



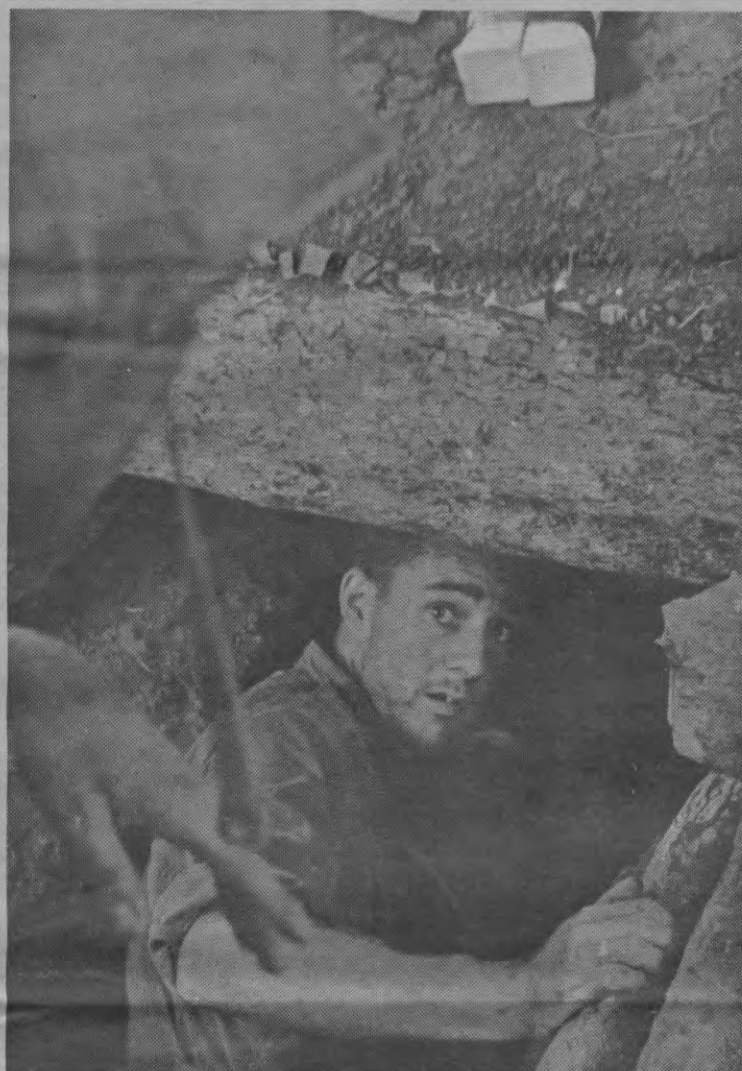
SEA TIGER



Vol. II, No. 38

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

October 12, 1966



Blow up

Marine from "B" Co, 1st Bn. 26th Marines prepares to blow up captured bunker during Operation Prairie, 500 meters from DMZ. Large quantities of penicillin and other drugs including plasma, were found. (Photo by LCpl. N. B. Call)

'Golden Fleece'

Thank you, Marines

By: Sgt. Mike McCusker
CHU LAI—A tired and dirty Marine battalion, crammed into a 50-truck convoy and stared into the faces of the cheering Vietnamese aligned along both sides of dusty Highway One.

Banners and flags were shipped by frenzied hands as the thousands of shrill voices crescendoed above the throaty rumble of 50 motors.

"Thank you U.S. Marines . . . (red and yellow banners streamed over the road) . . . hurry back to Mo Duc."

The trucks roared through the sunbaked hamlet raising clouds of gritty dust. Highway One north to Quang Ngai opened into broad fields and the Marines could no longer see nor hear the tumult.

Only an occasional peasant looking up from his work as the trucks replaced the crowds and the sounds were limited to the steady rumblings of the motors.

Hurry back . . .

The minds atop the weary faces straggled back to almost a month before when the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division first arrived at the small Vietnamese Army District headquarters at Mo Duc, 10 miles south of the provincial capital city of Quang Ngai.

For eight days the battalion swept down alongside Highway

One through the spongy rice paddies. Like an advancing wave in knee-deep muck, they spread out into wide fields under the boiling sun, their green dungarees almost blending with the ripe grain.

The Marines cleared the hamlets along Highway One — that was Operation Fresno. Most of the Viet Cong fled but a few stayed to fight and they died.

Operation Golden Fleece came next.

The gigantic task of protecting a daily average of 9,000 Vietnamese rice harvesters for 10 days fell to the Marines and to units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

It was a long, weary job.

Each day began before dawn and ended long after sunset and included countless patrols along the fringes of the paddies and into the hamlets. It was days of seeking and killing snipers while thousands of black pajama-clad peasants gathered the rice in fields the Viet Cong had long called their own.

The battalion began catching heavy fire from the VC fortified Hamlet of Van Ha (1). Peasants in the fields became afraid and the harvest slowed. The Marines went in and cleared it out.

After evacuating over 700 refugees and dynamiting more than

(Continued on Page 4)

Hard fought battle pushes Viet Cong off key hill top

By: Cpl Vince Hagel

DONG HA—Hard fighting North Vietnamese soldiers were driven off a key hilltop in the rugged jungle just south of the Demilitarized Zone by Marines of the Fourth Marine Regiment last week on Operation Prairie.

The 3rd Division unit then repelled a counterattack by the battalion-sized enemy force during the day-long battle which was fought at point-blank range at times.

The point man of the lead company was hit by automatic weapons fire as he topped a small rise. Another Marine going to his aid was also hit by the deeply dug in communist force.

Point elements pulled back for artillery and air support to pound the reinforced bunkers, then attacked—but the enemy was waiting. Three times the company assaulted the position but were driven back.

Captain J. J. Carroll, company commander, then pulled back his unit just 50 meters from the incoming friendly artillery rounds.

When the strike lifted the Marines again assaulted the hill and overran the enemy attempting to return to their positions. Twenty enemy were killed.

An hour later, the VC counter-attacked with a reinforced company.

Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Purdy, laid his weapon platoon's machine guns in prime positions.

"I wasn't so sure we could hold the hill until Purdy's guns began cutting them down," said Carroll.

The battle lasted until just before dark when the enemy broke contact.

Seventy-two enemy soldiers were killed in the action. Marine casualties were described as light.

1,311 Viet Cong kills month of September

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—September proved to be a busy and productive month for U. S. Marines in the I Corps area of Vietnam as the leathernecks' air-ground team accounted for 1,311 enemy dead.

Four major operations were conducted during the month with the majority of the action taking place just south of the DMZ.

Operation Prairie, which commenced Aug. 3 and evolved directly from Hastings, suddenly developed major proportions when heavy contact was made between two companies of the 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, and North Vietnamese regulars.

On a reconnaissance in force mission north of the Rockpile (a large hill mass approximately 15 miles west of Dong Ha), "B" and "D" Companies found themselves pinned down and surrounded by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese soldiers. From Sept. 15 to the 18th, the two companies fought off their determined attackers and inflicted heavy casualties on them in the process.

The 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, traveled overland from Cam Lo in forced marches and reached the two companies at 3:30 p.m. on the 18th. The enemy broke contact as soon as the fresh battalion arrived in the area.

While this battle was taking place, a special landing force composed of the 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, was heli-lifted from the USS Iwo Jima to a point on the coast just south of the DMZ on

(Continued on Page 3)



New CG for Force Logistic Command

DA NANG—Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr. (photo inset) assumed command of the Force Logistic Command, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific at battalion size change-of-command ceremonies on October 3.

Brigadier General Herbold is the first general officer to command the unit.

He relieved Colonel George C. Axtell, who had been commanding officer of FLC since its formation in March.

Brigadier General Herbold was formerly Commanding General of the Marine Corps Supply Activity before his assignment in South Vietnam.



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 H. Nickerson, Jr.
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Major General Wood B. Kyle
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

Force ISO Editor Col. T. M. Fields
GySgt. Lee Witconis

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Your 'horn of plenty'

When the Veteran's Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966, more familiarly known as the Cold War GI Bill, was passed, much emphasis was given to the educational benefits it provided.

This emphasis was quite proper. The educational provisions of the bill are available to all servicemen with two years active duty and to veterans with service after January 31, 1955. Hence, these benefits are ones which probably will be enjoyed by the most people.

However, there are many other provisions in the bill—benefits that many servicemen could well use but might let slip by because they aren't aware of them.

One other benefit that is available, right now, to active duty personnel, is the home and farm loan provision—a mighty important benefit for servicemen seeking a home in this day of high mortgage rates and generally "tight" money.

Among the other benefits are Job Counseling and Job Placement; Federal Employment Preference, VA medical care, Burial Flags, and important changes to the Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act.

Details on each of these benefits are available through educational channels at your unit or through the Veteran's Administration. Find out about them now, or as soon as you return stateside. (AFNB)

Rules on family service in RVN outlined in order

An order outlining Marine Corps policy governing concurrent assignment of military members of the same family to Vietnam has been issued by Headquarters Marine Corps.

The order, MCO 1300.23, provides for deferment of assignment to South Vietnam of Marines, upon their request, who have a parent, child, a brother or a sister already serving with the Armed Forces in South Vietnam.

The order also provides for the reassignment outside the land

area of South Vietnam of all but one member of a family in those cases where several members of the same family were serving in Vietnam prior to the effective date of the order. Reassignment in this instance is also contingent on a written request by the individual Marine through normal command channels to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DN).

For additional details refer to MCO 1300.23, subject: "Concurrent Assignment of More Than One Military Member of the Same Family to South Vietnam, restrictions on."

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

The following people wish to write to Marines in Vietnam:

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Seattle, Washington 98105

Mrs. Richard Allsup (21)
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Pamela Eagles (17)
24 Maple Drive
Groton, Conn. 06340

Cash for ideas

WASHINGTON—Marine Corps personnel on active duty are now eligible for cash awards if they submit a suggestion, invention or a scientific achievement which contributes to the efficiency, economy, or other improvements of operations relating to the Armed Forces, according to a new Marine Corps Order.

The Order, MCO 1650.17, tells who is eligible for the cash awards, how it is funded, and who has the authority to award the cash and other pertinent information.

New 26th Marines CO

Lieutenant Colonel James M. Cummings assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment. He relieved Major Walter S. Pullar, Jr. who will assume duties as executive officer.

The 3d Marine Division unit has manned a sector ten miles southwest of Da Nang since arriving in Vietnam last month.



To my 3d
Marine Div.
I admire all
of you.
Sincerely
Joy Wilkerson

Tiger pen-pal of the week

TV actress Joy Wilkerson salutes the Marines of the 3d Division. She says she wants to come to Vietnam to entertain, but isn't quite sure if we want her. Anyone who desires to coax the young Miss can write to her c/o L. Shurr Agency, 327 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Consider the case . . .

Consider the case of the Marine who earned a bundle of money—the easy but legitimate way—on his Vietnam tour.

He heard about the new Uniformed Services Savings Deposits, allowing interest payments of 10 percent for servicemen overseas.

He also heard about reenlistment bonuses—like the variable reenlistment bonus that pays big for certain critical skills.

So he reenlisted two days after he got here and was paid \$7,200. He immediately slapped it into the Savings Deposit, then he signed an allotment for another \$100 a month to be deposited in his account.

Here is the way it worked out: His money earned \$185 the first quarter of the year, \$197.12 the second quarter, \$209.55 the third quarter and \$222.29 the last. Total interest: \$813.96.

