abreau)





**KEEPS EYE ON VC** — SSgt. Prentiss Cravens, aligns two aerial photographs with a three dimension viewer. With the help of Marine Corps and Air Force photo reconnaissance aircraft, every move the Viet Cong make in the I Corps area is closely followed by the Marines of the III MAF photo imagery interpretation teams. (Photo by: Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

## Photo interpreters keep eye on VC

By: Sgt. P. L. Thompson

DA NANG — The Marine sergeant sat at a table with a stack of photographs next to him. Bending over two of the prints he inspected them closely with a viewer which showed the details in the two photos in three dimension.

Looking at a row of trees he found what he had been looking for: holes in the ground in a neat line. It meant the Viet Cong were building up their defensive positions.

Staff Sergeant Prentiss Cravens is one of 50 Marines working at Photo Imagery Interpretation for the III Marine Amphibious Force.

With the combined photo interpretation teams of the First Marine Aircraft Wing and the 3rd and 1st Marine Division, they keep an eye on VC activity within the I Corps area.

Cravens said that photo runs by Marine and Air Force aircraft are made daily in some part of I Corps to see if there is any build-up of VC activity in any given position at any time.

Not only do the photo interpretation teams watch the VC, they also look for helicopter landing zones which could be used by Marines should the need arise. Also they inspect photos of bridges and

can tell how much of a load a bridge can take, what it is made of and what condition it is in. The information is passed on to intelligence authorities.

When an operation against the communist forces is planned, the first thing that is done is a photo reconnaissance of the area. After the operation is begun, until it ends, a steady stream of aerial photos are studied by the team to help determine the moves of the VC.

Cravens explained that the 50-man team's work is one of the main intelligence sources for the Third Marine Amphibious Force and it saves them time, money and lives. He added, "And we do it all with a large stack of photos and an optical device that costs about three dollars."

## Vietnamese mortarmen

By: Cpl. Vince Hagel

DONG HA — North Vietnamese soldiers seem to have confidence in themselves—sometimes it's unwarranted.

Like when three 82mm mortar crews ran to the center of a rice paddy in full view of a company of Marines and began setting up their guns.

The action took place this week during Operation Deckhouse IV—1,000 yards from the demilitarized zone.

As the 26th Regiment Company watched the enemy, artillery was called in. The enemy was out of rifle range.

The communists got off six mortar rounds toward the well-entrenched 3rd Division Marines when the 30 round artillery barrage blew 14 North Vietnamese soldiers — and their weapons — away.

There were no Marine casualties from the mortar fire.

# We were just doing our job

By: 2ndLt. Robert E. Mattingly

DA NANG—Second Lt. Jack T. Terrell was asleep when the first mortar shells began to walk across the crest of Hill 34.

The hill houses the command elements of the 3d Tank Battalion, which instantly roused itself into action. While those still exposed to the hail of exploding shells sprawled in whatever area of cover they could find, gunners along the perimeter sent probing fingers of .50 caliber lead into the darkness.

Terrell, a veteran of 14 years service and fighting his second war, headed for the nearest trench.

The Viet Cong mortarmen had studied their target well. For what seemed an eternity, they rained 81 and 82mm shells onto the nerve center of the 3rd Division unit's operations. One officer was killed on his way to aid a wounded comrade. Both the battalion commander and executive officer were hit.

While the final blasts were still reverberating through the once-peaceful night, Terrell heard someone calling for a corpsman. He leaped from the relative safety of his hole and ran toward the voice.

Although small arms fire continued to whistle through the jumble of smashed tents and denuded trees, Terrell kept moving. Finding the executive officer in critical condition after being hit by three separate bursts, Terrell realized that professional help was needed immediately.

He found help in the persons of Chief Hospital Corpsman James C. Shuttle and Hospital Corpsman First Class Thomas P. Bailey. They all raced to the scene. Bailey began working on the executive officer while the chief checked the injuries of the battalion commander.

Soon both Shuttle and Bailey were working over the gravely wounded officer.

"We'll need a med evac right away or this man's dead," mumbled the chief as he feverishly worked to stem the flow of blood. Once again, Terrell sprang into action.

Rushing through the night which was still punctuated by the coughing of automatic weapons,

Terrell searched for a vehicle to light the helicopter landing zone. Although most of the vehicles in the immediate area had become casualties of the attack, he finally located one in running order and drove it to the nearby landing zone. When the medical evacuation choppers appeared, they found the helo-pad illuminated by the headlights of Terrell's jeep. "He's got a chance," whispered 'Doc' Bailey as the 'copter whirled away with the casualties safely aboard, "now he's got a chance." That "chance" turned

into a sure thing thanks to the doctors, operating room technicians, helicopter pilots and the wonders of modern medicine. But there is one Marine major who gives most of the credit for his life to the swift and professional actions of the first men on the scene.

As for Lieutenant Jack Terrell, Chief Shuttle and Hospital Corpsman Bailey; they just shrug and say "We didn't do anything any other Marine wouldn't have done."

