



SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

December 28, 1966

Marine in good condition

Doctor removes live grenade from throat of young Marine

DA NANG—The Navy surgeon gently placed the M-79 grenade into a ditch, "took about four steps calmly and then ran like hell."

Only moments before Lieutenant Commander James Chandler, had taken the live grenade from the throat of a 20-year-old Marine private wounded while on patrol three miles east of Dai Loc.

It was the third known case of removing a "live" projectile from a patient on the operating table in the Viet Nam war.

The wounded Marine is in good condition, and is expected to regain his voice in from three to six weeks, Chandler said.

The grenade apparently entered the Marine's throat on a downward angle breaking part of his lower jaw and lodging in the heavily-muscled portion of the rear of the tongue after pushing aside the voice box and jugular vein.

(Following the operation the Marine estimated the grenade was fired from a distance of about 10 meters; it automatically arms itself after traveling about 14 meters.)

Chandler was unaware that the grenade was lodged in the Marine's throat until he made his preliminary incision into the area so he could assess the damage, before corrective surgery could be performed.

As the surgeon looked into the area, he saw "two silver stripes and a green band." At first Chandler thought it may have been a detonator of some sort, and called his commanding officer to see if he could tell what the "short, beer-can object" was. They decided it would be pretty safe to remove anything which had cracked through the jaw.

Since special forceps kept slipping off, Chandler got the object out with his fingers and "popped it into my hand."

"As it popped into my hand I noticed everyone who knew anything about ballistics and weapons had eyes as big as saucers," he said.

"I asked what it was and someone said a M-79 grenade," Chandler said, and added "That's the first time anyone knew what it was."

He carried the grenade out of the operating room to a safe area, since "I was the guy holding the grenade and you can't very well turn to someone and give it to them, or put it back."

His commanding officer went with Chandler to keep others away from the area.

"It was a frightening period," Chandler said.

"I carried the grenade in my

left hand, with some fool idea if it did go off I would at least keep my right hand," Chandler said.

At the helicopter pad about 200 yards away, Chandler asked the other doctor, "How far are we going to go?"

It was there he placed it in a ditch and made his run. (Ordinance platoon Marines from the 1st Marine Division later destroyed it in place.)

Chandler ran back to the operating room and continued to work on the Marine. In all, he spent five hours operating on the patient.

Labeling it a major operation but nothing unusual in length, Chandler said his record operation since completing his residency at Columbia is 22 hours.

He said if the object had been a rock instead of a grenade, it would not have been an unusual operation at all. "But, I assure you," Chandler said, "I've never had an experience like this before and don't want it ever again."

He praised all the personnel in the operating room, since all (up to eight at a time) were not only exposed to danger from the grenade, but to "my whims in handling."

(Continued on Page 11)



In time for Christmas

First Shore Party Marines raise the cross of the new 1st Marine Division chapel at Da Nang in time for Christmas Eve dedication. The Navy Chief of Chaplains, James W. Kelly dedicated the chapel.

(Photo by Cpl. J. J. Williams)

New general



DA NANG — Brigadier General Charles F. Widdecke was promoted to his present rank here Dec. 18.

LtGen. Lewis W. Walt, commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force, administered the oath of office to Gen. Widdecke before an honor guard from Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

Brigadier General William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, assisted Gen. Walt in pinning silver stars on Gen. Widdecke's collar.

Prior to his promotion, the General served as chief of staff for Task Force X-Ray and commanding officer of the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Downed pilot, crew turn into infantrymen

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — The pilot and crew of a Marine helicopter became infantrymen after their plane was downed 10 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The UH-34D helicopter flown by Captain William Barnes Jr., was landing to evacuate wounded Marines when it was downed by enemy fire.

While the two crewmen joined ground forces in fighting off Viet Cong snipers, Capt. Barnes and his co-pilot aided the Marines' platoon commander. The pilot had spotted some enemy positions from the air and offered to call for fixed-wing air strikes.

Borrowing a field radio, he described targets to a light observation plane which relayed them to Marine jets. He directed the strikes for nearly two hours until more choppers were able to evacuate the downed crew and casualties.

Meanwhile, Hospitalman First Class Richard Phillips was attending the wounded.

Captain Barnes was generous in his praise of Phillips and other corpsmen who cared for the

wounded Marines during the ordeal.

"I really think that the corpsmen saved those men's lives," he said.



Capt. Barnes

Quick butt stroke saves two Marines

By GySgt. Jack Butts

PHU BAI—It was a well set-up ambush by all accounts. More than 60 Viet Cong were walking right into the center of it. One daring VC almost broke it up, but was the victim of fate—his weapon wouldn't fire.

This gave Corporal Johnny M. Windham his opportunity. He jumped up from his position, ran to where the VC was trying to blast holes in the backs of Lance Corporal David F. Shymansky and Lance Corporal Thomas Burrows — and delivered a butt stroke with his rifle to the man's head.

The VC fell as the two men spun and fired, killing him instantly—and then it began. Weapons began spurring flames from positions manned by Marines and Popular Forces (PF's) soldiers from Combined Action Company (CAC)-8, four miles south of here. A Claymore mine placed beforehand alongside the railroad track where the VC were approaching, was exploded scattering bodies everywhere.

No body count could be obtained that night, but the village of Loc Son has a grapevine. It says that 15 enemy soldiers met their deaths that night, and another dozen wounded.

It started early in the evening. Local intelligence reports said a Viet Cong unit was seen moving north toward Loc Son. Nine Marines and 10 PF's took positions

two miles south of Loc Son in a treeline—and waited. At 9 p.m. the first man was seen coming off the railroad bed into the edge of a huge rice paddy.

Windham counted 21 enemy soldiers in the paddy, some just 50 yards from him. The CAC unit had planned to hold its fire until all 60 were off the track and in the paddy's soft mud. But one man broke away from the group,

(Continued on Page 3)

Two-star selectees

WASHINGTON — Headquarters Marine Corps announced the selection of the following officers for promotion to temporary grade of major general: Lowell E. English, Hugh M. Elwood, John G. Bouker, Donn G. Robertson and William G. Thrash.



SEA TIGER

Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Brigadier General Hugh M. Elwood
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 Col. T. M. Fields
Editor GySgt. Lee Witconis

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We firmly resolve...



Did you make any New Year resolutions? You probably did. Most of us do, openly or quietly.

Some of these resolutions are made in jest. Others are taken seriously. There is no unit in the majority of these. To each his own is usually the rule.

It's too bad all men everywhere cannot, in unison, make a New Year's resolution pledging whole-hearted effort towards solving the ills that plague the world.

Chances are this won't happen. Not in the immediate future, anyway. So, there is only one course open. We must staunchly follow the course we know is right. We must look forward to a better world, but always remember our precious heritage.

We're all aware of the great conflicts that have engulfed our nation since its birth. We understand what brought them about and why they are fought. We are keenly aware that no nation can effectively deal with her enemies from a position of weakness without sacrificing freedom. We are not weak and we will not sacrifice freedom.

With this understanding and background, plus love of our homeland, we firmly resolve to carry on the fight for freedom as our forefathers before us.

We are no different than they. We are made of the same stuff. We have the same burning desire for freedom, and we are proud to be Americans.

Fortitude was not an idle byword used by our ancestors. They had it. Sometimes they called it courage. We are endowed with the same ingredients.

So, in 1967 we will work, and live, and fight with fortitude and courage—always remembering our heritage. Moreover, we will dedicate ourselves to our nation and its goal of containing those who would deny us—and others in the world—freedom. (AFNB)

'Destruction, Inc.'

DA NANG—They call it "Destruction, Inc."

An appropriate name, perhaps, for an underworld syndicate or a demolitions firm—or for a gun of the 1st 8-inch Howitzer Battery, 1st Marine Division.

"Destruction, Inc." is what the 9-man crew has named its gun. It is emblazoned on the muzzle of the self-propelled weapon.

"Destruction" is one of a long line of 8-inch guns which have borne such names as Gravedigger, Checkmate, Swamp Fox, and El Cid. The last named gun gained its nickname when it was fired by Charleton Heston.

But "Destruction, Inc." claims one distinction—it is the first 8-inch self-propelled gun brought to Vietnam by the Marine Corps.

Since being landed at Da Nang in March, 1965, "Destruction, Inc." has poured some 2,600 rounds at the enemy.

The gun belongs to the battery's third platoon, presently located 30 miles southwest of Da Nang in support of the Ninth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

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Dear Editor:
In Vol. II, No. 41, Nov. 16, 1966 issue of SEA TIGER, there is an article entitled "Operation Harelip".

Although it is a well-written article, it "beats the drums" for the wrong places. Here at "A" Co., 3rd Medical Battalion, Phu Bai, harelip operations are an everyday occurrence and have been so for many months.

The Civil Affairs program is not just limited to this type of surgery. A variety of major general surgical cases plus numerous corrective orthopedic procedures have been performed in the past and more are always on tap.

The General Medical Officers

hold a Vietnamese Sick Call Clinic daily plus six MEDCAP visits weekly to outlying areas.

This entire program is carried out only as an addition to our primary function as a Naval field hospital serving this area.

Sincerely,
LCDR. Samuel Lugo (MC) USNR

Dear Sir:

I am an eleven year old boy and live at 80 East End Ave., New York City, N.Y. . . . I am in the sixth grade. . . My brother Lawrence sent to someone and asked us to write to many people so I picked this one.