So the Marine left his money where it was and went home to a Stateside assignment, knowing the Savings

Deposit Program had a little bonus kicker in it.

(Kicker: Interest keeps accruing for 90 days after you return to the States, without deposits).

At the end of 90 days he drew his balance—\$9,444.31, showing earned interest (compounded quarterly on average monthly balance) of \$1,044.31 for a year of deposits that didn't hurt his pocketbook at all.

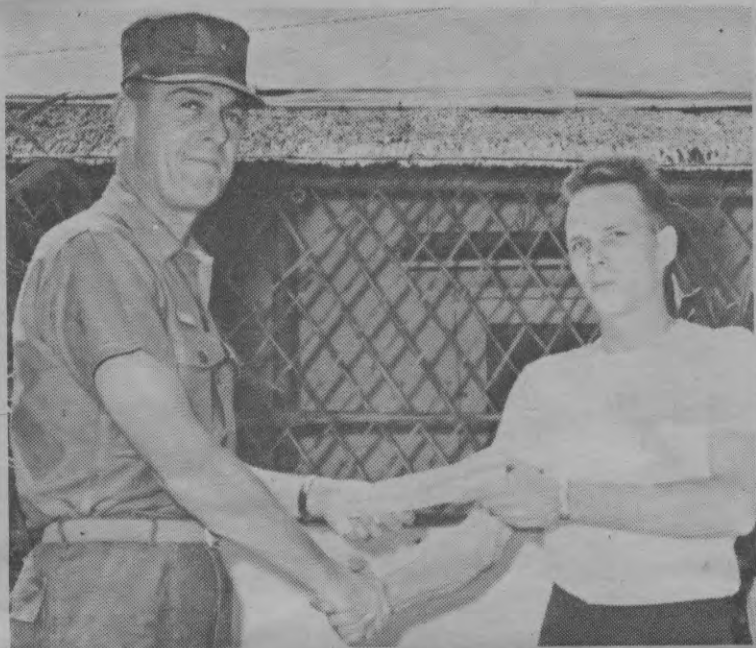
Consider the case of Savings Deposits. Consider the case of a career in the Marine Corps.

Christmas mail

Christmans mail will have to go early to reach the U.S. in time for the holidays, according to the MACV Staff Postal Officer.

Parcels paid at the surface rate, including those weighing less than five pounds, must be mailed by November 1, since the peak mailing period will run from October 15 to that date.

Air mail parcels and letters should be mailed by December 13.



First participant

LCpl. Michael F. Rea, Fifth Communications Bn., 3d Marine Division, is congratulated by BrigGen. Jonas M. Platt, Chief of Staff, III MAF, on being the first participant in the new R&R Program begun this week at China Beach, located near Da Nang. (Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)

China Beach R&R

By: LCpl. C. Cellars

DA NANG — China Beach, located near the port city of Da Nang, opened this week as the first in-country R&R center in the I Corps area.

The three-day rest and relaxation program caters to all members of the free world forces in Vietnam.

Available at the center will be a snack bar featuring American food and drink, hot water for showers, and a nightly movie. During the day, servicemen can

bask in the sun, play games on the sandy beach, and swim in safety as two qualified lifeguards are on duty at all times.

Planned for the near future are a library, theater and chapel. Living quarters also are to be air conditioned.

The center is scheduling two R&R groups weekly. At present, half of the servicemen scheduled for the program are Air Force personnel.

Daily recreation programs for local military personnel at the beach will continue as before.

September kills—

(Continued From Page 1)

Sept. 15. For the next three days they pushed inland towards Dong Ha and had sporadic contact with North Vietnamese troops. During their push inland the Marines killed 51 enemy soldiers, captured 15 and took eight weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

The battalion was placed under the operational control of the 3rd Marine Division at noon on Sept. 18, and Operation Deckhouse IV was concluded.

The next day, now part of Operation Prairie, the battalion was battling to take over a North Vietnamese stronghold in the village complex of Gia Binh, just south of the DMZ. After two days of heavy fighting, the stronghold fell. Continuous artillery and air attacks were used to dislodge the stubborn defenders.

Throughout the rest of the month contact with enemy troops ran from light to heavy as the Marine units pushed along the ridge lines south of the DMZ. From its start in Aug., Operation Prairie has resulted in the confirmed death of 943 enemy troops while Marine casualties remain light.

In other action involving units of the 3rd Marine Division, Operation Macon continued with sporadic contact reported. Started on July 4, Macon has resulted in 442 enemy KIA's.

In the southern sector of I Corps, the 1st Marine Division was busy also. In addition to numerous small-unit sweep and clear missions, they conducted a Golden Fleece rice harvesting operation south of Quang Ngai.

Under protection of units from the Seventh Marine Regiment and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, an average daily work force of nearly 10,000 Vietnamese harvested 7,620 tons of rice during the operation.

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

During the operation 244 VC KIA were confirmed, most from artillery and Marine air strikes.

Of the 1,311 enemy troops killed during September, 829 were credited to ground forces, 314 to Marine air and another 168 to more than one weapons system.

Reenlistment rate at 21.5%

WASHINGTON — According to a consolidated reenlistment report covering 57 of the largest Marine Corps commands, the Corps got 21.5 per cent of its first termers to ship over during July. It also achieved an 84.9 per cent shipover of its career men for a total reenlistment percentage of 43.1.

Translated into numbers, the report shows that 1216 first term-

ers had been recommended and were eligible to reenlist; 261 actually did so.

The number of those reenlisting for the first time at the 57 commands runs slightly higher than overall Corps figures for the months of April, May and June. In April, 206 first termers reenlisted; in May 179 and in June 191.

60mm mortar shell removed from Vietnamese troop's body

By: MGySgt. G. M. Cameron

DA NANG—A live 60mm mortar shell, completely imbedded in a Vietnamese soldier's body was successfully removed here Oct. 1 at the station hospital by a U.S. Navy doctor and a Naval demolition expert during 25 minutes of tense surgery.

Responsible for removing the projectile that could have easily exploded and killed them all are Navy Doctor Capt. Harry Dinsmore, 45; Navy explosives expert Petty Officer First Class John J. Lyons, 36; and the anesthetist Navy Lieutenant Gerry G. Warren, 27.

Private First Class Nguyen Luong, the 22-year-old victim, is reported in good condition and except for a fractured collar bone and some torn muscles is expected to recover rapidly.

Luong, a member of the 24th Artillery received the incredible wound during a heavy fight with his unit against an estimated three battalions of VC.

He was peering from the open hatch of an APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) when he noticed a VC mortar position launching a round in his direction.

The shell came whistling in, was deflected by the hatch door, smashed Luong's helmet, and plunged straight down through his collar bone and lodged just under the skin forward of the rib cage. He was medically evacuated with nine other casualties a short time later.

Marine Lieutenant Colonel M. T. Jannell, 45, and commanding officer of HMM-263, Marine Aircraft Group 16, was the UH-34 pilot who brought Luong to the station hospital.

"It was just a regular evac," commented Jannell later, "and I had no idea what the patients condition was." As an afterthought, he grinned and said, "and we have a regulation against carrying live ordnance."

"I was eating supper when they notified me," said Dr. Dinsmore. "I thought they must be joking—that is until I saw the X-ray." Asked what he felt then, he remarked, "I wished I were somewhere else."

Lyons, the explosives expert, appeared on the scene 10 minutes after he was called from a nearby Naval unit. Quickly, he and Dr. Dinsmore with no visible emotion, and cool, steady hands, prepared the patient for surgery.

Working near a hastily erected barricade of sandbags, the demolitions expert firmly held the mortar while Dr. Dinsmore cut away clothing and bandages; then making the necessary incisions that permitted Lyons to remove the round.

"I must have asked Lyons a dozen times, if he had a good grip on the mortar," said the doctor.

"I had a firm hold," Lyons said, "but was concerned how far the pin in the nose cone had been



NOT FAKED—Perhaps one in five million chance—The live 60mm Chinese Communist mortar is clearly shown in the X-ray where it plunged into the side of a young South Vietnamese soldier and became completely imbedded inside his body just forward of the rib cage.

pushed in toward the exploding device."

The moment the mortar was free from Luong's body, Lyons cautiously carried it outside, and with a pair of pliers removed the deadly firing pin.

"The pin only needed a slight nudge and the shell would have exploded," remarked Lyons. "Probably, you could say, his body saved his life; also, had the mortar continued its downward course, and struck Luong's hip bone—that would have been it."

Dr. Dinsmore, who arrived in South Vietnam last August from the U.S. Naval Hospital at Annapolis, said he had never performed an operation even remotely like this one and he really didn't give it much thought—until later.

The following morning Luong was somewhat weak and in slight pain, but he smiled and was in excellent spirits as he greeted those responsible for his survival.

During an interview with newsmen, Luong revealed that he is from the town of Dong Ha where, coincidentally U.S. Marines are slugging it out with the North Vietnamese Army in a major military operation only a few miles from the DMZ.

The young soldier told newsmen, "I know I am a very lucky man. After two years and many fights against the Viet Cong this is the first wound I have suffered. You know, I am wondering what that

VC mortarman thought when he saw his perfect shot—and there was no explosion."



GLAD IT'S OVER — Exclaimed Navy Doctor Capt. Harry Dinsmore while examining a 60mm Chinese Communist mortar shell. He successfully operated around the live round which was imbedded in the body of a South Vietnamese soldier.



IT'S MY JOB—Said explosives expert Navy Petty Officer John J. Lyons at the Da Nang station hospital in South Vietnam Oct. 1, after he was asked how it felt.



Helping hand

LCpl Thomas H. Pope, a radio man with the 7th Marines, holds open a burlap sack for a Vietnamese collecting rice that the VC had abandoned when Marine forces assaulted the fortified hamlet of Ly Ha (1) during Operation Golden Fleece. The harvesters came from miles around to glean rice from the fields that had been under VC control for several years.

(Photo by LCpl. Mike Worden)

Thank you Marine—

(Continued From Page 1)

400 enemy bunkers and caves, the Marines opened the hamlet to harvesters.

The harvesters came along the paddies or by boat in the shallow river that ran through Van Ha. There were thousands of them and they cleaned out over 700 tons of rice the VC had already harvested and attempted to conceal. Pots and pans, sleeping mats, farm tools and water buffaloes—all were claimed by the peasants.

As they swarmed in, the battalion sectioned off hundreds into each company area inside their defense perimeter. A crossroads divided the hamlet into four areas and each company occupied a slice of the pie.

The Marines escorted the people into and out of Van Ha, protecting them every step of the way.

Father-Son Meet Again

By: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG — Once again the famed Marine Corps Air-Ground team accomplished its mission. But this time, instead of death and destruction it brought joy and jubilation.

A letter received by the commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, set the wheels in motion.

It came from Navy Commander James A. Blazek, Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif.

He was to pilot a supply plane bringing aircraft parts to Da Nang.

The letter asked about the possibility of seeing his son, Corporal Gerald J. Blazek, who is with the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marines, about 12 miles south of here.

Within hours after the letter was received, arrangements were completed for Cpl. Blazek to come to the airfield. The letter informing Cdr. Blazek that arrangements were completed did not reach him prior to his departure.

Greeting his father as he emerged from the plane, the Marine corporal then took him on a brief tour of the area.

Later young Blazek said farewell to his dad from the flight line with the traditional "thumbs up" as the commander taxied off for his return flight.

Busy day busy crew

By: Sgt. Walter Warneka

DA NANG — A giant green "bird" from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 was ready, and a tense crew waited the word that would launch them on another medical evacuation mission.