## Life has been good for honorary SSgt.

By: Cpl. Nick Harder

DA NANG — Life for Nguyen Van Hoa since his escape from Hanoi 10 years ago has been good.

However, for the past year-and-a-half he's been an interpreter for the Ninth Marine Regiment, south of Da Nang — "and that's been the best," says the honorary Marine staff sergeant.

Hoa was born 26 years ago in

Laos, where his father worked for the French government. The family moved to Hanoi, North Vietnam, when he was two years old. His father worked for the French government again until 1956. Communist strength was growing to such intensity that Hoa's entire village made a mass exodus to the south that year.

In Saigon, the 16-year-old Hoa attended high school.

After graduation in 1962, he worked as an accountant for two years, then married, and enlisted in the Vietnamese Army as an interpreter.

Hoa's first assignment was to the 3rd Battalion, Ninth Marines Regiment in 1965.

When the 3rd Bn. moved to Da Nang air base to begin guard duty, Hoa stayed behind and joined the second battalion.

On the Marine Corps birthday, Hoa was made an honorary staff sergeant by the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Regiment commander.

When the unit moved to Phu Bai in July 1966, Hoa remained this time with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

## Home builder

DA NANG — A team of three Marines and 16 Navy hospital corpsmen led by Navy Lieutenant V. J. Celeste from FLSG-A, Supply Company, Force Logistic Command, have been called the home builders of Vietnam.

The men raised 6,000 piasters (about \$50.) to rebuild the home of Vietnamese employee of the unit which burned a couple of weeks ago.

The woman, widow of a Vietnamese soldier, lives in Phuoc Tuong Hamlet, and supports her two children and mother.

## New 3/7 CO

Major Raymond J. O'Leary assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment August 31. He relieved Lieutenant Colonel Bernard B. DeWitt.



## Books from Washington

Books and small games are distributed to students of St. Joseph's Catholic School by Father Loi, pastor, and LtCdr. E. Thompson Witte of MAG-11. Mrs. Katherine Gorman sent the gifts to Witte on behalf of the Women's Group of the Liturgical Conference, Washington, D.C. St. Joseph's school is located near the Da Nang airfield in the hamlet of Nam Viet.

(Photo by: Sgt. H. C. McGratten)

## Montana town donates books

By: LCpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — Marine Aircraft Group 16 has received a ton of books from the citizens of Bozeman, Montana. The people of Bozeman donated the books so that MAG-16 could build a library at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, two miles south of Da Nang.

The idea for the library was conceived last October by First Lieutenant Raymond Parker, a native of Bozeman and an alumnus of Montana State University which is located there. When he was appointed Group Special Services Officer, Lt. Parker attempted to establish a library of paperback books. He was unsuccessful since the paperbacks could not stand the wear and tear of continued use.

Then he wrote to his alma mater asking for assistance. The National Spurs, a student service organization, volunteered to gather hard-bound books.

Adopting the slogan, "A ton of books for Vietnam," the students solicited contributions both on campus and in the town of Bozeman. It took eight months to collect the books and two months to pack them. They arrived at Marble Mountain in July.





## Remember that party?

The Henry brothers look over a family photo album during their first reunion in two years at Chu Lai. After participating in an operation, Da Nang-based PFC David L. Henry (left), who is due to rotate soon, received permission to visit his older brother LCpl. Gerald L. Henry, 1st Recon Bn., 1st Marine Division. David is a member of 1st Bn., 3d Marines. (Photo by LCpl D. A. Mennillo)

## Decorated for rescue of Air Force pilots



By: LCpl Bob Pitner

DA NANG — First Lieutenant David E. Walker, a pilot of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, has been awarded a Silver Star Medal for his part in the rescue of two downed Air Force pilots earlier this year.

The presentation was made by First Marine Aircraft Wing Commander, Major General L.B. Robertshaw last month, at the Marble Mountain Air Facility.

Lieutenant Walker earned the decoration on April 21, while pilot-

ing one of two aircraft assigned the mission of rescuing the pilots of an Air Force plane shot down deep in enemy controlled territory.

When the two UH-34D helicopters reached them, the pilots were separated and being pursued by the enemy. The first chopper tried to land, but received heavy small arms fire, wounding the pilot and forcing him to abandon the mission.

According to the citation:

"Lt. Walker unhesitatingly proceeded into the fire swept landing site. Fully exposed to the vicious fire, he courageously remained on the ground for five minutes while the downed man evaded enemy fire and made his way to the aircraft.

"After locating the second man, Lt. Walker exhibited superior airmanship in positioning the aircraft on a precarious ridge above the stranded man. Undaunted by the hail of small arms fire all around him, he waited while a crewman assisted the exhausted Air Force man up the slope and into the aircraft.

"His daring effort undoubtedly saved the two men from death or capture at the hands of the enemy."