Last night I was watching the Ed Sullivan Show and they had a big special on, "bye bye Gary". It was Gary Louis from Gary Louis and the Playboys (Jerry Louis' son). He was going to Vietnam on the 13 of Dec. and I think he can only handle a guitar and not a gun. I hope you and everyone else has a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Please send me your good address and name and I will keep

writing and sending you things through the mail. You only need to write once and that is all if you can not any other time, but please try just so I can know your name and good address and tell me when you will be back.

Love, John (Horgan)
P.S. Good luck to you and your friends P.S.S. try and write please P.S.S. I preay-ing for you.

Get shots before going on R&R

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

It is the responsibility of the individual Marine to report to sickbay before going on R&R or any trip out of country. You could be subject to quarantine for the duration of your R&R—a sad way to spend a well-deserved rest.

How to save cash and still have R&R

There are two great savings programs open to Marines serving in Vietnam—the Savings Deposit Program and the U.S. Savings Bond program. The confusion lies not in which program to use, but in deciding which one should the investor depend upon for the heaviest savings.

Savings Deposits are not a substitute for Savings Bonds which should be considered as a part of an individual's long range financial planning. Savings Deposits gives the individual Marine an opportunity to take advantage of high interest rate savings during his period of eligibility.

Both programs are an excellent means of providing financial security for the individual and his family. Overseas pay and combat pay afford all personnel in Vietnam an excellent opportunity to participate in them.

The goal of both programs is to help stabilize the Vietnamese inflationary economy by encouraging Marines to invest U.S. dollars in U.S. Savings Programs. Thus, U.S. dollars are not converted into piasters and spent on the local economy.

The long range financial advantage to you in investing in Savings Bonds is obvious. Advantages accruing to you who invest in Savings Deposits are more dramatic. Available funds for leave, college, marriage, and purchase of automobiles following a tour of duty in Vietnam are but a few examples.

Experience has shown that Marines in III MAF are reluctant to invest in the Savings Deposit Program, since money invested may not be withdrawn. While you cannot withdraw funds from the Savings Deposit Program, it is still possible to invest and still go on R&R.

Printed below is a model savings plan for a lance corporal. As it shows, he is able to invest in Savings Bonds and the Savings Deposit Program and still have adequate funds remaining for R&R. While this example cannot pertain to all Marines in III MAF, it is felt that it is sufficiently representative to be a working model for all Marines who are interested in Savings:

SAVINGS PLAN FOR A LANCE CORPORAL

The goal of an unmarried lance corporal with two years service going to or in Vietnam, should be to save \$1700 during his tour. This may be done as shown in the following example:

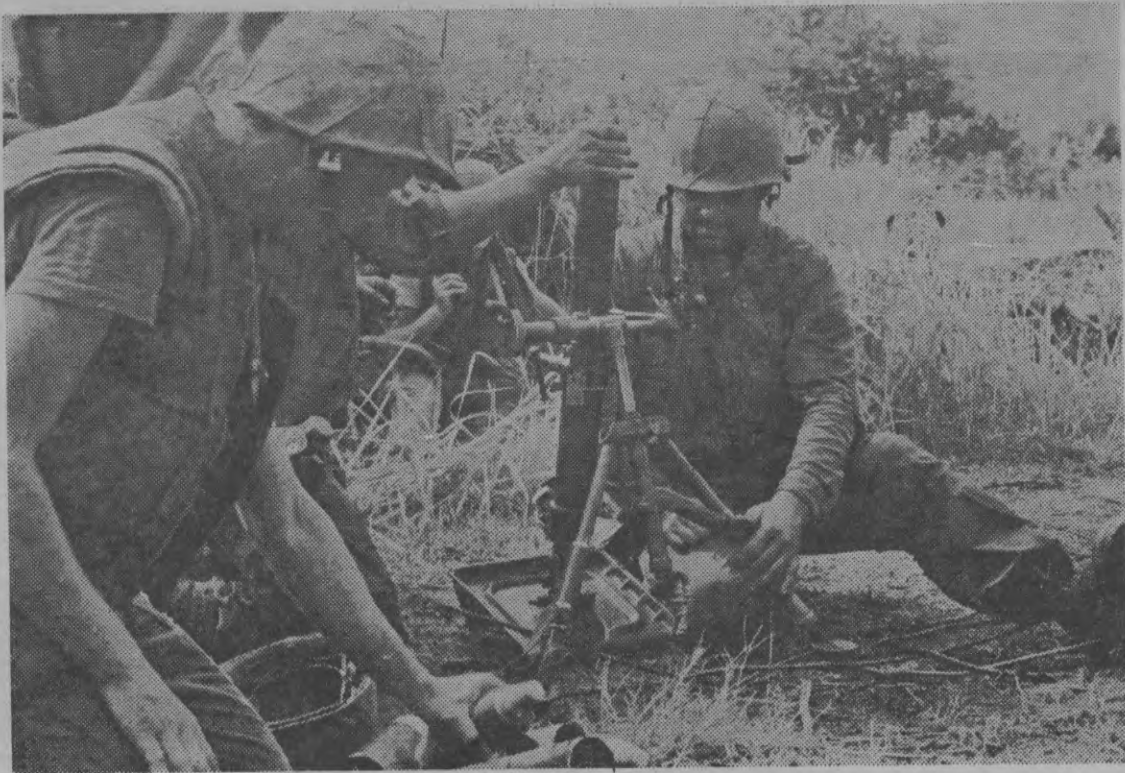
Base pay	\$170.10
Overseas pay	9.00
Combat pay	65.00
Deduction for life insurance	-2.00
FICA	-7.48
Total Pay	234.62 per month

His normal expenditures for a month are as follows:

Left on pay record	67.00
Laundry	10.00
Health and comfort items	5.00
Savings Bond allotment	6.25
Miscellaneous expenses	11.37

As shown above, this man would have \$135.00 (234.62 less 99.62) available for deposit in the Savings Deposit Program. If deposited, these funds (\$1620.00) would accumulate interest in the amount of \$111.20 in twelve months and would total \$1731.20 saved.

In addition, he could use \$400.00 from funds left on the pay record for R&R after 6 months in country. The remaining \$404.00 on the pay record after 12 months would be available to spend on leave in the U.S. He also would own four Savings Bonds totaling about \$75 at the end of the year.



Mortars up

A 60mm mortar crew goes into action near the DMZ on Operation Prairie. Third Division Marines have been battling North Vietnamese soldiers just south of the zone dividing Vietnam since July on Operation Hastings and Prairie. More than 2,000 communists have been killed and more than 400 weapons captured in the actions. (Photo by LCpl. E. L. Cole)

Christmas call from Vietnam heard by entire student body

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, EL TORO, Calif. — Christmas 1966 was a happier one for the John E. Fitzsimmons family of Garden Grove, Calif., through the efforts of the Military Affiliate Radio Station (MARS) N0EFJ here and Southern California Bell Telephone.

Mr. Fitzsimmons, a retired Marine Corps sergeant major and his family were reunited by phone Dec. 2 with their son, Private First Class James P. Fitzsimmons, now stationed with the first Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, in South Vietnam.

Private First Class Fitzsimmons' brother, Tim, attained the contact with his Marine brother when the Southern California Bell Telephone System offered to put through phone calls to foreign countries for any three students of Garden Grove High School. Tim, a 16-year-old Junior, wished to call his brother, stationed in Vietnam since October.

The telephone company was in a quandry. There are no commercial phone lines through to that area of the strife-torn republic. Telephone officials knowing of the "Phone Patch" system used by El Toro's HAM Radio Station, contacted Master Sergeant R. W. Steinbaugh, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the station, and set up an arrangement to make young Tim's wish come true.

At an assembly of the entire student body of Garden Grove High School, Sergeant Pat Dennis of the El Toro Radio Station contacted Vietnam for the phone conversation.

Tim, his mother and father, his older brother Mike and sister Kathy; his fiancée Christine Kimsey and close friend Pete Madau waited anxiously.

At 10:10 a.m. Dec. 2, Private First Class Fitzsimmons' ecstatic "Hi, Mom!" came through the auditorium loudspeakers. It was 2:10 a.m. Dec. 3 in Vietnam and raining hard outside the radio shack where the young Marine sat speaking to his family.

The receiver was passed around a table on the auditorium stage and each person seated was afforded the opportunity to speak to the happy Marine and wish him a very Merry Christmas.

Hometown news and sports results were relayed through joyous tears, and Mrs. Fitzsimmons called the conversation, "the best Christmas present we could ever have."

Private First Class Fitzsimmons requested that his family call the parents of several of his buddies stationed in Vietnam with him, and asked that everyone at home "not worry and stay healthy."

After hearing his father express thanks to the Marine Corps for setting up the visit, Private First Class Fitzsimmons spoke to the student body.

"America is the greatest country going," he said, "and it's up to you the young people at home to study hard and keep it that way."

Private First Class Fitzsimmons told of a great improvement in his morale upon hearing that everyone at home was all right. Goodbyes were precluded

by tearful "Merry Christmases" from everyone present, and contact with their Marine son broke off.

Ron Walters, vice-principal of Garden Grove High School said, "This heart-warming ceremony was certainly of great value to everyone concerned, and I believe that the student body benefited greatly."

Memorial Club

Marines returning to the U.S. from Vietnam are invited to make use of the facilities of the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco.