The crew: Captain Don B. Hirsch; First Lieutenant Ernest Sachs; Corporal William T. Sherman; Private First Class Thomas E. Schaney; and Navy Hospitalman Jack D. Johnson, were assigned to medevacs during an operation 10 miles north of Tam Ky.

The crew chief gave the "thumbs up" signal to the pilot telling him everything was ready to go, then he jumped into the 'copter and loaded his M-60 machine gun as the helo took off to pick up three wounded Marines.

Within minutes the helicopter sat down in a rice paddy area and the wounded men were loaded aboard.

They were taken to a medical battalion at Ky Ha for medical treatment. The helicopter crew quickly refueled and returned to Tam Ky.

Arriving at Tam Ky, there wasn't a moment's delay before Capt. Hirsch and his crew were airborne on another mission. This time they loaded two Viet Cong suspects for questioning at Tam Ky. Before the day ended, they made eight more missions. A busy day for a busy crew.

Phantom Reefer

DA NANG, Vietnam—The Phantom Reefer, destination unknown, leaves the Special Services Office of the Naval Activity here every day. Its mission—relief of toiling Americans. Everywhere in the area the Phantom Reefer comes upon American servicemen working hard at their jobs, it stops, opens wide its doors and gives away free soda to all.

The Phantom Reefer is an innovation. Since many American servicemen in the area work where no cold drinks are available the Phantom Reefer, a refrigerated truck, drives around all day stopping whenever it sees hot, thirsty servicemen to give away cold drinks. It drives 35 to 40 miles each day and gives away 165 cases of soda a week.

And then, last week, it was over.

The last of the peasants disappeared across the brown-ravaged fields and the Marines returned to Mo Duc to spend one more night before setting out for Chu Lai.

More than 7,600 tons of rice had been harvested and 244 Viet Cong were dead.

The convoy down-shifted as it approached Quang Ngai and crawled slowly through the city streets as once again, as in Mo Duc, thousands of cheering Vietnamese thronged the boulevards.

The trucks picked up speed on the long bridge across the Song Tra Khuc as open fields stretched ahead.

Beyond the horizon was "home" and showers and hot food. The Marines settled down and waited for the last dusty miles to pass. And they remembered the banners strung atop trees in that small city several hours behind them.

"Thank you U.S. Marines . . . hurry back to Mo Duc."



Sponsor for education

Doan Thi Ai Lan, who is going to complete high school in the U.S., shows a Vietnamese textbook to her sponsor, Navy Lieutenant Cecil R. Threadgill, Chaplain Corps.

(Photo by Sgt. Rich Groscoft)

Persistent pilot wins Silver Star Medal

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG—A heroic display of devotion to duty and courage during Operation Colorado has earned the Silver Star Medal for a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362.

Captain Gregory W. Lee was presented the award for his "courage above and beyond the call of duty . . . and actions in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service" by Major General L. B. Robertshaw, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commander.

During Operation Colorado, Lee flew as section leader of two UH-34D helicopters on an emergency medical evacuation mission. Their mission was to pick up three wounded Marines of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

As Lee and his wingman circled over the landing zone, they were advised not to land as the landing zone was completely surrounded by Viet Cong and the guerrillas were pounding it heavily with mortars and grenades.

When weather closed in and threatened the necessity of returning to the Landing Support

Activity and the casualties on the ground had risen, Lee made a desperate attempt to make his way through the intense heavy automatic weapons fire to pick up the wounded Marines.

As he neared the landing zone, enemy gunners found the range to his aircraft, and Lee was forced to fly off after taking numerous hits.

Twice again he attempted to reach the beleaguered Marines, but each time he received more hits from guerrilla gunners. Finally, after receiving rounds in the primary hydraulic line, transmission system and rotor head, foul weather forced him to return to the LSA.

Soon after landing, he received another emergency mission, this time to deliver ammunition to the Marines in the same position. As soon as the weather cleared, he loaded ammunition and stretchers aboard and launched toward the landing zone.

Again he braved the extremely accurate automatic weapons fire, and this time was successful in setting down. The ammunition was unloaded and a full load of wounded put aboard, and the captain took off through a hail of bullets.

Once back to the LSA, he completed temporary taping of the hydraulic lines to restore pressure, and again headed back toward the battle in his crippled aircraft. On his final approach to the zone, a barrage of Viet Cong rounds caused a fire in his aircraft, and Capt. Lee was forced to return once again to the LSA.

Lieutenant Colonel Harold C. Hoffman, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commander, praised the pilot, and commented that he did not see how the helicopter made it through the intense rain of fire. He also said that if it had not been for the pilot's cool efficiency, many of the wounded Marines might have died.

Capt. Lee has previously been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart Medal, 15 Air Medals and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.



USMC, ARVN TEACH ROKMC—While 11 members of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps listen, Sgt. Li Dine Hane, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, explains in Vietnamese the ARVN rank structure. Watching at right is Maj. Kenneth W. Schiweck, Director of the Vietnamese Language School at Da Nang. This is the first class of allied forces to learn Vietnamese at an American-directed school in this country. (Photo by Sgt. Joe Abreu)

Colorful ceremonies for Gen. Nickerson

By: MSgt George E. Wilson
CHU LAI—Major General H. Nickerson Jr. assumed command of the 1st Marine Division Oct. 1.

The outgoing commander, Major General Lewis J. Fields has been reassigned as commanding general of the 5th Marine Division with headquarters at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He will assume his new command, Nov. 1.

General William C. Westmoreland, commanding general of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, headed a group of distinguished visitors who witnessed the traditional passing of the colors signifying the change of command at Chu Lai.

Other guests included Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, commanding general of the III Marine Amphibious Force; Major General Louis W. Robertshaw, commanding general of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing; Major General Hoang Xuan Lam, commanding general of the I Corps region, Army of the Republic of Vietnam; Brigadier General William K. Jones, director, Combat Operations Center, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; and Brigadier General Bong Chool Lee, commanding general of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade.

Gen. Nickerson is the 31st commander of the 1st Marine Division

All airmail

WASHINGTON—Here is a reminder to pass on to your Mother, Father, sisters, brothers, relatives, and wife, or anyone else writing to you here in Vietnam: A plain envelope with a five-cent stamp will be dispatched to Vietnam with the speed of air mail.

"It is unnecessary," officials say; "to write the words 'Air Mail' on the envelope." When marked this way the post office must collect regular air mail rates.

All first-class mail addressed to an FPO address in Vietnam now goes air-mail. Be sure your fans include your proper FPO address and zip code.

and the only general to command it twice. It was under his command from June 1962 to April 1963.

Since then he has commanded two of the Corps' major supporting activities, the Marine Corps Supply Depot at Barstow, Calif., and most recently the Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune, N. C.

Three of Gen. Nickerson's decorations were earned while serving with the 1st Marine Division. In Korea he was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as the commanding officer of the division's Seventh Marine Regiment.

Earlier in the Korean Conflict he earned the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry while serving with the 1st Marine Regiment.

1/9 medcap

By: SSgt. Will Hough

DA NANG—1st Battalion, and Ninth Marine Regiment Civil Affairs NCO's, Sergeant Mike Bianchino and Staff Sergeant Ed Hartman tripled the battalion Medcap (Medical Civil Action Program) program.

Bianchino went to see Navy Lieutenant R. A. Gioffre, battalion surgeon, and found that only a few Vietnamese civilians were taking advantage of the program.

After erecting a permanent tent for the program, Doctor Gioffre and Bianchino set up Medcap assistance for 11 a.m. each day.

The next problem that faced Bianchino was how to inform the local civilians in the Ninth Marine area of the place and time for medical aid.

"This is when Staff Sergeant Hartman and Private First Class John Burrell, both members of the Ninth Marine Civil Affairs Team, helped out," said Bianchino. Hartman and Burrell made several Public Address broadcasts to encourage the civilians to participate in First Battalion Medcap program.

As a result, where 100 used the facility before, now the program is administering to the needs of more than 300 Vietnamese each week.



Top Marine surfers

The top three Marine surfers of the 1st annual Chu Lai USO-sponsored surfing contest check with the judges following the meet held Sept. 25. Winner of the event was PFC Robert D. Binkley (third from right), runner up was Cpl. Tim A. Crowder (second from right), while third place went to LCpl. Steven C. Richardson. Judging the contest was Capt. Rodney Botelho (left) and Miss Elli Vade Bon Cowur, associate director of the USO.

Force Logistic Support unit provides a variety of supplies

By: Sgt. Dave Sturgeon

DONG HA—"Beans, Bullets and Band-Aids."

This oversimplified phrase is used often by Marine units in the field. It gives, however, only the basics of the logistic support provided to keep these same units going on Operation Prairie.

Major B. D. Thornbury wishes it were that simple. The commander of the Force Logistics Support unit which services all Marine units in Quang Tri Province names some of the services provided.

"We keep the infantry walking, the planes flying and the vehicles moving," he said. "We keep food in the stomachs, clothes on the bodies and ammunition in the weapons," he continued.

To do this, three platoons are assigned to handle various branches.

Gunnery Sergeant Lester F. Hunter oversees the distribution of food, with his ration platoon. The Korean conflict veteran says food for the front line troops is the best it has ever been.

"We never had steaks, bread or fresh juices in the front lines before. In this war, we try to provide these and other items as much as possible," he says.

"The old standard C-rations are still the basic issue of food, but we supplement that ration whenever possible," he said.

The man who keeps the fuel in the engines is Master Sergeant William V. Stewart. With his bulk fuel platoon dispensing more than 3,000 gallons of fuel of all types each day, Stewart and his men sometimes wish someone would add an hour or two to the 24-hour work day.

Though round-the-clock work is required more often than not, the platoon retains its sense of humor. The platoon motto is a take-off on a familiar TV commercial. "Let Bulk Fuel Put You In The Drivers Seat."

No man goes into combat without a full issue of ammunition. Gunnery Sergeant J. E. Bivens sees to that. He heads the ammo platoon which provides ground units with ammunition from small arms to the 8" artillery shells.

The ammo platoon has its own motto. "Nine Out of Ten Grunts Prefer Our Ammo."

The man that ties these units together is Master Sergeant Mitchell T. Key, noncommissioned officer in charge of the

support unit.

Key coordinates the three sections and orders all resupplies from Da Nang.

"We don't store anything here at Dong Ha, so we send daily requests to the headquarters at Da Nang. The supplies are normally here the next day," he said.

Medical supplies are also ordered through the Logistics Support unit. The orders are placed by the medical unit and

logistics sees they are delivered.

All in all, it's long tedious hours. Support unit troops don't have the most glamorous job. But, as one of the men puts it, "It certainly is one of the more important ones."

Navy League donates kites

By: Sgt. F. K. Burke

DA NANG — "May the wind carry our friendship to all the peoples of the world." Thus reads printing on kites donated by the Navy League of the United States to children of the Pope John XXIII School here.

More than 200 children, dependents of men serving in the 5th Infantry Regiment, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, received the kites, candy and books relating the history of the United States (printed in Vietnamese), from two members of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

First Lieutenant William F. Mills and Sergeant David F. Markow, both from the area auditor office, helped the youngsters celebrate "Trung Thu" (Children's Festival).

The festival, an annual highlight for Vietnamese children who march and perform to the "Dance of the Unicorn" carrying lighted lanterns, dates from the T'an Dynasty of eighth century China.