## New CO for 1/7

In ceremonies at the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines on Sept. 4, Major Littleton W. T. Waller II, replaced Lieutenant Colonel Frederick S. Wood.

## Mail The Sea Tiger Home



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

## Dentists learn as

# Textbook cases come alive

By: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG—Textbook examples have become everyday occurrences for two dentists assigned to Marine Aircraft Group-11, as they conduct dental examinations four times weekly in neighboring South Vietnamese villages.

Lieutenant Commander E. Thompson Witte of Perry, Iowa, and a naval dentist since 1956, said his villager patients provide him with actual cases of advanced stages of oral infections and diseases that he had previously only read about.

His dental colleague, Navy Lieutenant Lane J. Lopez, considers himself "fortunate" to be able to see and treat such cases so soon after completion of his studies in 1965.

The pair of dentists travel both together and alone depending on the work load at their MAG-11 clinic. Averaging 35 patients a visit, they remove 50 or more teeth decayed beyond repair (teeth are seldom able to be as the South Vietnamese do not come to the dentists until driven by pain, they said).

Assisted by three enlisted dental technicians — Thomas W. Mc-

Elhenie; Michael G. Hastings; and Dennis M. O'Keefe—the doctors visit local schools three days a week and travel by helicopter on Sunday to hamlets and villages too far removed for road transportation.

Their "office" consists of a semi-circle of five or more small benches. The dentists move from patient to patient, examining and anesthetizing when necessary. Most being treated do not understand fully what is taking place and sit awe-stricken. Children are

the most puzzled and often sit in laps of relatives during treatment.

Highest patient-load for one day was 150. In addition, the dentists also look at medical patients. Treating those they can with their limited medical supplies, the dentists arrange for others to come to the group's dispensary.

Recently, the pair began a program for the future with their first tooth-brushing class for younger students at a local Catholic school.



OPEN WIDE—Navy dentist Lt. Lane J. Lopez and Vietnamese boy during one of four weekly trips to villages around the Da Nang airfield. (Photo by: Cpl. Gregg Gillespie)

## And then the Marines came

CHU LAI—The villagers of Phu Li III loved their land but were afraid to stay in their homes.

Each day they would come to work their fields and gardens, but when the sun set they would retreat to the security of the heavily guarded city of Binh Son, across the Song Tra Bong river.

Only three families continued to put up with the Viet Cong harassment levied at the small hamlet 15 miles south of Chu Lai. This was Phu Li's mode of living for three years.

Then the Marines came. "My squad moved into the hamlet two months ago for what

we thought would be a few days," explained Corporal Richard B. Anderson, squad leader with "M" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

"After a few weeks," the corporal said, "the people began drifting back here to live. It was amazing. In just a short time the population changed from three families to nearly 400 people."

The villagers have done more than regained their homes — they've gained confidence and courage to defy the Viet Cong.

"To show their thanks, they help us stand guard at night," Anderson said. "They post themselves around a fence they helped us build and beat a gong every half hour letting us know that all is well in their sector. If the VC come they beat the gong rapidly and make a hell of a racket."

The unit's corpsman treats about 60 patients a day and eventually hopes to train a village nurse to take over his duties.

"The villagers are beginning to take an active part in their own government and there isn't a day goes by that we don't get some kind of intelligence information from the village elders," Anderson said.

The squad's most ambitious plan, he said, was to provide the village with a means to build a school. Anderson has contacted CARE for the tools and the 1st Marine Division for a brick-making machine.

"I really hope that we can get the school built," says Anderson, "that's the one thing they really need."

## Company kills 16 VC 500 yards from DMZ

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

DONG HA—A 3rd Marine Division company killed 16 North Vietnamese soldiers during a running gun battle less than 500 yards from the demilitarized zone, Sept. 17.

Marine casualties were light. The 26th Regiment Company riflemen were patrolling a series of hamlets during Operation Deckhouse IV when fired on.

The Marines pinpointed several snipers perched in trees. Riflemen and machine gunners shot them down and pursued by fire as the attackers retreated into the demilitarized zone.

"We moved to the next hamlet 200 yards away when more troops hit us," said Lance Corporal Charles E. Rambo.

"As we ran to surround them they emerged from the bushes tossing grenades. I threw some back and killed at least one before I was hit by fragments," he said.

Rambo was evacuated to the

USS Iwo Jima with minor shrapnel wounds in his leg.

Sporadic sniper fire continued for several hours as helicopters brought in re-supplies.

The communist soldiers finally broke contact a second time and retreated to their demilitarized zone sanctuary.

## VC attack

DA NANG — A 3rd Marine Division company fought off a 50-man Viet Cong attack force Sept. 13, near the village of Trien Tu (3), 22 miles southeast of Da Nang.

Seven Viet Cong were killed and a K-50 sub-machine gun was captured.

The Marines took light casualties during the 20-minute battle.

The unit, "A" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, reinforced by Headquarters and Service Company, was guarding a bridge just outside the village when attacked.