For room rates and reservations write to: Marines Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California, 94102.

Quick Butt . . .

(Continued From Page 1) moved past Windham, and cut across the narrow perimeter.

Shymansky and Burrows never saw the man until Windham's "nick of time" butt stroke dropped him, then fired automatically.

After the battle, in which no Marines or PF's were injured, the 3rd Division Marines checked the Communist's weapon. They found six magazines. The ammunition was loaded backward in two of them.

One of these was in the weapon.

Deuces old, ugly but they perform

By SSgt. Ted Scott

DA NANG—"They may be old and they may be ugly, but in November they lifted more cargo than any other Marine helicopter squadron in Vietnam."

That was the appraisal of Staff Sergeant Willis H. Kent a veteran helicopter crew chief with the CH-37C Detachment at Marble Mountain Air Facility.

Considered an expert by his flying mates, he was one of the first Marines to fly in the CH-37C "Deuce." That was 10 years ago when the Corps took its first delivery of the big bird.

Today the last of the Corps' "Deuces" are flying daily in Vietnam.

The detachment, commanded by Major John L. Nolan flies in the Da Nang/Dong Ha areas.

Last month the "Deuces" lifted approximately a million pounds of cargo. On November 28 they set a record of 102,000 lbs., an all time high even for the venerable "Deuces."

Since its size and speed makes it a desirable target for enemy gunners, the "Deuce" carries two M-60 machine guns, one mounted on each side. Their effectiveness is attested by their long-standing reputation of coming back safe and sound.

The CH-37's are destined for replacement by modern heavy-lift CH-53 'copters.

Until that day comes, the mighty "Deuces" continue to pile up hour-after-hour of service, proof that speed and beauty are a small part of efficiency.

Bemedaled Marine gives up retirement

DA NANG — The pull of the Corps was just too much for Master Gunnery Sergeant Wilmont H. Wolf, 42.

The highly decorated Marine sergeant retired a year ago with a chest full of medals and a job pushing junior-sized Leathernecks at the Marine Military Academy at Harlingen, Texas.

In August he returned to active duty and last month reported to the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, in Vietnam for duty.

"I guess I just had to see what the war in Vietnam was like," Wolf said.

Wolf earned the Navy Cross for heroism in Korea and the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart at Peleliu during World War II.

On Okinawa in 1945, he was wounded twice more for two more purple hearts.

The Korean government awarded him the Korean Wharang Medal with star for his actions

at Bunker Hill and for leading 93 combat patrols inside enemy territory.

In both World War II and Korea, Wolf served with the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Wolf capped his first 19 years of service with an assignment to the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was awarded the Joint Service Commendation medal for his performance of duty there.

Since he has been in Vietnam, Wolf said he had been shot at three times.

"The Viet Cong have made me feel right at home," he said.

Wolf is a strong advocate of the flak jacket.

"It saved my life several times in Korea," he said, "and I intend to wear it religiously here in Vietnam."

Wolf has been assigned to a staff position in the First Marine Regimental headquarters.



Christmas Worship

A tank serves as an altar at Christmas services for Marines of "A" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division. Division chaplains had special Christmas services for all Marine units in the Chu Lai Area. Chaplain R. J. Paciocco leads the men in a joyful Christmas hymn.

(Photo by Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

Chain of "metal monsters" keeps VC away from Fair

By MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—The blackness of the night was lit by a flurry of flares hanging momentarily in the sky then drifting slowly down and out.

Shadows shifted and skittered under the rocket's glare.

On the ground below an armada of amphibious tanks, their tops bristling with a porcupine-like forest of rifles and helmeted Marines waited for the signal to move out.

It was 5:30 a.m., Dec. 12, and County Fair Tank-1 had begun.

The plan was to slip an armored cordon around hamlets in the village of Hoa Thinh, conduct a census of the people and weed out the Viet Cong masquerading as farmers among the villagers.

The problem was how to keep the Viet Cong from slipping across the Cau Do river as Marines of the 2d Bn., First Marine Regiment swept down the east bank of the river.

The answer was a platoon of tractors from the 3rd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, which would form an armored chain of the metal monsters strung down the river. On top of each was a four-man team armed with machine-guns and rifles to keep the river under surveillance.

At the jump-off point the long line of tractors lumbered out to surround the village, as a necklace of Marines, Vietnamese Regulars, Regional and Popular Forces worked together to complete the sweep.

Reaching the river, the platoons of tanks assigned to the blocking force, hunched down into the quiet water and rumbled down stream to complete the cordon.

At a prearranged signal the sweep began. Loudspeakers placed strategically along the north side of the area urged the villagers to move out ahead of the Marines and meet at the "fair grounds."

As more and more people moved up to the road way paralleling the village, their number swelled.

More than 2500 funneled into the assembly point including two Viet Cong guerrillas and 21 sus-

pects.

At the end of the first day 207 people had been treated by Navy medical teams and 40 had received dental attention.

Along the riverside the Amtracs turned back boats attempting to cross, ensuring everybody was

counted by the Republic of Vietnam representatives conducting the census.

That night Marines in the tractors maintained their vigil on the river and the people returned to their hamlets, minus the Viet Cong caught in the net.

Aerology section gives pilot his weather info

CHU LAI — Personnel of the Aerology section are responsible for providing weather information for the pilots of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Members of the section utilize helium-filled balloons to determine wind direction, velocity, and cloud ceiling level at different atmospheric altitudes.

"We release four balloons a day, one every six hours," related Chief Warrant Officer Norbert B. Grabowski, Officer-In-Charge of the section.

"We know that a balloon filled with helium that has the capability for lifting 100 grams, will rise 1000 feet per minute. We utilize a stop watch to time the balloon from its release, until it disappears into the clouds. If it takes 60 seconds for it to reach the ceiling, we know the ceiling

is at 1000 feet," he added.

To determine the velocity and direction of the wind, a two-man team is used.

One man will carefully study his stop watch and tell the second man, utilizing a device known as a Theodolite, to "mark".

Immediately the information received from the device will be plotted on paper, later to be evaluated by trigonometric methods. The two-man team is able to "mark" once every 60 seconds, if existing weather conditions permit the man utilizing the Theodolite to focus on the balloon as it reaches higher altitudes.

There are numerous such weather stations throughout the Republic of Vietnam. Each gathering local weather data and transmitting it by means of a teletype to the various other stations throughout the country.



Helping hand

A Vietnamese child, a refugee from Viet Cong oppression, is helped from a truck by Army Sgt. William Hayes upon arrival at a refugee center at An Hoa, south of Da Nang. Hayes is a member of the 29th Civil Affairs Team attached to the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines. The refugees are among some 2,500 civilians evacuated from the VC controlled valley during Operation Mississippi.

(Photo by LCpl Carl D. Mincemoyer)

When war slows down there's the 'other war'

PHU BAI—When the war in the mountains and rice paddies slows down, the 3rd Marine Division continues fighting the "other war"—the war against poverty and disease—the war to educate the Vietnamese people and help them toward self-government and a better way of life.

Educating the children is one of the most important projects now under way. While Marines aren't in the teaching business, they do provide the one thing Vietnam is critically short of — classrooms.

There are 12 classrooms now under construction and others being repaired and painted. All school projects are done with approval of the provincial government, and teachers are available.

A milk and vitamin program at the schools serves a dual purpose. In addition to the health benefits it offers, many children who weren't going to school now attended classes daily.

We try harder

DONG HA — Everyone in the 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marines is wearing a campaign button these days. It says, "We Try Harder." "I wanted something to keep morale high and the troops motivated," said Lieutenant Colonel William J. Masterpool, battalion commander. "I believe the battalion is the best in Vietnam, and want to keep it that way."

The colonel sent to the U.S. for the buttons and now every Marine proudly wears one.

Ask any body in the battalion "How are you doing, Marine?" and the reply is, "we always try harder sir."

One hamlet soon will have a new marketplace as a result of the 3rd Marine Division's civic action program.

A marketplace may seem a small thing, but it serves a more important role in Vietnam than the supermarket does in the States. It is the gathering place of the hamlet; the center of much of the people's social activity.

The villagers get more than food at the marketplace. They hear news of the outside world and discuss everything from the new baby to politics.

With aid and motivation provided by Marines, Cheiu Hoi Village is launching an ambitious agricultural program. Seeds and fertilizer were furnished by CARE and by the end of the second growing season the villagers expect to have a food surplus, an important source of cash income.

The projects go on and on. Bridges, refugee villages, dispensaries and orphanages are constantly being built.

As these are self-help projects, the Marines seldom do the work. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CARE provide materials and the Marines provide some others the technical know-how and supervision.



Services in the field

Chaplain R. A. McGonigal holds divine services for members of a Combined Action Company of the 1st MP Bn., 1st Marine Division. Members of the company show include Cpl. J. F. Jennings (standing guard); LCpls. T. L. Barton, G. W. Harrison, PFC R. M. Farewell, N. Mynka, D. H. Wohllaib; and Sgt. J. D. Coldey.

(Photo by CWO G. W. Cornuet)

Fastest guns in the north

By LCpl. Tom Judge

DONG HA — "Fastest guns in the north" is the proud title members of the 81mm Mortar Platoon, 3rd Battalion, Third Marines, claim for themselves.

My men can fire two 'iron crosses' and have the tenth shell in the air before the first one hits the deck," Master Sergeant R.A. Holden proudly states.