The school, taught by sisters of St. Paul, is within a compound where wives and children of ARVN soldiers live, work and study. Because of crowded conditions, classes are divided into morning and afternoon sessions. Construction of a new classroom has been started.

SEA TIGER 5



Probing examination

Commander Charles R. Ashworth, MC, USN, chief of professional services, checks the upper arm of Cpl. Larry E. Honnecutt for internal injuries. The corporal was wounded during a recent operation. (Photo by LCpl. C. D. Mincemoyer)

Helicopter war in Vietnam much the same as Korea

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG—"The helicopter war in Vietnam is much the same as it was in Korea ... only here it's on a larger scale."

These are the words of Colonel Victor A. Armstrong, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group-36.

The colonel has been flying Marine helicopters since 1949. He flew one of the first Marine helicopters ever used in combat during the Korean War.

Armstrong has been associated with Marine Corps Aviation since joining the Marine

Corps in 1942. Throughout his career, both as a fighter pilot during World War II, and as a helicopter pilot, he has earned two Silver Star Medals and six Distinguished Flying Crosses.

The colonel is no stranger to the Far East. The son of missionary parents, he attended schools in Japan and Shanghai prior to enrolling at Walla Walla College at College Place, Wash., in 1936.

When the Korean War began, he was stationed at Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-1 at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, as the squadron intelligence officer and a pilot. Shortly after this he joined Marine Observation Squadron-6 at Quantico, and left for Korea the day after joining the squadron.

"We had six Sikorsky H03S helicopters in the squadron," he re-

calls, "and six pilots to fly them." There were also twelve fixed wing observation planes and 12 pilots to fly them in the squadron.

There were no guns on the helicopters then, and very seldom was a crew chief carried. "There just wasn't room for them. We could only get one wounded man on the plane at a time as it was," he recalled.

Armstrong was awarded his first Silver Star Medal when he flew his helicopter 90 miles behind the enemy lines to pick up a downed Navy pilot. His second Silver Star was awarded for picking up a downed helicopter crew behind the enemy lines at night. He also earned two of his six

Distinguished Flying Cross Medals while in Korea.

During the Chosin Reservoir campaign, the colonel flew medical evacuation and supply missions to the Seventh Marines as they battled their way out of the Communist Chinese trap.

After Korea, he spent three years as the helicopter pilot for former Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy.

How do helicopter operations in Vietnam compare with those of the Korean War?

"A lot of lessons we learned in Korea still apply ... The helicopter war hasn't changed much ... we're just better at it now," Armstrong said.

More E-8, E-9s planned

WASHINGTON—The Marine Corps' E-8/E-9 selection board now in session will be picking more sergeants major than originally planned.

The board, headed by Col. Harry F. Painter, has been given a revised quota that calls for the selection of 214 sergeants major and 182 master gunnery sergeants. This compares with a previously announced preliminary quota of 183 and 185 for the two E-9 ranks.

The Corps has not yet announced firm quotas for the E-8 ranks, but the preliminary figures were 321 for first sergeant and 745 for master sergeant.

The board, which held its inaugural session September 19, is scheduled to run for about eight weeks, finishing about mid-November. It is expected to follow the procedure of similar boards in recent years in that the selections to E-9 ranks will be made and announced before the

E-8 picks.

In addition to senior member Painter, the just-announced board membership includes: Lt. Cols. W. L. Redmond, J. D. Johnson Jr., G. H. Smith, R. W. Calvert, J. M. Detrio, P. L. Davis, R. R. Saez and D. G. Mehargue; Maj. P. A. Maas, F. R. Smoke, P. R. Hunter, J. V. Price, W. L. Threlfall, E. B. Grigsby, R. R. Darron, R. R. Blakslee and D. Joyce.

The recorder is Maj. J. A. O'Brien. He is assisted by Capt. C. H. Bagwell and T. F. Walby.



Col. V. A. Armstrong



Operation Golden Fleece

Two Marines from the 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, stand guard over Vietnamese women as they thresh the rice grain just harvested in the lush "rice belt" 10 miles south of Quang Ngai during Operation Golden Fleece, Sept. 16-27. The Vietnamese harvested a total of over 7,000 tons of rice the Viet Cong had grown and cultivated for their own use. More than 200 VC were killed by protecting units of Marines and ARVN.

(Photo by Sgt. Lawrence E. Lenin)



Best in the ... Far East

PFC Daryl R. Anderson uses both hands and a determined look to devour a "Stateside" hot dog complete with mustard, at Chu Lai's USO. The "dogs" were a first at the newly opened USO. Anderson is a member of the Seventh Communications Battalion. (Photo by Cpl Garry Gaspard)

MAC Marine says:

Stripes fatten bonus for first term re-ups

Do you know that for reenlisting three or more years in the Marine Corps, you can be promoted to the next pay grade?

The promotion of one grade to sergeant, corporal or lance corporal for all first term reenlistments of three years or more has been authorized by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Temporary promotion to sergeant, corporal or lance corporal effected under this authorization will be made on the last day of the current contract and will become a permanent promotion upon reenlistment.

Promotions may be effected for personnel considered qualified for reenlistment who have six months in the grade of corporal and four months in the grade of lance corporal or private first class.

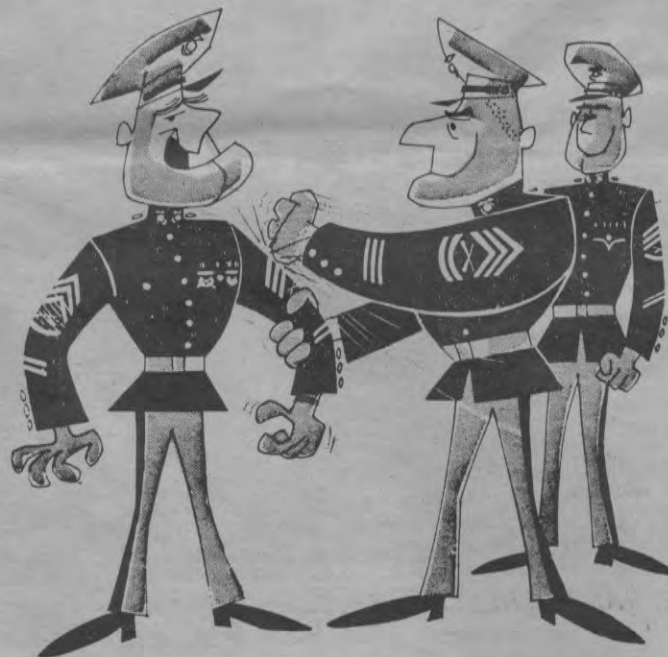
Immediate promotion to the next higher rank is authorized to Marines who have previously reenlisted under provisions of this

bulletin and have not yet been promoted. Date of rank will be the first day of the current enlistment.

Along with the promotion authorization, Marines are also eligible for the normal reenlistment bonus (for those serving here, it is tax-free). Certain critical MOSs now give you two to three times the regular bonus for reenlisting.

For more information contact your career advisor or your company office.

—MAC Marine



MAC MARINE SAYS—The possibility for promotions have never been better. This year, about 10,000 of us will make staff sergeant. I did, and it hurts so good.

CO gets big bang out of new school

By: Cpl. Nick Harder

DA NANG—"The first person to go through my school was our battalion commander — he was 'blown away.'"

For Marine Corporal Edwin P. Ball, the distinction of "doing in" his commanding officer was a valuable lesson for future students.

The 21-year-old, 3rd Division Marine was operating a mine and booby-trap school for his battalion of the First Marine Regiment, near Marble Mountain, five miles southeast of Da Nang.

A machine gun squad leader and company demolitions man since January, when he arrived in Vietnam, Ball figured he'd seen most of the usual types of mines and booby traps set by the Viet Cong.

In August, when a rush of new replacements began filling the ranks of the battalion, Ball asked if he could start an informal school and "obstacle course" filled with replicas, and some actual de-armed mines and booby traps of the VC.

With permission and encouragement from his battalion commander, Ball set out to collect and rebuild all he could find. For "armament," he used electric blasting caps, grenade fuses, or crimped cartridges. For trips wires he used the same type of nylon fishing line the VC use—bought from a local village.

Ball then carved out a trail 350 meters long near his com-

pany command post, and marked the trail with communications wire and streamers. Mines and booby traps were hidden along the trail.

Before going down the trail, students were given a short schooling on general types of VC traps and mines. If a Marine was "blown apart" by a trap or mine he had set off, he would have to start all over again.

"I hope that seeing the actual type of mines and booby traps the VC use will save a lot of lives," said Ball.

The battalion commander agreed. He gave his new "school teacher" a meritorious mast.

12th Marines units switch

DA NANG—An artillery battery—already a veteran of three Vietnam operations since departing the United States two months ago—has joined the 2nd Battalion, Twelfth Marine Regiment to provide artillery support for units south of Da Nang.

"A" Battery, Thirteenth Marine Regiment, came under operational control of the 3rd Marine Division when it replaced "D" Battery, 12th Marine Regiment of the Third Marine Division, when that unit departed for Okinawa for three months of retraining and reforming.



COMBINED ACTION—A U.S. Marine provides covering fire while a Popular Force trooper leaps over cactus rows during a fire and maneuver exercise.

(Photo by Cpl. Garry R. Gaspard)

To a man, they're volunteers

By: MSgt. G. E. Wilson

CHU LAI—The Fourth Platoon of "K" Company, Huang Quang (3) hamlet is typical of the fast-growing combined action teams made up of U.S. Marines and Popular Force Troops.

It's composed of 65 Vietnamese part-time soldiers and a squad of Marines from the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. All are dedicated to the task of freeing the area from Viet Cong control and harassment.

Typical also is the dedication of the Marine members of the platoon who believe emphatically in the combined action concept. To a man, they are all volunteers.

Sergeant Ole Jessen-Klixbull, the platoon sergeant, says the CAC unit is more effective than an all-Marine platoon in this type of operation.

"When a Marine patrol goes through a hamlet," he said, "they don't know friend from foe. The PF's, however, have grown up in the area. They know who is and who isn't a VC."

The sergeant credits much of the leadership which has inspired the platoon to make life miserable for marauding VC to Vietnamese Army Staff Sergeant Ngo Tan Thanh, NCO of the PF's.

During a recent operation the

platoon swept through a heretofore "safe" area and captured 25 VC suspects and killed two others.

Last week they spotted five VC in a rice paddy, killed three and pursued the other two at a dead run for three miles.

"Even though we lost them in the paddies," Klixbull said, "it shows the aggressive nature of the PF's."

First Lieutenant George S. Burgett, officer in charge of the platoon, doubles in brass, combining his CAC assignment with other duties in the battalion.

Like Klixbull, the lieutenant is enthusiastic about the CAC units and the performance of the PF's.

"Being local boys, the PF's know the area and free Marines for operations elsewhere," he said. "In turn, we provide them with artillery and other fire support, examples of patriotism and leadership, and give them confidence with sound military training," he added.

"They see we're not scared and that we don't act superior," Klixbull said. "We treat each other as equals."

On patrols the Marines and PF's are intermingled into squads giving the CAC unit a double ad-

vantage — the experience and training of the Marines and the PF's knowledge of the area.

Shortest flight on record

DONG HA — First Lieutenant Myron J. Johnson might possibly lay claim to one of the shortest flights on record, since the Wright brothers' historic flights in the early part of the century.

He took off from Dong Ha Air Base in his O1C spotter plane, climbed to 100 feet; then landed—all within 1,500 feet.

The ex-jet pilot hadn't planned the flight that way though. It was caused by a power failure.

"I was all right when my supercharger belt came apart causing loss of power," said Johnson. "My first thought was did I have enough runway left to land?"

"I hit hard and made one big bounce before getting the plane under control."

Johnson has been flying spotters for the past month. He extended his Vietnam tour for six months for the job, after flying A4 Skyhawk jets the 12 months.

He just used his head

By: Lance Cpl. Guy E. Cornwell

CHU LAI—Marines of one company of the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division have nothing but praise for their naval gunfire spotter from the Eleventh Marine Artillery Regiment.

The Emporia, Va., private first class single-handedly killed five Viet Cong during Operation Golden Fleece which concluded this week—a Marine rice harvest protection operation that also netted over 200 VC kills.

Private First Class G. A. DeForrest was searching one of over 300 caves found in the area, while clearing the hamlet of Ly Ha (1), 10 miles south of Quang Ngai.

As he entered the opening he saw five VC inside. One threw a grenade.

DeForrest opened fire as the grenade bounced off his helmet back into the hole.

"I took cover and waited for the explosion," the gunfire spotter said, "then I went back into the cave. I found two VC's with bullet holes in them and three other half buried by the blast of their own grenade."

"It was real simple," DeForrest said, "I just used my head."

Cited for 17 heroic acts

By: Cpl. Jim DesRoches

PHU BAI — A Perkasy, Pa., Navy Hospital Corpsman First Class, Michael J. Lewandowski, was presented the nation's third highest combat award for his heroic actions while with a Marine combat unit on a sweep and clear operation last March. Lewandowski's Silver Star Medal was awarded for outstanding bravery while he was serving with "F" Company, Ninth Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

His company was crossing an open field when they were heavily engaged by a Viet Cong battalion firing from three sides. The battle began with enemy mortars exploding around the Marines; a

hail of machine gun fire followed.

Lewandowski braved the stream of deadly fire to rescue wounded Marines unable to reach cover, then remained exposed to the fire while treating the wounded.

During the 12-hour battle, Lewandowski was cited for 17 acts of personal heroism.

Evacuation of the wounded was impossible because of heavy ground fire and Lewandowski treated the injured Marines throughout the night despite enemy weapons constant probe of the company's position.

SEA TIGER 7

Vietnamese youngster rated No. 1 by MAG-16

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—Thanks to Marine Sergeant Robert Gomer who heads the Marine Aircraft Group 16 electric shop, a 16-year-old Vietnamese boy is doing a man's work and learning a skilled trade at the same time.

Nguyen Van Thuong, called Tu by his Marine buddies, was hired by MAG 16's Industrial Relations Office last April as an electrician's helper.

During his first couple of months, Tu performed odd jobs around the shop.

He was a hard worker despite his small size (five feet, 100 pounds). In June, caught by a temporary personnel shortage, Gomer decided to give the boy a chance.

He began by explaining the use of the various tools and assigning the boy to increasingly difficult jobs. The language barrier was overcome by the use of hand

signals and Tu's alertness and willingness to learn.

As he began to pick up the tricks of the electrician's trade, Tu accompanied the Marines on increasingly difficult jobs all over the base. Now, when a tent or building needs electrical wiring, Tu is often sent to do the job alone.

By his hard work and cheerful manner, he has become so popular with the Marines that they have placed a sign on the electric shop door which reads: "Nguyen Van Thuong, Number One Electrician."

"The biggest problem with Tu," Gomer says, "is his small feet. We haven't been able to find boots small enough to fit him so that we can teach him how to climb."

Asked if there were any other problems, the quick reply was, "No."



VIETNAMESE HELPER—Sgt. Robert Gomer shows Nguyen Van Thuong a sign erected in his honor by the men of MAG-16's electric shop. The 16-year-old boy is learning the electrician's trade and in the words of Gomer, "does number one work." (Photo by Cpl. Gregg Gillespie)

The many roles of VMO-2

By: LCpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—A Marine patrol makes its way wearily, yet cautiously, across an open rice paddy southwest of Da Nang when, without warning, a machine gun opens up from a nearby tree line. Trapped in the open, the Marines need extra fire power—and fast.

Help arrives shortly in the form of two UH-1E "Huey" armed helicopters. Delivering a double dose of rocket and machine gun fire, the Hueys descend on the Viet Cong ambushers. As they leave, the Marines move in to mop up the remnants of the enemy force.

A few miles away, a Marine trips a cleverly concealed booby trap. There is a time lapse of mere minutes between the cry of "Corpsman," and the arrival of a medical evacuation chopper which speeds the wounded man to the medical facilities of a naval hospital.

Meanwhile, in the jungle covered mountains not far from the North Vietnamese border, four Hueys settle, one at a time, in a small clearing to discharge a Marine reconnaissance team. As the recon team slips into the forest, two Huey gunships circle nearby—just in case.

These are but a few of the tasks Marine Observation Squadron (VMO)-2 may be called upon to perform at any given time of day or night. There is rarely a time when a Huey is not airborne in support of Marines or of South Vietnamese ground forces operating against the Viet Cong.

VMO-2 has had detachments in Vietnam since 1960. During its early years in the country, the squadron used the H-34S helicopter and fixed wing observation aircraft. Then, with the arrival of Marine combat troops in 1965, VMO-2 switched to the Huey, becoming one of the first Marine squadrons in country to use this light, highly maneuverable helicopter.

The designation, "Marine Observation Squadron," is somewhat misleading, for while observation is an important phase of the squadron's mission, it is only one of its many jobs.

Armed with two rocket pods and six M-60 machine guns, the Huey becomes a highly effective offensive weapon. Armed Hueys often act as escorts for other helicopters and truck convoys as well as flying attack missions of their own.

One mission of VMO-2 pilots is "Skunk Hunting." This is the name they give to search and destroy missions in which the gunships have no predetermined targets. Instead, they fly over Viet Cong occupied territory, attacking whatever enemy troops they are able to find.

Not all of VMO-2's planes are gunships. Others, called "slicks," carry no armament other than one internally mounted machine gun.

The "slicks" are used predominantly for medical evacuations, troop lifts, and other jobs where weight is a critical factor. "Slicks" are usually accompanied by a gunship.

VMO-2 has participated in nearly every major Marine operation as well as countless small scale actions involving United States or South Vietnamese forces. The squadron has flown as many as 627 missions and 1,800 flight hours in one month.

The normal crew of a Huey consists of a pilot, co-pilot, crew chief, and a gunner. During aerial observation flights, the co-pilot is often replaced by a qualified aerial observer, especially trained to direct artillery fire and fixed wing air strikes.

The crew chief is a mechanic. Since each aircraft has a mechanical personality of its own, crew chiefs are assigned to a particular plane. While in flight, the crew chief assists the pilot and mans one of the machine guns.

Operating the other internal machine gun is the gunner. Gunners are all volunteers and are selected from all of the squadron's ground sections.

It takes more than pilots and crewmen to keep a squadron airborne. Electricians, supply men, metal smiths and many others combine their efforts to insure that whenever the Hueys are needed, they will be ready.

Due to the diverse capabilities of their aircraft, Huey pilots may fly on several types of missions in one day.

First Lieutenant Tim Ashbaugh has been with VMO-2 for more than a year. During this time he has flown 631 hours and earned 31 Air Medals.

He believes, "The VMO pilot in Vietnam for 13 months flies more missions than a pilot in any other type of aircraft."

Newest battalion wins its battle spurs in hurry

By: Cpl. Vince Hagel

DONG HA—The newest Marine Battalion in Vietnam won its battle spurs in a hurry.

The First Battalion, 26th Regiment, 5th Marine Division, landed twice in the Republic of Vietnam.

On Sept. 5 the unit landed near the demilitarized zone in small landing craft and helicopters to kick off Operation Deckhouse IV.

The first night brought a company size North Vietnamese attack on one company, a mortar attack on another and a hail of small arms fire.

North Vietnamese Army casualties rose while Marine casualties remained light.

After four days the battalion came under the operational control of the 3rd Marine Division's Fourth Regiment on Operation Prairie.

Then three companies attacked a heavily fortified village scarcely 500 yards from the demilitarized zone. On the third day the village fell.

Many a "boot" Marine distinguished himself in battle.

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel A. A. Monti, the battalion had swept the demilitarized zone leaving 252 enemy bodies behind.

More than a score of automatic weapons, machine guns and rifles, along with hundreds of pounds of medical supplies were captured.

After nine days of heavy fighting, the unit returned to its ship—their newness rubbed off.

The battalion is now defending a sector of the Da Nang perimeter.

HMM-265 CO

DA NANG—In an informal ceremony at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert E. Mendenhall turned over command of HMM-265 to his executive officer, Major Frank B. Ellis.

Col. Mendenhall, who commanded HMM-265 since Oct. 1965, when it was based at New River N. C., has orders to report to MAG-16 headquarters, where he will serve as operations officer.



INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—Vietnamese and Marine carpenters work side by side at MAG-16. Thei Tan Em is one of 164 Vietnamese workers employed at the Marble Mountain Air Facility and supervised by the Industrial Relations Office. The Marine is Cpl. David Roloff.

(Photo By: Cpl. Gregg Gillespie)

MAG-16's IRO aids Vietnam's economy

DA NANG — Marine Aircraft Group 16's Industrial Relations Office has a two-fold purpose. To provide jobs for Vietnamese civilians who live in the vicinity of the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang, and to release Marines from fighting from jobs that can be done by civilians.

Their pay scale is the same as Vietnamese workers throughout the country.

Two Marines in one-man foxhole

By: Cpl. J. P. Philip Jr.

DONG HA—Two men in a one-man fox hole?

A pair of Marines from the 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marines, proved it could be done during a mortar barrage last week during Operation Prairie.

"I felt like a sardine for awhile," said Lance Corporal Victor J. Tynes.

The battalion, operating six miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, was hit by more than fifty 82mm mortar rounds.

"When the first mortar barrage hit, I dove for the nearest hole," said Lance Corporal John C. Breeden. "It was a tight squeeze, but Tynes and I both made it," he said.

Tynes and Breeden are radio operators for the 81mm forward observer in their 3rd Division unit.

After the first attack let up, the men started to dig their holes deeper.

"All I could hear was entrenching tools hitting the dirt the rest of the day—between attacks," said Breeden.

Look of gratitude sufficient thanks

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG — Sergeant Dan Valle ran from the helicopter carrying a small Vietnamese girl in his arms to a waiting doctor and ambulance.

As he turned back toward his helicopter, the machine gunner assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361, uttered a sigh of relief and took one last look over his shoulder at the departing Vietnamese doctor and child.

"My heart went out to that little girl," said Valle. "She was about eight years old and had a big hole in her side—but she didn't even squeeze out a tear while she was in the 'copter."

Valle's 'copter had received a medical evacuation call while at Quang Ngai to go out and pick up the little girl and her mother and take them to a local hospital.

"I don't know her name or anything, and I'll probably never find out if she'll be all right," continued Valle, "but the look of gratitude on her mother's face was enough to tell me that we'll never have to worry about that family becoming Viet Cong."

"That, plus knowing we gave the little girl a fighting chance to live are enough reward to fill any man's day," he concluded.



Stretching manpower

If Marine Aircraft Group 12 becomes short of men they will just S-T-R-E-T-C-H them a little bit further. What appears to be the tallest plane captain in the world is really two Marines of VMA-214. The head and shoulders belong to PFC James A. Montee and LCpl. Robin L. Powell claims the legs.