The "iron cross" is a five shell pattern wherein the first shell forms the center and the other four form the points of the cross. "The pattern covers a 90 meter area very effectively," says Holden, a 25-year Marine veteran.

The morale of the unit is high — 11 out of 21 eligible men extended their overseas tours.

Private First Class Thurman B. Yates gunner in the first section, feels some of the reasons are good living conditions, action and competition.

"When they yell, we shell," he quoted one of the sayings of the platoon.

Private First Class Harold L. Montepetit also enjoyed the amount of action. He said, "There's a lot of competition to see who's the fastest gun — who gets set up fastest, gets the most rounds out, and most important — on target."

Six of the eight guns of the platoon have been set up at the battalion command post approximately six weeks. In that time they have fired more than 9,000 rounds on nearly 1700 fire missions ranging from support to harassing and interdiction fire.

'Fair' Nets 6

CHU LAI — Elements of the 2nd Battalion Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, held a County Fair operation in the hamlet of Tien Dao (1), south of Chu Lai Dec. 9.

While Marines cleared and secured the area, Vietnamese Popular Forces and civil officials searched the hamlet for Viet Cong.

Six suspects were apprehended.

At the same time, Navy corpsmen from E Company, Seventh Marines, established an aid station and treated villagers.

When the sick were taken care of the villagers gathered around and ate a Marine-prepared meal.

Captain James J. Dorsey, civil affairs officer for the battalion, talked to the group of villagers, along with a Vietnamese civil official.

Big hunter

DONG HA — A lance corporal of Marine Aircraft Group-16 doesn't think it's necessary to make a better mouse trap because he is quite satisfied with the present one.

For three consecutive days Lance Corporal Hiram A. Pabon, heard mice scampering across the floor of his hut in Dong Ha. He finally decided to test his kill as a mouse catcher with the intended victims being his two enemies which he named "Mickey" and "Mighty" Mouse.

He waited for an additional five days with his traps set along the baseboard of his hut. Then, early one morning, he shattered the ears of the other members of his hut with a triumphant cry of "I got him! I got Mickey!"

It didn't take "Mighty" long to follow suit.



LIGHT—Flares from a Marine Corps "candle" aircraft illuminate an area near Da Nang suspected of containing Viet Cong infiltrators. Each flare gives off two million candle-watts of illumination for three minutes. (Photo by Sgt. R. L. Tudor)

"Thanks, candle...good job...you may go home now"

By Sgt. R. L. Tudor

DA NANG—Night duty in many units of the First Marine Aircraft Wing means standing watch at a regular working area. For the stand-by watch of Marine Wing Support Group-17 it means in or near a C-117 transport aircraft.

The stand-by watch is divided into four duty sections from Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-17. Officer and enlisted personnel of the squadron are assigned a duty section and regularly work at another job. The hours of their stand-by tour are from dusk till dawn.

The stand-by watch consists of 10 men; four crew members including pilot, co-pilot, mechanic, crew chief, and six members of a flare team, consisting of an armorer, two handlers, stringer, radio intercom man and a kicker.

Typical of a mission is one the watch was called upon to perform in support of an operation north of Phu Bai.

At 1:30 a.m. the stand-by watch received their designated call sign. A forward air controller (FAC) with a Marine ground unit requested a flare drop.

Within minutes after the call and following a briefing on this mission by the pilot, Major Richard Burnett the C-117 of MWSG-17 prepared to take off.

The plane's wheels hardly left the ground when the armorer, Lance Corporal Raul Garcia-Roman began setting the fuzes on each MK 24 Model 3 Aircraft Parachute Flare. Approximate distance of fall from launch to chute suspension and altitude of burning is controlled by the fuze setting. An ignition fuze provides a time delay between chute opening and flare ignition. This may be controlled to ignite at an altitude of 5000 to 300 feet and will burn for a period of three minutes.

Once the plane was over the target area, Sergeant Jack Haydock the number one handler, lifted the 27 lb. flare from its cargo rack, handed the flare lanyard to the "stringer" and the flare to the "kicker."

Lance Corporal Robert Lamonda the stringer, hooked the lanyard to a static line and secured it.

The kicker, Lance Corporal Ray Hubbard removed a cotter pin which prevents any accidental pull of the lanyard. The removal of the pin is the last step in pre-launch procedure.

Upon receiving word from the pilot when and how many to drop, the intercom man, Corporal Louis Hanes gave the command to the kicker, who lifted and kicked the flare out the plane hatch. The lanyard attached to the static

line pulls and ignites the fuze. Seconds later the ground below has lit up like Hollywood on Academy Award night. Each flare gives off two million candle-watts of illumination.

The FAC below reported on the first illumination... "very good, very good, we can see them, repeat the pass, repeat the pass." From above flashes of small arms fire could be seen. The C-117 repeated its drops and the ground unit beat off the Viet Cong charge.

The next day these men were back at their regular jobs. Maj. Burnett is the Executive Officer of H&MS-17. LCpl. Garcia-Roman is an aviation ordnance man, Sgt. Haydock and GySgt. Breault are helicopter mechanics. LCpls. La-

monda and Hubbard are aviation radio operators and Cpl. Hanes is an avionics electronics technician.

Marine Santa

DA NANG — More than 100 Vietnamese youngsters got a taste of an American Christmas celebration Dec. 18, at a party co-hosted by U.S. Marines and the United Service Organization (USO).

Following a candy hunt, movies, and refreshments, each of the children met old St. Nick himself.

The candy hunt provided a little unscheduled excitement when the children, misinterpreting the instructions, began to disassemble the Christmas tree, collecting ornaments instead of candy. Village elders restored order.

Santa, in the person of Sergeant Dewey Birnell of Force Logistic Support Group "A", distributed Christmas stockings, dolls, toy trumpets and other assorted gifts.

Marilyn Bassford executive director of the Hill 327 USO Club, where the party was held, acted as hostess.

Headquarters Bn., 1st Marine Division, was co-host. "We invited the children from Phouc Thuong, our civic action hamlet," explained Capt. B. C. Henry, battalion civil affairs officer, "and the USO provided the party."

Not bored anymore

By GySgt. Jack Butts

PHU BAI — It was the fourth reconnaissance patrol for Private First Class Roger Rook, and he was getting a little bored. No enemy contact on the other three, and none so far on this one.

That situation changed in a hurry.

The nine-man team was moving down a stream bed when Sergeant Albert W. Bach, spun to the right and fired, killing a Viet Cong creeping through the brush. Rook jumped into action. He ran at the dead VC, spotted three others thrashing through the undergrowth, and fired several bursts with his automatic rifle, killing all three.

As Rook and Bach went to search the bodies for documents, another VC was spotted. Rook winged this one in the arm, and took him prisoner.

The patrol continued to the stream and point men Lance Corporals Barton K. Froning and Dwane D. Westfall set up across a bridge. Another VC came down the trail and was killed, making five for the action.

Rook said, "I guess that makes up for the other patrols — in spades." He is a native of Canterbury, England, and has lived in the states only one year.

No Marines were injured in the action.

A proud son

DA NANG — A second grader's pride in his Marine dad serving in Vietnam netted his father 31 letters from the boy's classmates.

Sergeant Reginald E. Butler, a cook with Marine Aircraft Group-11, received the letters in a package accompanied by a note from the teacher.



On the move

A patrol from 3d Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division, crosses a muddy rice paddy dike several miles northwest of Chu Lai during a downed aircraft security operation. Marines of 3d Bn. protected a downed helicopter and evacuated 60 Vietnamese refugees during the operation.

(Photo by Sgt. Garry D. Gaspard)



Hannukah candles

Chaplain David B. Saltzman lights Hannukah candles at the Hannukah celebrations held at the Hill 327 USO. Looking on are Seabee Stuart C. Simmons and PFC Les Kushner.

3d Tanks make "Fair" debut

By Cpl. William L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The 3rd Tank Battalion 1st Marine Division, made its debut on the county fair circuit Dec. 12, with a three-day operation that netted five Viet Cong.

Two companies of First Regiment Marines, aided by Vietnamese regulars, Regional and Popular Forces swept through six hamlets south of Da Nang, searching out communist insurgents.

Some 4,700 persons were funneled through collection points during the operation.

After their identification cards were chocked, the villagers were given an opportunity to obtain medical attention, then were fed "C" rations.

At the end of the three days, five confirmed Viet Cong had been found, and 126 more suspects were still being checked.

Medical teams from 3rd Tanks, 3rd Anti-Tanks, 1st Tanks, 1st Amphibian Tractors, and 7th and 3rd Motor Transport Bns. treated more than 900 persons for ailments ranging from headaches to tuberculosis.

One corpsman, Hospitalman Third Class Albert S. Gesh, performed an extra service during the sweep of Hoa Thinh village on the first day of the operation—he delivered a baby.

"We were sweeping through the village," the corpsman related, "when a Vietnamese soldier came up saying something about a baby.

"I went with him to his hut, and found his wife was in the process of having a child. I just

helped with the delivery, then re-joined the platoon."

Dual change

CHU LAI — Two Marine Air Group-12 unit commanders were involved in a dual change of command ceremony here, Dec. 5.

Lieutenant Colonel Roger A. Morris, former Commanding Officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-12 assumed command of Marine Air Attack Squadron-311, replacing Lieutenant Colonel Paul G. McMahon, who took reins of H&MS-12. Colonel McMahon has been in Vietnam since and has commanded VMA-311 since May.