(Photo by PFC Russ Cowen)

Pennsylvania Korean bonus ends Dec. 31

HARRISBURG, Pa.—December 31 is the last day veterans or their survivors may file claims for the Pennsylvania Korean service bonus.

Of the 402,000 thought to be eligible for the benefit, 52,000 have failed to claim it.

The bonus is \$10 for each month of service between June 25, 1950, and Jan. 27, 1954. Holders of the Korean Service Medal may collect an additional \$5 for each month of foreign service during the same period.

An applicant must have served at least 60 days between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953, and have been a Pennsylvania resident at time of entry into military service.

"Career servicemen" — those who had four years or more continuous service immediately before June 25, 1950—who have not been awarded the Korean Service Medal must additionally prove legal residence status in Pennsylvania during the Korean war and as of Jan. 1, 1961.

There is a \$500 maximum on the total amount such no-medal "career servicemen" collect from the state's World War II and Korea bonuses.

Eligible survivors are in order, spouse, minor children, parents.

For claim form, write: Korean Conflict Veterans' Compensation Bureau, 19 S. 2d St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17101.

N.C. honors Vietnam vets

CAMP LEJEUNE — The State of North Carolina kicked off "Operation Appreciation" with the opening of the North Carolina State Fair at Raleigh on Oct. 10. The program was for children whose fathers are now in Vietnam or have served there.

In announcing the operation, governor Moore said, "We want every man in Vietnam to know how much we in North Carolina appreciate the sacrifices he is making . . . we want to thank them by taking their children to the State Fair."

Pilot awarded DFC for rescue operation

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — The Distinguished Flying Cross was presented to Captain Joseph James on Sept. 28.

The award was made for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight while serving as a pilot with HMM 164 in connection with operations against insurgent communist (Viet Cong) forces."

James was acting as a flight leader of two Sea Knight helicopters assigned to evacuate wounded Army personnel on June 11, when the helicopter of his wingman crashed and burned on a jungle covered hillside.

He flew to the vicinity of the downed plane with a team of Army pathfinders and Navy corpsmen and hovered with one wheel on a steep hillside while the team debarked from the plane.

James then flew his chopper repeatedly between cloud obscured hilltops to hoist survivors and rescue workers out of the jungle.

According to his citation, "his professional airmanship throughout the rescue operation contributed in large measure to the

RVN's only dependents dispensary

By: MSgt. George Wilson

DA NANG—The only military dependent dispensary in Vietnam is operated by Navy Hospitalman 1st Class Melvin S. Fisher of the 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Corpsman Fisher, in Vietnam for a second tour, operated the dispensary primarily for dependents of the Popular Force (PF) troops who have enlisted in the 2nd Battalion's Combined Action Company.

"When the local women and children discover they can get medical treatment if a man in the family joins the PF's," Fisher said, "they help us recruit more local boys to help Marines seek out and destroy the Viet Cong."

Since the Marines joined forces with the PF's, the company has grown to 65 Vietnamese who, according to leathernecks, "are effective aggressive fighters."

Operation of the dispensary is only one of Fisher's one-man civic action projects. Working with the District Chief and the 1st Division Civic Action personnel, he has:

—Acquired wood and initiated a village-operated program to build desks and chairs for the school;

—Provided sporting equipment, vitamins, school supplies and medicines to the school;

—Instituted a hamlet-wide clean up program;

—Trained Vietnamese corpsmen to operate the dispensary.

Not content to rest upon his accomplishments, Fisher has more ambitious plans. He is working on a larger medical building to accommodate all nearby villages and plans to train more corpsmen and local nurses to operate the dispensary.

He envisions a 20-bed hospital, open 24 hours a day, with the ultimate aim of recruiting a Vietnamese doctor to run it.

Fisher explained that the sick people in the Ky Houg area have nowhere to go for treatment and the nearest medical facility could not accommodate them.

"They (the villagers) have to do work themselves," he said. "I just provide the inspiration and technical help."

While most of the villagers, from the District Chief on down have expressed their appreciation to Fisher, none touched him as much as the letter of appreciation he received this week from Ky Houg School.

"We understand you are far away from your home and family," the letter said, "thank you very much for all the things you have done."

It was signed "From the children of Ky Houg School."

Money deals dangerous to your career, freedom

Military personnel who engage in illegal transactions risk their careers and their freedom.

In an effort to point up the dangers of participation in black market or illegal currency operations here, MACV law enforcement agencies have cited a few recent cases:

• In the field of "wrongful currency conversion," a senior NCO was convicted by General Court-Martial of

illegal conversion of U.S. dollars into piastres. He was sentenced to a two-grade reduction and forfeiture of \$100 a month for 12 months.

• An officer, convicted by a General Court of smuggling liquor and cigarettes into Thailand

in a black market operation, was sentenced to dismissal from the Service and forfeiture of nearly \$3,000.

• In another major case, this one involving both postal money orders and an illegal transaction in MPC, a pair of enlisted men were convicted and sentenced by a General Court to dishonorable discharge, 18 months confinement with hard labor, and total forfeiture of pay.

Officials emphasize that MPC is authorized in Vietnam for U. S. authorized personnel only. U. S. currency and other dollar negotiable instruments are not authorized for use by U. S. personnel in Vietnam except for personal checks which may be used in authorized establishments.

Also PX items are not to be offered for resale, and PX items costing in excess of \$10—and rationed items—may not be given as gifts to persons not having PX privileges.

safety of all who were concerned."



MEDAL WINNER—Capt. Joseph James wears a Distinguished Flying Cross awarded him for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight." The presentation was made by Col. Richard M. Hunt MAG-16 commander.



JUST FRIENDS—Navy Hospital Corpsman Melvin S. Fisher is surrounded by some of his friends from Ky Houg School near Chu Lai. (Photo by LCpl. Mincemoyer)

Ontos driver rescues wounded comrades

By: Cpl. Nick Harder

DA NANG—A 21-year-old Marine antitank driver rescued two critically wounded men from their damaged vehicle which was on the verge of exploding—shot an escaping Viet Cong—then directed defensive, and medical evacuation measures last week.

The action took place 16 miles south of Da Nang near the South China Sea.

Lance Corporal Brent K. Collins was driving his Ontos back to the "A" Company, 1st Antitank Battalion command post when the Ontos in front of him struck a mine. It was fording a four-foot-deep causeway.

Though submerged in the water, 150 pounds of C-4 explosive cut the lead Ontos in half. The vehicle commander and loader were thrown several yards to their side. The driver was pinned under half the vehicle.

Collins stopped his Ontos when the first round hit, grabbed his rifle and ran to one of the injured men. He found the loader lying half in the water 25 feet from the damaged vehicle. Thinking that the man was dead, the Stockton, Calif., Marine headed for the other injured man. He spotted a Viet Cong running away about 150 yards from him, and felled him with a shot from his rifle.

He then continued to the side of the Ontos commander, who

was only half conscious, and in deep shock. Collins saw the damaged vehicle was leaking gasoline and oil. It could ignite at the slightest disturbance and set off the remainder of the Ontos' combat armament.

The Marine carried his wounded comrade away from the danger where he treated him for shock.

Collins then returned to the loader he thought was dead, after a quick look around for intruding VC.

He discovered that the loader was still alive, then dragged him to safety.

The twisted hulk of the Ontos still smoldered but hadn't exploded. Collins ran to check the driver.

Carefully he made his way through the still smoking steel, trying not to cause a spark or shake the loaded gun tubes. The driver was dead.

Collins returned to the side of the wounded Ontos commander. Amphibious tractors pulled up a few minutes later and the Marine halted them, telling of the mined area. A hasty defense was set up and a corpsman summoned. Collins radioed for a medevac helicopter. Marine engineers blew up the remaining armament of the damaged Ontos.

For Collins—it was none to soon.

'Monster' turned loose near Da Nang

DA NANG—"The Monster" has been turned loose near Da Nang airbase and is raising havoc on 20 acres of mine field.

Captain John W. Dougherty, a company commander of the 7th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, is the creator of this version of "The Monster."

When the engineers first began clearing the field they had to locate anti-personnel mines with mine detectors—then probe for them—and finally blow them in place.

Then Dougherty remembered something he had seen the Army use to clear mine fields.

He took his idea to Jack L. Sheppard, an engineer with RMK construction.

From there the idea went to John W. Sargent, a welding foreman with RMK, and "The Monster" became a reality.

"The Monster" is a piece of equipment with 38 tank wheels inside a large box of half-inch armor plating that is mounted on the front of a dozer tank.

To clear a minefield, the tank sets at the edge of the field and the equipment is hydraulically lowered to the ground in front of it.

Then "The Monster Mash" begins. It rumbles across the field

blowing mines under its wheels with the armor plate for protection.

"It can clear as many mines in a week as we could in six months without it," says Staff Sergeant Charles M. Werneth, NCO in charge.

Dougherty doesn't know exactly how many mines are in this 20 acres, but he estimates more than a thousand.

"The Monster" has been mashing for about a week now, and without any unforeseen delays the field should be cleared within the next week," said Werneth.

Muskegon citizens donate chapel bell

By: Sgt. Dave Small

DA NANG — A new memorial chapel dedicated to the memory of the men of the 3rd Engineer Battalion killed in action in Vietnam, has a bell because of the generosity of the citizenry of Muskegon, Mich.

Planning of the chapel was begun in July.

Navy Lieutenant Raymond C. Swierenga, battalion chaplain, felt a chapel was not complete without a bell to call the faithful to worship.

He wrote to his friend, Reverend Esler Stuart, pastor of the Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Muskegon, asking for help in locating a bell.

Reverend Stuart told his parishioners of the letter.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kroeze

HMM-364 goes home

DA NANG — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 is being transferred back to the United States after spending more than a year here.

The squadron, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Daniel A. Somerville logged more than 12,000 flight hours while stationed at Ky Ha, flying medical evacuations, troop lifts, re-supply missions and aerial reconnaissance flights.

Known as the "Purple Foxes", the squadron participated in 11 major operations, including Operations Utah, Texas and Hastings during their tour here.

The unit will re-group at Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Ana (El Toro) California.

found a bell that had hung in the remodeled Greenwood Hall, and began restoration.

First it was sandblasted to restore its former brightness. Then the mechanism that rotates the bell was repaired, and new coat of paint was applied. It now has a bronze gold color, trimmed in black.

Various Muskegon firms supplied the materials and labor free of charge.

The bell was turned over to Lieutenant Commander L. P. Schlernitzover, commanding officer at the U.S. Navy Reserve Training Center in Muskegon, for shipment to the Republic of Vietnam by the end of August.

Shipment took 11 days.

Two weeks ago, the 3rd Division Engineers began work on the Memorial Chapel.

The first services were held in the new chapel and the tolling of the Memorial Bell was heard Sept. 25.

"I only wish the people of Muskegon could hear it," said Chaplain Swierenga.

Amphibious assault via Viet junk

DONG HA — Two 3d Marine Division companies made an amphibious landing last week, while on a search and destroy operation near Cam Lo—via Vietnamese junk.

The action took place when two companies of the Fourth Marine Regiment were sweeping Bich Giang and Cam Vu villages.

To complete their search for Viet Cong rice caches, the units had to cross the Cam Lo River.

Native junks were borrowed by the company commanders and the river crossing was accomplished.



First in the Corps

Two Navy veterans which joined Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-17, 1st MAF, are the only ones of their type in the Marine Corps. The two US-2B "trackers" have been modified to carry six passengers each, in addition to the crew, by removal of certain electronics parts. They are being used as combat support aircraft due to their short field capabilities. According to one member of the squadron, this "bird can fly low and slow or high and fast."

(Photo by Sgt. F.K. Burke)

Five men with painted faces hold off company size force

By Cpl. Cal Guthrie

DONG HA—Five Marines with garishly painted faces leapt from a hovering helicopter and melted into the surrounding jungle 10 miles south of the demilitarized zone.

As sounds of the departing choppers echoed across the valley floor, the men alerted their keen senses—this time to the sights and sounds of the enemy.

Each knew the other was there—somewhere. The battle of wits, a prelude to the shooting battle to come, had begun for the team.

The patrol leader, Corporal George G. Neville deployed his team. They watched and listened.

Sounds of building and digging were all around.

A mortar position was spotted.

A large enemy force was building fortifications in the valley. The Marines were surrounded.

Lance Corporal James H. Grimm, team radioman, called in enemy locations. Jets from Da Nang streaked toward the unsuspecting enemy.

The 3rd Division Marines crept upward from the valley floor to better observe the air strike.

Planes pounded the area with bombs, napalm and rockets. Afterwards the aerial observer plane circled the area. The work of days, perhaps weeks, was in shambles. The mortar and its position were gone.

Five North Vietnamese bodies lay in the ruins.

Night fell and the Marines moved to the top of a large hill. They sought concealment in the head-high elephant grass. A maze of fresh but abandoned bunkers, trenches and foxholes infested the hill.

That night the sounds continued: metal on metal, pounding, digging. Voices echoed through the valley. Men walked within 10 feet of the Marines. At one point the voices became so loud and boisterous the Marines wondered if the North Vietnamese soldiers were having a party.

Early the next morning another air strike was called. The Marines moved toward the enemy down the southwest slope of the hill, while the planes pounded the positions. Here the enemy spotted them.

Seeking an avenue of escape they began moving down a finger ridge toward the valley. Halfway down, the point man, Private First Class Thomas A. Stokes saw 10 enemy soldiers readying an ambush.

Realizing they were trapped they radioed for extraction, and held the position. The enemy began closing in.

Moments later Private First Class Dennis A. Stahn killed two communists moving toward his position.

Suddenly, 30 VC soldiers stood

up in the grass 40 yards away and advanced toward the Marines firing their weapons and throwing hand grenades.

The Marines met the assault. They poured automatic fire into the attacker's skirmish line. Six enemy soldiers fell under the initial burst. The enemy kept coming until the five men hurled grenades to stop the advance.

With the line of attackers only 20 yards away the Marines used a fire and maneuver tactic to reach a position still farther down the hill.

The North Vietnamese took more casualties and stopped to regroup for a new assault—this time from three sides with a larger force.

The Marines fought desperately against the closing walls of enemy fire. They killed several more with rifles and grenades as they continued down the hill.

One Marine was wounded.

Private First Class Stanley Paynter, the team's grenadier, was shot in the arm. He continued to throw grenades and fire his M-79 grenade launcher and M-44

rifle.

Paynter shot one enemy with his rifle. When two more came to drag the body off, Paynter fired his M-79 hitting one in the chest, killing both.

The VC sent another squad to the Marines' rear, completing the circle.

A last desperate radio message was sent as the Marines deployed in a circle. Here they braced themselves for a last stand with their nearly spent ammo supply—their grenades and M-79 ammunition were gone.

As the North Vietnamese closed in for the kill, the Marines heard the sound of Hueys.

Gunships battered the Communist soldiers with rockets and machine gun fire as "choppers" swept in to pick up the Marines.

Five weary Marines clambered aboard the "copters". Grateful expressions beamed from under the grease-paint and dirt.

The five men with painted faces had held off more than a company of North Vietnamese regulars. They killed 20 in their battle for life.

Was it luck or fate?

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DONG HA—Was it luck or fate? They don't know, but four men of Marine Observation Squadron-2 do know that on the afternoon of Sept. 24, they were all very fortunate.

Their Huey gunship, piloted by First Lieutenant Alan Barbour, was returning to Dong Ha from a mission when they received a call they were needed to provide cover for the evacuation of a Marine reconnaissance team under attack by a North Vietnamese force.

They landed and the two crewmen hurriedly reloaded the plane's six M-60 machine guns while the pilot and co-pilot attended a quick briefing. Upon the pilots' return, they launched, accompanied by another gunship and an unarmed Huey which was to extract the five outnumbered Marines.

When they reached the beleaguered team, located just south

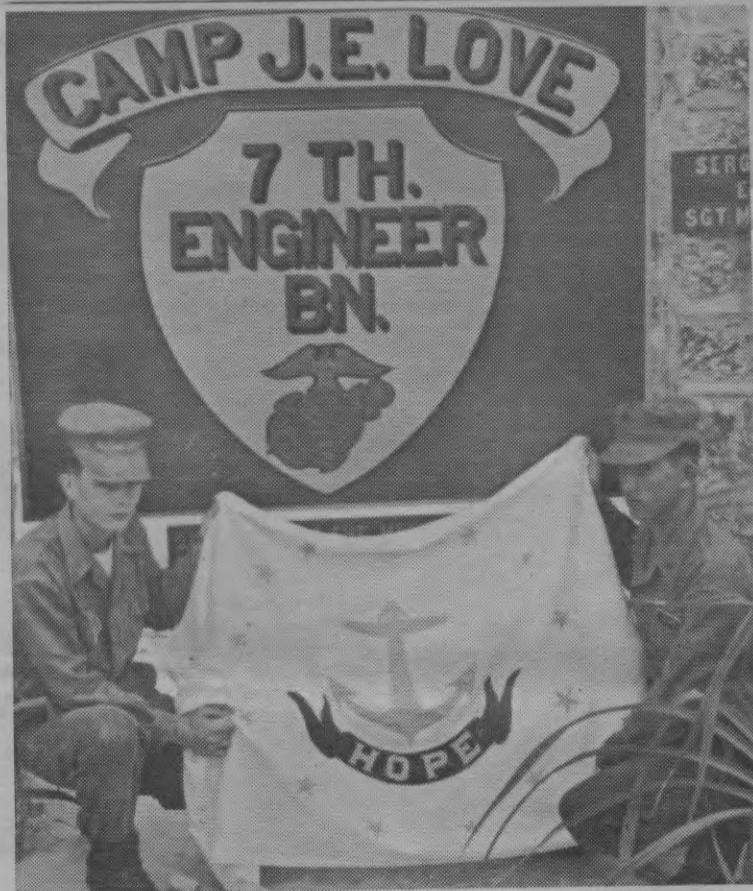
of the demilitarized zone, each gunship made two strafing runs while the other chopper completed the rescue.

Back at Dong Ha, the crew chief, Lance Corporal Terry Bowman, noticed a bullet-hole just behind the co-pilot's seat. Closer inspection proved that the round had passed less than a foot behind First Lieutenant Ron Osborn, within inches of the gunner, Corporal David Robinson, and lodged just behind Bowman.

After summoning the pilots and giving the plane a closer check, they found where still another round had passed between the fuel line and the engine.

According to Lt. Barbour, "If it had been an eighth of an inch higher, we would have been in real trouble because we would have been on fire."

Undaunted by their narrow escape, the Marines switched to another chopper while the old one is being repaired.



Rhode Island Flag

PFC Craig T. Brown (left) and Cpl. Joseph P. Cote, Jr., both of Providence, R.I., display their State Flag at the 7th Engineer Bn., 3d Marine Division. Brown wrote to his mother asking for the flag and she contacted the USMCR unit in Providence. As a result, Rhode Island's governor, John H. Chafee, presented them with a flag to send to Brown.

(Photo by LCpl. W. R. Degnan)

Short Rounds

Surprise

DA NANG—High atop a mountain two miles from the DMZ is an unlikely place for a family reunion—but Dennis and William Dickinson of New York City had one—quite by accident.

It happened during a helicopter resupply for a battalion of the Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division during Operation Prairie.

Captain Dennis J. Dickinson, air liaison officer for the battalion, called in helicopters for a resupply mission. One arrived with his brother William aboard as crew chief.

Due to the possibility of enemy fire, they only had a few minutes for a quick "how have you been."

Captain Dickinson said he knew his brother was in the Da Nang area, but had not been able to contact him.

"I was taxiing an F8 Crusader jet for a mission once and saw him walking along the ramp, but couldn't stop. This time he was on the plane. Luckily he picked the right hill to land on."

Corporal William Dickinson flies with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363.

Village falls

DONG HA — The village of Gia Binh, just south of the demilitarized zone, fell to the 1st Battalion 26th Marine Regiment, Sept. 21, during Operation Prairie.

Captain Charles W. Kappleman of San Antonio, Texas, "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment killed 21 north Vietnamese soldiers in the heavily defended village.

Supported by tanks, the company moved northwest to the village's left flank. Hedgerows and seven-foot high elephant grass camouflaged the enemy trench lines and fighting holes.

The Marines were forced to pull back three times after meeting heavy resistance to allow air, artillery and naval gunfire to saturate the village.

Late in the afternoon the Marines advanced again. This time they quickly overcame moderate opposition.

Enemy troops were in tunnel complexes and trench lines that zig-zagged from one village to another leading to the demilitarized zone and several fortified bunkers.

It was estimated that the company fought against two reinforced companies of North Vietnamese soldiers.

Joy

DA NANG—A Marine lieutenant and an 18-year-old Missouri girl, Joy Armstrong, have combined their efforts to initiate a program called "Joy for the Children of Vietnam."

First Lieutenant Harry L. Rhodes, civil affairs officer for the 2nd Battalion, First Marines, recently received two large boxes of soap, a box of children's clothes, pencils, paper, crayons and toys marked "Operation Joy."

An accompanying letter from a Marine recruiter in St. Joseph, Mo., explained that the materials were donated by the people of Osborn, Mo., (population 274). Collections were made by Miss Armstrong.

The letter said it was just the first of many shipments forthcoming from the people of Osborn and the surrounding areas.

Bundle

DA NANG — A 1st Marine Aircraft Wing helicopter won its race with the stork last week much to the relief of Navy hos-

pital corpsman Robert M. Adair. The Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361 helicopter received a medevac mission to airlift a middle-aged woman from the island of Ky Qun and fly her to the maternity hospital at Quang Ngai.

Setting down at Ky Qun moments later, Adair checked the Vietnamese woman's pulse, temperature and made her as comfortable as possible as the aircraft lifted from the ground.

"She's ready to have the baby any moment," Adair shouted over the deafening noise of the helicopter, "and I don't know how to deliver a baby!"

First Lieutenant John J. Clasby, piloting the aircraft, guided it along as quickly as possible while keeping it on a steady course to avoid "rushing things."

All the way into Quang Ngai, Adair and the crew kept their fingers crossed. The copter won its race with the stork and the woman and her soon-to-be-born baby were rushed into the hospital.

Adair, wiping sweat from his forehead, vowed to visit the dispensary as soon as he was relieved to "have one of the doctors explain how to deliver a baby—just in case I get caught in this situation again."

Purple Hearts

DA NANG — Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, presented the Purple Heart Medal to Marines at the First Medical Battalion and Marine Air Group-12 the same day the Marine recipients were wounded in a mortar attack.

Receiving the awards at the battalion were: Sergeant Richard E. Hicks; Corporal Dennis L. Peterson; and Lance Corporal Michael C. Ransome; all of Marine Attack Squadron-223.