Marines uncovered small amounts of automatic weapons ammunition, and destroyed one tunnel during their search of the area.

The operation, the battalion's first county fair, took place southwest of Da Nang, a short distance from the 3rd Tank Bn. command post.

"In addition to sorting out the VC, the operation was intended to make our military presence credible within our area of responsibility," explained Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Corson commanding officer of 3rd Tanks. "And from that aspect, the county fair was a definite success."



77 Sunset Strip

LCpl. Albert Dilello (left) helps Sgt. John Hollis put the finishing touches on the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163 paraloft, at "77 Sunset Strip", Phu Bai, South Vietnam.

(Photo by Cpl. T. E. Campau)

Short Rounds

More smokes

Marines will find a greater variety of cigarettes in their combat rations.

The Defense Supply Agency said a new competitive bid system within four categories—king size, filter, regular, and menthol filter—now makes more brands eligible for purchase.

Formerly, a brand or type had to constitute 10 per cent or more of overseas post exchange cigarette sales to be eligible for combat ration purchases.

DSA also said the new procurement system would save the government money in providing the four-to-a-pack combat cigarette packages.

Travel forms

Military personnel traveling by commercial airlines at reduced fares on leave or liberty must now submit to the airline a new Department of Defense form along with their orders.

The form is DD Form 1580 and is intended to aid ticket clerks understand the various military orders, type of leave and amount of discount. Military personnel will need at least five copies of the new form.

DOD officials stressed it will be up to the individual man in uniform to obtain the forms.

Officials also pointed out that the form is not a substitute for official orders authorizing the various forms of leaves. Forms are not required for commercial rail or bus travel.

Savings up

Total money deposited in the new overseas military banking program has increased from \$4,854,000 to \$15,506,000.

Servicemen participating in October number 45,357 compared to 20,342 in September, first month of operation for the program that pays 10 per cent interest compounded quarterly.

The "Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program" also shows 11,510 officers deposited \$7,078,000 by the end of October.

A total of 33,847 enlisted personnel deposited \$8,428,000 during the same period.

Bonds up

The Savings Bond program is closing out its 25th anniversary year with an all-time high of \$42.3 billion in Series E bonds.

Series E Bonds started in May 1941 when the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt sold the first bond.

Today's growth of Series E bonds together with \$7.8 billion in Series H bonds represents \$50.1 billion invested in this country by Americans, including many members of the Armed Forces.

November sales totaled \$368 million. Minus redemptions, net increase for month of \$54 million.

Right spirit

DONG HA — Christmas trees, blinking lights, holly wreaths and Santa Claus have become part of Fourth Marine Regiment life here.

Marines in the area refuse to have their Christmas spirit dampened by separation from home, lack of a white Christmas, or the monsoon rains that have drenched them for weeks.

At the beginning of December, miniature, gaily-decorated trees began appearing in Marine's huts.

A majority of them have the traditional string of multi-colored electric bulbs around them. Some are decorated with different colored pieces of paper.

The glow of lighted Christmas trees and the sound of Christmas

music sort of makes it feel like home.

One young 3rd Division Marine, unable to get a miniature tree, bought wrapping paper with Christmas designs on it and hung it in his tent.

New style

DA NANG — Hospital Corpsman 3rd class, Albert S. Gesh, and Hospitalman, Micheal F. Smith, wear, instead of carry, their medical kits when they go on operations.

The two corpsmen from "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, designed a multi-pocketed jacket that fits over their flak vest. It replaces the medical kit that is carried over the shoulder.

Taking used canvas, heavy duty zippers, and a few yards of nylon thread, they created the vest in their spare time.

"The vest allows us to carry all the medical supplies and instruments we need to provide first aid to Marines. What's more it distributes the weight evenly around our shoulders," Gash said.

"Viet Cong snipers have a rough time spotting us because the medical kit isn't hanging on our side to give us away," Smith replied.

The "Doc's" are trying out new ideas constantly. "When we are working with Marines we have to be ready for anything," they both replied in unison.

Awards

CHU LAI — Major Peter E. Hilgartner, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, presented 13 awards and decorations to members of his command during formal ceremonies here Dec. 12.

In all, the major presented one Bronze Star Medal and 12 Purple Heart Medals.

Private First Class William Bilecki was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement while serving as a radio operator with Company "A" during Operation Colorado.

Major Hilgartner presented Purple Heart Medals to: First Lieutenant Jerome H. George, Second Lieutenant Jimmie L. Adkins, Lance Corporals Julio Butler Jr., Donald B. Kingstad, Leonard V. Peterson, Leo C. Stewart and Jack E. Wilds.

Purple Heart Medals were also presented to Privates First Class Spencer H. Cladwell, Raymond Compton, Robert J. Gildow, William H. Smotherman and Carl E. Wixon.

Dispensary

DA NANG — An estimated 500 patients a week are expected to receive treatment at the new Son Thuy dispensary, according to volunteer corpsmen from MAG-16.

Built and supported through the MAG-16 Civic Action program, it is located in Son Thuy, a Vietnamese village five miles southeast of Da Nang. Marines donated wood, tin, and nails for construction of the dispensary which has four part-time doctors, one dentist, and three corpsmen.

Two weeks ago Vietnamese villagers aided a group of MAG-16 volunteers in painting the building.

"To help people help themselves, is the primary goal of the program," stated Hospitalman Thomas E. Eagles, a MAG-16 corpsman and Vietnamese interpreter.

Despite frequent harassment from Viet Cong, the people make numerous trips to the dispensary, "displaying confidence in the MAG-16 volunteer team," added Eagles.

Smile specialist

CHU LAI—Sergeant Charles O. Gerrish specializes in bringing big smiles and grins to the faces of many of An Hoa's needy youngsters.

The Marine Air Base Squadron-36 Leatherneck has the help of all the members of his church back in Southern California with his project.

"Members of my church, the Laguna Hills, Calif., Presbyterian, are continuously air mailing packages to me to pass out to the needy families in An Hoa.

"During the past two months they have mailed 17 large boxes. So far I have received 11 and have already distributed the contents to the kids," explained the air traffic controller.

According to the sergeant, the packages contain everything from soup to nuts.

"There is always a lot of candy and clothes and such things as canned goods, tooth brushes and school supplies," he said.



BAC-SY—An American 'bac-sy' (doctor) Navy Lt. J. L. Babcock treats 74 year old Le Khong for tuberculosis while the old man's friends look on.

(PHOTO BY: Sgt. Rich Grosco)

One patient recruits 20 more for bac-sy

DA NANG—For seven years, 74 year old Le Khong suffered from tuberculosis. Then, last summer, the American 'bac-sy' (doctor) visited the village of Son Thuy and Le Khong's life changed.

Navy doctors and hospital corpsmen from Marine Aircraft Group 16 entered the small Vietnamese village, four miles south of Da Nang, in June, 1966. They set up a field dispensary and began holding a semi-weekly sick call for the villagers who had no doctor of their own.

Le Khong attended the sick call in July and told the doctors of the illness which had plagued him for years. They diagnosed his symptoms and sent him to a nearby hospital for x-rays. The x-rays confirmed that he had tuberculosis.

The doctor prescribed medicine and weekly check-ups and Le Khong claimed that he felt better. He was so impressed that he recruited several of his neighbors who had tuberculosis.

As the old men responded to treatment, they brought more friends until the group tubercular patients now includes more than 20 men and women. Each time the trucks from MAG-16 pull into Son Thuy, Le Khong and his friends are waiting to see the bac-sy.

Alert observer spots VC 'cattle herders'

By: Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI — Four Viet Cong were killed and 15 suspects captured Dec. 16 when a Marine aerial observer spotted them setting up an ambush against ground troops 15 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

First Lieutenant William A. Berry, an aerial observer with the 1st Marine Division, was reconnoitering the area just ahead of a company from the Seventh Marine Regiment.

"We were flying east of the Song Vau River," Berry said later. "From my position behind the pilot I spotted about 15 cattle with a like number of people. Suspicious, because it only takes three or four to handle that many cattle, we checked and after the third pass, 20 Viet Cong suddenly broke into a run away from us and headed for a tree line that bordered the river."

"We confirmed they were definitely Viet Cong when they started shooting at us."

Berry radioed the company — still about 800 meters away — and informed them of the find, promising to keep the VC busy until Marines could arrive.

"They sure got there fast," Berry said.

"They were a good bunch. They swept right through the area."

Four of the VC were killed and 15 suspects were captured hiding in holes.

"This is the most rewarding flight I've had in Vietnam," Berry said. He has been here five months.

"We love to work with these guys on the ground and when we can give them a good target. It makes our job mean a lot more than I can put into words," Berry concluded.

The plane was piloted by First Lieutenant Russ Williamson.

Battalion transforms hamlet into laboratory for capitalism

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The lack of money, one Marine battalion commander believes, can be a stumbling block in the Vietnamese fight for freedom.

As Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Corson, commanding officer of 3rd Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, sees it, the introduction of capitalism is one means of combating communism here.

Toward that end, his battalion had made the hamlet of Phong Bac, a few miles south of Da Nang, what the colonel calls a "laboratory for capitalism."

Its long-range goal is to provide some measure of economic self sufficiency for the 1,000 families in the hamlet.

The unit's first effort was a venture into the hamlet's fishing operations.