Also Corporal Dennis J. Polack and Corporal Roger T. Smith of Marine Attack Squadron-224.

The recipients at MAG-12 ceremonies were Corporal Willie P. Deloach and Corporal Robert W. Beezley.

Colonel Jay W. Hubbard, MAG-12 commander, expressed his deep admiration and appreciation to every member of the group for their calm, professional response to the mortar attack.

Souvenir

DA NANG—Private First Class Michael M. Phillips has souvenirs of his close call with the Viet Cong the night of Sept. 13—his helmet, rifle and cartridge belt.

Phillips was with his squad from the 26th Marine Regiment on a night ambush 15 miles southwest of Da Nang, when he removed his helmet for a moment and laid it on a rice paddy dike. "As soon as I set it down, the VC opened up on it," Phillips said. "I grabbed it and found two holes."

"As soon as I got it on my head again, another round dinged off the top of my helmet, making three hits it had taken," he said.

Phillips also had his cartridge belt laying beside him so he could get his ammunition out quicker. A round came in and struck one of his magazines. It blew up and Phillips received a head cut.

Following the action, the 3rd Marine Division Marine noticed his M-14 rifle also had two bullet holes in it.



Mass in the field

Chaplain Lt. Harris White conducts Mass for Catholic men of the 1st Bn., 26th Marines, near the DMZ. The battalion participated in Operation Prairie. (Photo by Sgt. J. A. Cothran)

MAG-11 installs plane stopper

By: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG — When an aircraft lands, it is a tricky operation under normal conditions, but when an aircraft is damaged or heavy rains have slicked over the runway, the dangers involved are

drastically increased.

Because of this, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, has installed arrested landing equipment at the Da Nang airfield in preparation for the coming monsoon season.

Designed to stop aircraft in a shorter distance than is normally required, it is an added safety factor when the runway conditions are other than normal.

There are two units set up 4,000 feet from each end of the runway. Each contains a set of braking engines and rewinding engines.

A cable is stretched across the runway connected to the braking engines by two nylon bands called tapes.

When landing, a plane's tail hook engages the cable, automatically actuating the braking machine. Weight and speed of each aircraft determines its stopping distance. Average distance for arrested landings is 650 feet.

After stopping, the tapes are automatically rewound to await the next plane. All this is completed in less than a minute.

Wind direction determines which unit will be used. When a plane makes an arrested landing it engages the unit nearest its point of touchdown.

Airborne posse nabs VC 'Peeping Tom'

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—It's getting so a peeping tom just can't snoop around any more. At least that was the experience of one Viet Cong suspect who tried to sneak up on the Marine helicopter detachments based at Dong Ha. Captain Jay Davis, Marine Observation Squadron (VMO) 2, was piloting his UH1E "Huey" helicopter back to the airstrip for refueling when he spotted a suspicious looking Vietnamese one-half mile south of the strip.

When he flew in for a closer inspection, the man dropped what appeared to be a satchel charge and dove into a nearby clump of bushes.

Though low on fuel, Capt. Davis circled his chopper over the area for 10 minutes, keeping the suspect under surveillance.

He was relieved by another Huey, flown by First Lieutenant

Alan Barbour, who made a series of low passes just above ground level in an attempt to flush the intruder from his hiding place.

Meanwhile a five-man reconnaissance team was dropped in 50 yards away by another chopper.

As soon as the Marines were on station, the Huey made another pass and dropped a colored smoke grenade within a few feet of the hideout. Realizing that he was caught, the suspect surrendered to the airborne posse.

Golfer Hahn appears here

DA NANG—The ballistic crash of 105mm howitzer rounds, and the crack of rifle fire was punctuated by a new sound last week on Hill 55—the click of well-hit golf balls off the more than three dozen clubs of world-renowned trick golfer Paul Hahn.

Hahn demonstrated his skill as a golfer and gave tips to Ninth Regiment Marines during a 30-minute show.

The former Professional Golfer's Association touring Pro trotted out an assortment of zany clubs, and showed Marines how easy it was to drive a golf ball more than 200 yards with: a rubber shafted club that wrapped itself around his shoulders during the backswing; a club with three heads — three golf balls at the same time; and dozens of other clubs of special, peculiar design.

Marines taking part in the show attempted to drive a ball from a ten inch high tee. Invariably each clobbered the tee and left the ball on the ground. Hahn then demonstrated the correct way, and drove the ball nearly 300 yards several times.

Following the performance, Hahn asked some Marines to collect the balls from the rice paddy. Someone from the audience said, "A Viet Cong caddy will take care of that job for you, Mr. Hahn."



Young faces

They peer through fences with toothless grins as they watch Marines at work and play. When a Marine appears with a camera, they flock around wanting their picture taken. Natural expressions occur when they are not aware of the photographer. These are Vietnamese children, no different than any others, right down to the Saturday night bath.

(Photo by Sgt. Rich Groscoast)



Salvaged

A UH-34D helicopter shot down just south of the DMZ on Operation Prairie is lowered to the flight decks of the USS Iwo Jima for repairs. The copter was supporting the 26th Marines. It was partially dismantled in the field. (Photo by Sgt. J. A. Gothran)

Household goods weight boosted

According to NAVY TIMES, the Department of Defense has raised the household goods weight allowance ceilings, effective this month.

Up through the grades of O-4 the hike ranges from 1000 to 2000 pounds and further increases are in the mill for senior officers.

Following is a table of new and old allowances for paygrades E-4 through O-4:

PAY GRADE	OLD	NEW
O-4, W-4	10,000	11,000
O-3, W-3	10,000	11,000
O-2, W-2	8,000	10,000
O-1, W-1	7,500	9,500
E-9	7,500	9,500
E-8	7,000	9,000
E-7	6,500	8,500
E-6	6,000	8,000
E-5	5,500	7,000
E-4	5,000	7,000

There is also a bill before Congress which would allow men with mobile homes to ship their trailers at government expense up to the amount the government would have spent for the shipment of household goods. The raise of allowance on household goods shipments will effect this bill.

JOIN UP...
JOIN IN

SUPPORT YOUR RED CROSS



Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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

Country doctor isn't shadow in the past

By: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG — Country doctors who travel from town to town have not completely vanished.

Doctors and corpsmen of Marine Aircraft Group 11, First Marine Aircraft Wing, travel several miles each day to Vietnamese villages.

They visit five villages on a rotating schedule each week. Saturdays and Sundays are left open for special trips.

These trips are usually made on requests from Vietnamese Army advisors for medical assistance in their area.

A doctor and four corpsmen make the daily runs. The corpsmen all volunteer for this assignment in addition to their regular duties. A different doctor goes out each day from among the group's four doctors. These men see as many as 300 patients a day.

Marines, from mechanics to clerks, often travel with them on their afternoons off. They help by controlling crowds and occasionally holding or comforting a child.

After arriving in an area, two corpsmen, Hospitalmen Walter J. Pearson and Michael W. Babbist set up a clinic for the treatment of cuts, sores and ear cleaning.

Through an interpreter the others, Hospitalmen 3rd Class Howard J. Schexnyder and Gene E. Colbert assist the doctor by treating common colds and easily recognized diseases.

All eye complaints and serious respiratory cases are referred to the doctor. He also treats advanced cases of infection.

They see more children than adults and most for upper respiratory ailments. Other common afflictions among children are worms and vitamin deficiency.

Most complaints can be cared for on an outpatient basis.

If hospital care is necessary, the doctors have the facilities of the U.S. Navy Support Activity Hospital or the U.S. Overseas Mission Hospital in Da Nang available to them.



OOH, THAT'S COLD—A small Vietnamese girl wonders what that cold stethoscope is all about while being examined by the doctor, Navy Lt. Donald E. Sampson. Assisting Dr. Sampson is HM3 Howard J. Schexnyder.

(Photo by Sgt. Rich Groscoft)

Has special respect for 'green' buffaloes

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DA NANG—The South Vietnamese water buffalo generally don't like Americans and Marines usually give them a wide berth. Sergeant Lawrence E. Beaufort has a special respect for one type of "water buffalo"—the green,

metal water carrier well known to Marines.

The non-commissioned officer in charge of Civil Affairs of the Hoa-based Ninth Marine Regiment, gained his new respect for the wheeled water trailer when he saw what smiles it brought for 1,000 children who attended the Mid-Autumn Festival—a South Vietnamese national holiday.

The buffalo, filled with 300 gallons of water, 60 pounds of sugar, 40-pound blocks of ice and just the right amount of tea, highlighted the festivities. Distribution of rice, candy, toys and school kits for the children and yards of bolt cloth material for the children's parents were also provided.

"You don't know just how big a water buffalo really is. We put several 40-pound blocks of ice in the thing, and they looked as small as ice cubes," said Beaufort.

The event was held at Duc Duc District Headquarters near the An Noa industrial complex, about 20 miles south of Da Nang.

In addition to the gift-giving, various song and dance contests took place in Marine-erected tents. Prizes were awarded to the winners.



For heroism

Captain Daniel McMahon is presented the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action by LtCol. Jack Westerman, CO, 1st Bn., 4th Marines. The captain was cited for "personally directing the withdrawal of his troops as an airstrike bombed the heavily fortified position. He ran through enemy fire and led to safety a fireteam that had been cut off from the platoon."

Experienced Doc brings child back to life twice

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG—The life-saving experience of a Navy corpsman attached to Marine Aircraft Group 36 meant the difference between life and death to a seven-year-old Vietnamese boy.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jack Baxter brought the child back to life twice by emergency measures and at last report the boy was still alive at Da Nang Hospital.

Baxter's medical evacuation helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 361 received a call to pick up a critically injured child at Tam Ky, some 12 miles north of the MAG-36 base at Chu Lai.

At Tam Ky, he found an ambulance waiting and the boy with a bullet in his head and one in his right side.

"From all appearances the kid was dead," says Baxter. "He wasn't breathing, there was no pulse and his pupils were dilated."

Disregarding the signs of death, Baxter inserted a resuscitation tube in the child's mouth and began breathing air into his lungs. At the same time he began pounding on the boy's chest to restart the heart.

While the boy's frightened father looked on and the helicopter sped toward the medical battalion at Chu Lai, the boy once again began to breathe... for about a minute and a half.

"I thought he would be all right when he began breathing again," says Baxter, "but then he stopped and I had to begin resuscitation and heart massage again."

About 30 seconds later the boy was breathing once more.

He continued to breathe until the helicopter landed. At the

medical battalion the youth was put into an Ambu Bag—a device which would breathe for him, and then flown to the hospital at Da Nang.

Baxter, who has been recommended for a Bronze Star Medal for previous actions, said "I like kids, and it sure made me feel good to bring him back and give him another chance at life."

Friendly voice of warning

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — First Lieutenant Russel Williams, was directing air strikes against north Vietnamese infiltrators eight miles northwest of Dong Ha when the voice of an old friend came over the radio of his O1C observation plane.

The voice was that of Captain Jesse Harmon, who had just passed under Williams' plane in an A4E Skyhawk of Marine Attack Squadron 223.

"Hey Russ, you're on fire!" he warned.

Heading for home, Williams continued to direct the jets onto their targets. He made the eight miles back to Dong Ha safely and landed with a stream of white smoke trailing behind the aircraft.

The fire was caused by oil spilling onto the engine after an enemy bullet pierced the intake manifold, and resulted in minor damage to the aircraft.

It was not the first time the two pilots had cooperated in the air. Before joining AG 16s O1C detachment, Lt. Williams was a jet pilot with VA 223.