The battalion civil affairs section learned that four fishermen working out of the village were rather unsuccessful in catching fish. As a result, they were forced to charge higher prices for the fish than most of the villagers could afford.

Now, Marine civic action team members accompany the fishermen, and use explosives to stun the fish.

The boats and nets are rented from the fishermen, so that they are guaranteed a stable income.

The fish are sold at the hamlet market at a price all can afford. Thus, protein and variety are introduced into the villagers' diet.

Despite the low price charged for the fish, the operation has been showing a steady profit.

The profits go into a community fund, administered by the village chief, Nguyen Duong. Nearly 5,000 piasters are already in the fund, which will be used to start additional self-help projects.

"And the cost to the Marine Corps has been a few pounds of demolitions which would have been destroyed anyway due to age," explained Staff Sergeant J. J. Biedrzycki, the battalion's civil affairs NCO.

Another recent project was the building of a central market place for the hamlet. Under Marine direction, villagers cleared the area and erected 11 stalls to house businesses.

"Our aim," said SSgt. Biedrzycki, "is to give the hamlet a social and economic center. The more the people unite and think of themselves as a village instead of individuals, the closer they are to recognizing the authority of the hamlet chief, district leaders, and ultimately, the Government of Vietnam."

"So far," he says, "we've gone a long way toward establishing a rapport with the people. They no longer believe VC propaganda about Marines."

The hamlet chief, ignoring Viet Cong threats, has been a leader in his own right. When the VC retaliated for an extremely high turnout in the September elections by blowing up the Phong Bac school, the villagers, under his direction, began to rebuild the school the next morning.

It is that kind of unity and initiative that the battalion seeks among the people of the hamlet.

"And one way to unite the people," maintains Corson, "is through capitalism. Now that we have the community fund started, people may begin to think in terms of 'How can we make more money?' And that's a step in the right direction."

"Vietnamese, like anyone else, are acquisitive," the colonel believes. "It is just that they never have had the opportunity to acquire anything. We are trying to provide the catalyst to get things started."

"Capitalism," he says, "means freedom—the freedom to seek a profit. If it succeeds, democratic politics may follow. The democracy that results may not be

the same as in America, but it will be a form of democracy, and that's all we can ask."

"The only hope of these people

in the past was for a fairly good harvest. As our program continues, we hope it will lead to economic self-sufficiency."

Operation Trinidad ends with 33 kills

By LCpl. Lowell L. Carson

DA NANG — A Viet Cong ambush and two downed helicopters were the spark that ignited Operation Trinidad II Dec. 8, resulting in 33 VC kills and 27 captured.

Among the VC killed in the operation which ended Dec. 11, was a Viet Cong suicide sapper complete with a book on how to booby trap everything from a VC flag to a tank. A sapper is a booby trap expert.

Trinidad II began after a unit of the 1st Marine Regiment came under heavy and accurate sniper fire.

The Marines drove off the attackers.

The next day, according to the Marine company commander, Captain Marshall N. Carter, am-

phibious tractors were ambushed in the same area.

The Marines suffered casualties and when the medical evacuation helicopter came in, it was shot down.

Throwing a net around the downed copter, Marines waited through the night for a repair helicopter.

As the maintenance helicopter came in and landed the Viet Cong attacked again and the second helicopter went up in flames.

Operation Trinidad II had begun.

In a series of swift moves, helicopter-borne troops surrounded the VC. Tightening the ring, Viet Cong were flushed from their positions and compressed into two pockets.

ARVN soldier knows who his friends are

By: LCpl. Guy E. Cornwell

DA NANG — Private Nguyen Van Binh knows now that he has real friends among the U.S. Marines who work with him.

The Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldier, is a member of a combined action company (CAC) with the 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Marines and Vietnamese soldiers were returning to their headquarters in a Vietnamese village when Binh was bitten by a poisonous viper.

It was nearly dark when his comrades got him to the CAC headquarters in the hamlet. His arm was swollen to nearly twice

its normal size.

"We knew he must be taken to a battalion aid station immediately," said Lance Corporal Ed E. Moro.

A patrol composed of three Marines and two ARVN soldiers set out to take the private to the battalion command post.

It was a moonless night, and the territory between CAC headquarters and the battalion command post was infested with Viet Cong.

They made it without any enemy contact and Binh's infected arm was treated.

The CAC Marines will receive no medals for their deed. And they expect none.

Sea Knight's nasty sting

DA NANG — Three Viet Cong south of Chu Lai learned to their dismay that the Marine CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopter carries a nasty sting as well as a lot of cargo.

They made the mistake of firing on a low-flying "Sea Knight" which was ferrying Korean Marines from one hilltop to another.

The chopper's crew chief, Sergeant Robert Truelove grabbed a .50 caliber gun and answered the enemy's fire.

Convinced they had stirred a hornet's nest, the camouflaged Viet Cong lost all taste for battle.

A climbing right-hand turn kept the fleeing Viet Cong in full view as Truelove poured it on.

Later the sergeant was reluctant to claim kills for his part in the short but furious fight. However, when the CH-46 returned over the area 10-minutes later, it was met by total silence from the ground.

Raid

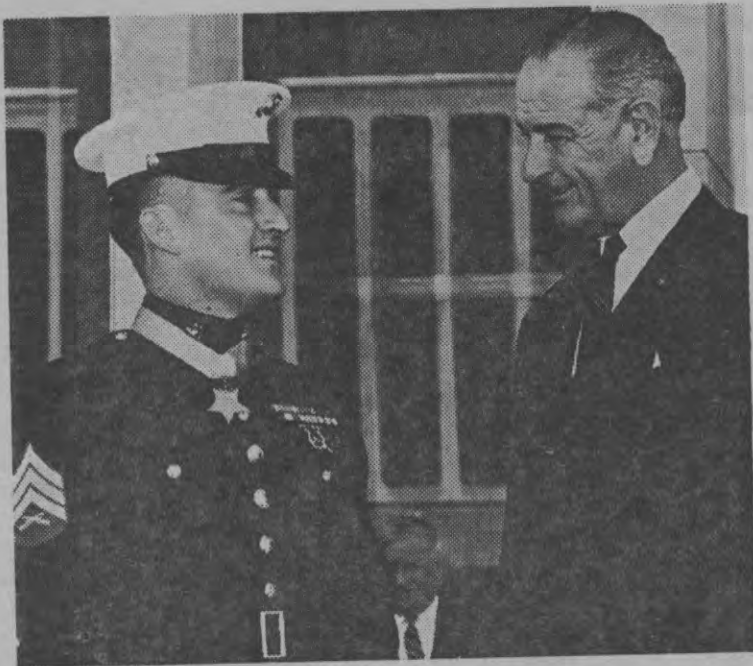
CHU LAI—Marines of the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, raided and seized a Viet Cong psychological warfare training center northwest of Chu Lai, Dec. 2.

Using information furnished by a defector, the Marines moved into a Viet Cong area in search of the camp. Sniper fire gave the communists' position away.

The battalion advanced toward the snipers and after pushing them out, discovered the indoctrination and training center, complete with billeting area and classrooms.

They also found 5,000 anti-American leaflets and pamphlets, and mixed articles of clothing and supplies.

During the operation the battalion killed thirteen Viet Cong, captured one and seized eleven weapons.



Medal of Honor

President Lyndon B. Johnson and Sgt. Robert E. O'Malley, first Marine to receive a Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam, chat at Austin, Texas after the medal presentation.

'Whispering Pines' dispensary finished

CHU LAI — The "Whispering Pines" Medical Dispensary and Dental Clinic of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36 at Ky Ha, has taken on a new look.

The medical staff and personnel of Marine Air Base Squadron-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, have renovated the buildings housing the group's medical facilities.

Construction of the new dispensary was officially completed Dec. 12, when Brigadier General Robert G. Owens, assistant wing commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, presented a dedication plaque to the MAG-36 Group Medical Officer, Navy Lieutenant Joseph H. Patterson.

The new T-shaped dispensary has wings for sickbay calls and a retention ward for patients who need additional medical attention, but do not require hospitalization.

Plans for modernizing the dispensary began last October. What had previously been the MAG-36 messhall, and later group headquarters, needed improvements to facilitate the handling of more than 1,400 out-patient calls per month.

Bird dog

PHU BAI — Captain Myron J. Johnson of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-16, Marine Aircraft Group-16, flies a Marine observation plane, the small single engine O1C "Bird Dog."

"I like my job so well that after spending a tour here in Vietnam as a pilot with a jet squadron, I extended six months to fly the small forward air control planes," said Capt. Johnson.

Johnson explained that he and his plane have three missions, controlling fixed wing aircraft on strikes, visual reconnaissance, and artillery observation.

"On most missions I carry an observer with me who's job is spotting enemy activity," said the Indiana Marine.

The Marine forward air control pilot said, "A lot of our time is taken up with looking for targets of opportunity." He added that when anything is seen and confirmed as an enemy target some action is taken, either air or artillery.

"The enemy has come to know that the O1C can bring a vast array of weapons to bear against them," Capt. Johnson concluded.

8 SEA TIGER

The dispensary also provides corpsmen for medical evacuation missions with the group's helicopter squadron, and the sea air rescue team of MAG-12 at Chu Lai.

Dispensary personnel also make weekly trips to the island of Li Son, approximately 15 miles off the coast of Vietnam, in keeping with the U.S. forces' Medical Civil Action Program (MED-CAP).

Huge gift

DONG HA — The Marines at Marine Aircraft Group-16 forward Battalion-7 and members of the in advance in the form of a huge "package".

The 40x100 feet present was gift wrapped. Unlike most presents, however, this one was wrapped on the inside with a multitude of Christmas decorations.

Since "the best way to a man's heart is through his stomach" the gift was appropriate since it is a new mess hall that will also be used as a movie theater and a stage area.

Built by Mobile Construction Battalion-7 and members of the utilities section, the structure was started in November and completed in time for the first steak dinner Dec. 10.

Previously three 16x32 feet structures housed the kitchen area, serving lines and a few tables. Now the new building with its 16 leather top tables, can accommodate the 700 Marines fed there.

Facilities and equipment have been added to ease the workload of the cooks and mess men as well as add to the pleasure of the meals. An ice machine, capable of producing 300 pounds of ice in 24 hours, stainless steel work tables and steam lines are among the list of added extras.

Staff Sergeant James K. Osborne, the mess sergeant, has given the structure a holiday atmosphere by decorating the walls with a Christmas Motif. The ceiling is lined with white and red bells, and three decorated five-foot stainless steel trees adorn the center of the mess-hall.

All of the decorating was in preparation for the grand Christmas meal planned for MAG-16 Marines.

The empty trays and full stomachs of the Marines at MAG-16 attest to the fact that it's a pleasure eating there.

Recon Corpsman:

He's called "Mr. Everything"

By GySgt Jack Butts

PHU BAI—They call him "Mr. Everything"—and with good reason. He dives both "hard hat" and SCUBA; He's a demolitions expert, a parachutist, and an assistant patrol leader. But first of all Lowell E. Burwell is a hospital corpsman who's never lost a patient.

The latter can be attributed both to his skill as a corpsman and as an assistant patrol leader with the 3rd Force Reconnaissance Co. He's been second in command to Staff Sergeant Librado L. Flores for the past five months with a seven-man team that has piled up an impressive record.

The unit has made 30 patrols in the seven months the company has been in country. Although they have been in some of the hottest action imaginable (heavy contact with strong enemy forces on eight straight patrols) they have had but one casualty. The man was back with the team within two weeks after suffering shrapnel wounds on Operation Hastings.

Burwell has made them all—the only man in the unit to do so. Flores was out for 10 days with a mild case of malaria, so the "Doc" became team leader for two patrols.

"It's his maturity and professional ability that makes him a natural leader," says Flores. "We have some young fellows in the unit that are terrific men, but 'Doc' is the best."

The quality of men is indicated by the figures for the team's five "toughest" patrols. They killed 51 enemy soldiers with their own small arms fire, and called in artillery and air strikes which accounted for another 304 enemy kills by body count. The actual numbers of enemy troops killed and damage caused as a direct result of the team's action, probably is greater. Inaccessible terrain many times prevents a better accounting.

The patrols normally last four or five days, and take place in all kinds of terrain and weather. "This means we have to have a real strong number two man in case something happens to me," said Flores. "It gives me much more confidence knowing the team will be in Doc's hands."

Burwell—one of the few corpsmen with Force Reconnaissance Units—has been trained in every phase of reconnaissance work.

He's been through mountain leadership training, jungle warfare school, and escape and evasion school and three other Marine Corps schools dedicated to infantry training.

This is in addition to the Navy's underwater demolitions training, field corpsman, diving medicine and "hard hat" diving schools. He is one of only 20 Navy men qualified as a special operation technician, and the first "hard hat" Navy diver to pull duty with the Marines. He's been with the Marine units for five of his seven years in service.

Of the 30 patrols the "Doc" has been on, actually physical contact has been made on 25. In only one case has the team missed sighting the enemy. He's adept at using a map and compass and capable of calling in artillery and air fire on troop concentrations, as is every member of the team.

Flores see that all of his men gain confidence and experience by constantly shifting the responsibility for calling in these support weapons.

Despite all his infantry specialist training, Burwell is still primarily a corpsman. He quickly earned the rank of hospital corpsman first class by knowing his business thoroughly. He seldom gets to practice because of the low casualty rate among the recon Marines. He does attend the minor ailments that are commonplace in such a strenuous profession.

Armed with a rifle as are all members of the team, the "Doc" feels the weapon serves a two-fold purpose. "First, in case we have a casualty, I'll have to de-



"Mr. EVERYTHING"—Hospital Corpsman First Class Lowell E. Burwell wears a SCUBA "wet suit" while other members of 3d Force Reconnaissance Co. show uniforms and equipment worn by recon Marines. Burwell is believed to be the only Navy corpsman who is an assistant patrol leader. (Photo By SSgt. B. G. Highland)

fend my patient. With our small patrols, we can't spare the manpower when we're under attack. Secondly, I have to defend myself. We sometimes have to put it on an every man for himself basis in the jungle, when you fight for your very life."

A prime example was the shortest patrol on record for the team. They were set down north of the "Rockpile" just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The helicopter had no sooner pulled away from the landing zone than the unit was hit from three sides by 50, and 30 caliber machinegun fire. "We spread out quickly and took the enemy under fire as best we could," said Burwell.

"Fifteen minutes later we saw it would be impossible to move from the area so we called for extraction. The helicopter pilot came back and took a hit in the tail section. It actually shot away part of the tail. But he came in anyway and we fired from doorway and window of the chopper

as we pulled out of there."

Flores, who has six children waiting for him in Jacksonville, N.C., said Burwell was magnificent during the brief but ferocious battle. "He doesn't particularly care to fight, but when he has to—he's a tiger."

"When you see Marines around you fighting for all they are worth, and they need help, you just don't have any choice. I believe my responsibility extends to seeing if I can help keep Marines from being wounded also," he said.

Whatever his reasoning, his team members are happy with the arrangement. The feeling is unanimous that two men came wrapped in one Burwell. A man that can not only help them if they are wounded, he's done quite a bit to keep them from getting hit.

Burwell has a one-month-old son he is looking forward to seeing for the first time when he gets home in May.

ARVN group entertains

DONG HA — Three hundred Fourth Regiment, 3rd Division Marines were entertained here last week by a musical group from the Army of Republic of Vietnam's 1st Division.

The group made a special trip to Dong Ha to play for the regiment in appreciation for their heroic achievements on Operations Hastings and Prairie near the Demilitarized Zone.

Lieutenant Vo The Ton, the ARVN civil affairs officer, was

the group's interpreter and addressed the Marines. He thanked them for the assistance rendered the Vietnamese people in this area by the regiment's civil affairs program.

Speaking for the ARVN division commander, he said the unit was proud to have fought alongside Marines for the past six months.

Although the musical lyrics were in Vietnamese the beat was American rock and roll.

Combined Action Companies ending Viet Cong terrorism

By 2ndLt. Richard E. Arnold

DA NANG—Two weeks ago a fireteam of U.S. Marines and 16 Vietnamese Popular Force troops ran across a half-dozen Viet Cong while patrolling the area near Hoa Lac village, seven miles north-northwest of Da Nang.

Before the fighting ended, four of the Viet Cong would no longer terrorize the people of Hoa Lac, and the Marines' concept of Combined Action Companies as an answer to the problem of continued security and pacification over lands and people recovered from VC control was again proven an effective one.

Two weeks earlier, the day after Thanksgiving, this same CAC platoon captured a group of 15 VC including a hamlet chief, political team and reconnaissance unit.

The integrated Marine-Vietnamese platoon was acting on information provided by the Hoa Lac village chief.

On that patrol the Marines and Vietnamese PF's also destroyed an extensive cave complex and captured an explosive charge, a half-dozen Chicom grenades, three more American-made grenades, a pistol, carbine, and French automatic weapon.

For the nine Marines, led by Sergeant Wilfred E. Mickie and the 40 Popular Force troops of CAC B-1-5, the actions near the Ca De River were significant small-unit victories.

For the Vietnamese people, it means much more.

It proves to the villagers, at the rice roots level, that the Vietnamese fighting man is more than a match for the Viet Cong who had until the past 18 months ruled over the rich coastal plain with an iron hand.

By January, the Marines expect

Lucky bird

DONG HA—Helicopter crewchief, Sergeant James A. Frazier stepped into danger's path last week along with his UH-34D helicopter, its crew and passengers.

The Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163 bird was carrying a five-man recon patrol toward an area just north of the Rockpile during a normal patrol insertion mission.

"We were a couple of hundred feet up, just coming into the approach to set down," said Frazier. "Automatic fire started coming at us from the front and our left rear."

"If they'd moved their aim to their right just a little, they could have really hurt us. As it was, I could see tracer rounds passing by my window, and we took a few hits."

The light helicopter immediately took evasive action and gained altitude to escape the deadly crossfire.

"Both the gunner and I were able to return fire. We sprayed the trees where they were shooting from, and the recon patrol team also got off some rounds," said Frazier.

The crewchief said the plane began "setting up vibrations like mad."

The pilot decided to fly to nearby Camp J. J. Carroll and the landing zone there, rather than Dong Ha.

"We counted about 13 holes in the chopper, most of them just behind the cabin. They knocked out our compass, and ruined one radio, but at least no one was hit," said Frazier. "We were lucky."

Job switch

Lieutenant Colonel W. L. Gore took the helm of the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, succeeding Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Gallmar, Jr. Both served in the same battalion in Korea.

Lieutenant Colonel Gallman reports to Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, LtCol. Gore's old post.

to have 10 Combined Action Companies in the field, along with 74 platoons like the one Mickie leads.

Marines assigned the duties are all volunteers, each has at least six months in country with an infantry unit. They eat, sleep, live and fight alongside Vietnamese members of the unit in the village or hamlet they defend.

In concept, the Marines reinforce the PF platoon (in Vietnam's military hierarchy, the popular force unit ranks at the bottom), and through the Leathernecks' presence and participation, strengthen the individual local soldier's own ability to guarantee security of his village area.

Mystery

DA NANG — A 23-year old Marine helicopter pilot has learned he has a lot of friends in New Orleans — friends he has never met.

Marine First Lieutenant Kerry Massari (New Orleans, La.) admits he was pleased, but mystified, when he received a large box, addressed to him from the Calvary Baptist Church of New Orleans.

Opening the box, he found a carefully packed assortment of gifts ranging from chewing gum to personal-sized sponges.

A note revealed the gifts were from the Gleaner's Class of the church's Sunday School.

The Lieutenant, who has been in Vietnam since June, immediately wrote the class, thanking them for their generosity and support.

Contents of the box were shared with his fellow UH-1E pilots.

Massari, who grew up in New Orleans, says he is stumped as to how the children got his name.

It is not a permanent program, the Marine squad will eventually return to its parent organization, but only when the PF's ability to maintain security of its area without assistance is assured.

Support of the CAC platoon by the Marines in Vietnam comes all the way down the military. The morning following the Dec. 8 fire-fight by members of CAC B-1-5, Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, commanding general of the III Marine Amphibious Force, flew to the unit to personally congratulate the Marines and Vietnamese on their "aggressive spirit and decisive professional conduct."

As members of the platoon fell out in formation, the non-uniformity of Marine intermingled with the shorter PF's wearing a multitude of headgear and uniforms was apparent. The night before, the VC would have seen no difference—they were too busy trying to escape the combined force to notice if members were wearing combat boots, black tennis shoes or shower slippers.

That they live and operate together in trust and friendship was apparent as wide grins spread across the Vietnamese soldier-citizen's faces when Gen. Walt pinned sergeant's collar insignia on Mickie's dungaree jacket signifying an on-the-spot field promotion for his unit's actions.

The general presented the PF platoon commander a token of appreciation, then told the group that the service they are doing for the people of Hoa Lac is "something that must be done in all villages in South Vietnam."

He said the Vietnamese people can look forward to having "a free country and being rid of the VC before long" if there are more CAC platoons proving themselves by doing a good job like B-1-5.



FIELD PROMOTION — Sgt. Wilfred E. Mickie is congratulated by LtGen. Lewis W. Walt, commanding general of the III Marine Amphibious Force, after the general meritoriously promoted Mickie to sergeant following actions of the Combined Action Platoon of Marine and Vietnamese forces he commands.

Downed copter rescue nets unexpected bonus

By LCpl. Phillip Hamer

CHU LAI—The evacuation of 60 Vietnamese refugees from a small valley several miles northwest of Chu Lai came as a "bonus" during a downed aircraft security operation last week.

The refugees, victims of heavy taxation and oppression by the Viet Cong, asked for resettlement in a pacified area. Marines of the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division helped the people gather their belongings and loaded them into helicopters.

Another helicopter was the focal point for the battalion's primary mission during the operation. The CH-46 "Sea Knight" lost power and crash-landed in the valley

Dec. 4, and Marines immediately set up security around it.

Drawing heavy sniper fire, the security force called for reinforcements to secure the high ground surrounding the valley. A reinforced company and the 3rd Bn., command post group arrived and set in, waiting for a "flying crane" to extract the crippled "sea Knight."

Routine patrols discouraged enemy infiltration, while combat engineers blasted an estimated quarter-mile of cave and tunnel complexes.

Patrolling Marines also encountered a number of booby-traps, and snipers fired frequently at the battalion's positions.

Extraction of the downed helicopter was accomplished without incident Dec. 12. The Marines were airlifted back to the 3rd Bn. command post area that afternoon.

One VC guerrilla was killed during the operation.

DFC

CHU LAI — Major Richard A. Kuci, executive officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross at the Marine Air Facility here, for the part he played in Operation Hastings.

As a helicopter flight leader, Maj. Kuci led numerous air strikes, medical evacuation missions and resupply drops, in support of U.S. and South Vietnamese Forces.

In addition to his recent DFC, Maj. Kuci holds the Purple Heart Medal for wounds he sustained while flying in support of Marine ground forces during Operation Texas, last March.

The major was recently awarded the Cross of Gallantry by the government of South Vietnam for flying hazardous missions during Operation Colorado. He also holds 27 awards of the Air Medal, and has been recommended for the Silver Star for his part in the recovery of a downed UH-34D helicopter, last August.



Sprucing up 'Big Iron'

Members of Alpha Battery, 1st Bn., 13th Marine Regiment, add a holiday touch to their 105mm howitzer, nicknamed "Big Iron". They are: Cpl. Fred Maples (left) and Sgt. Robert Pharr. The battery is in support of 1st Marine Division units south of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

SPORTS

Major Bowl Lineups

Here's how the major football bowl games shape up:

COTTON BOWL

At Dallas, Dec. 31

SMU (8-2)			GEORGIA (9-1)		
26 Illinois	7		20 Mississippi St.	17	
21 Navy	3		43 VMI	7	
23 Purdue	35		7 South Carolina	0	
28 Rice	24		9 Mississippi	3	
24 Texas Tech	7		6 Miami (Fla.)	7	
13 Texas	12		27 Kentucky	15	
21 Texas A&M	14		28 North Carolina	3	
0 Arkansas	22		27 Florida	10	
24 Baylor	22		21 Auburn	13	
21 TCU	0		23 Georgia Tech	14	
201	Total	146	211	Total	89

GATOR BOWL

At Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 31

TENNESSEE (7-3)			SYRACUSE (8-2)		
28 Auburn	0		12 Baylor	35	
23 Rice	3		12 UCLA	31	
3 Georgia Tech	6		28 Maryland	7	
10 Alabama	11		28 Navy	14	
29 South Carolina	17		30 Boston College	0	
38 Army	7		28 Holy Cross	6	
28 Chattanooga	10		33 Pittsburgh	7	
7 Mississippi	14		12 Penn State	10	
28 Kentucky	19		37 Florida State	21	
28 Vanderbilt	0		34 West Virginia	7	
222	Total	87	254	Total	138

SUGAR BOWL

At New Orleans, Jan. 2

ALABAMA (10-0)			NEBRASKA (9-1)		
34 Louisiana Tech	0		14 TCU	10	
17 Mississippi	7		28 Utah State	7	
26 Clemson	0		12 Iowa State	6	
11 Tennessee	10		31 Wisconsin	3	
42 Vanderbilt	6		21 Kansas State	10	
27 Mississippi St.	14		21 Colorado	19	
21 LSU	0		35 Missouri	0	
24 South Carolina	0		24 Kansas	13	
34 So. Mississippi	0		21 Oklahoma State	6	
31 Auburn	0		9 Oklahoma	10	
267	Total	37	216	Total	84

ROSE BOWL

At Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 2

SOUTHERN CAL. (7-3)			PURDUE (8-2)		
10 Texas	6		42 Ohio U.	3	
38 Wisconsin	3		14 Notre Dame	26	
21 Oregon State	0		35 SMU	23	
17 Washington	14		35 Iowa	0	
21 Stanford	7		22 Michigan	21	
30 Clemson	0		20 Michigan State	41	
7 Miami (Fla.)	10		25 Illinois	21	
35 California	9		23 Wisconsin	0	
7 UCLA	14		16 Minnesota	0	
0 Notre Dame	51		51 Indiana	6	
186	Total	114	283	Total	141

ORANGE BOWL

At Miami, Jan. 2 (Night)

FLORIDA (8-2)			GEORGIA TECH (9-1)		
43 Northwestern	7		38 Texas A&M	3	
28 Mississippi St.	7		42 Vanderbilt	0	
13 Vanderbilt	0		13 Clemson	12	
22 Florida State	19		6 Tennessee	3	
17 N. Carolina St.	10		17 Auburn	3	
28 LSU	7		35 Tulane	17	
30 Auburn	27		48 Duke	7	
10 Georgia	27		14 Virginia	13	
31 Tulane	10		21 Penn State	0	
16 Miami (Fla.)	21		14 Georgia	23	
238	Total	135	248	Total	81

JIM THORPE TROPHY VOTING—TOP 10

(points tabulated on 3-2-1 basis)

1. Bart Starr, Green Bay ... 494	6. Dick Bass, Los Angeles ... 115
2. Gale Sayers, Chicago ... 368	7. Bob Lilly, Dallas ... 93
3. Larry Wilson, St. Louis ... 205	8. Dan Reeves, Dallas ... 73
4. Leroy Kelly, Cleveland ... 202	9. Pat Studstill, Detroit ... 68
5. Don Meredith, Dallas ... 152	10. Bob Hayes, Dallas ... 59



'Tis the season

Members of H&MS-12 decorate a Christmas tree airmailed to them by Miss Lois Edmond, a 17-year-old Cherry Hill, N.J. girl (picture under tree). Trimming the tree are (left to right) LCpl. Charles T. Martin, Cpl Ronald McNamara, Cpl Robin Wicks, PFC Donald Jeans, and LCpl. Charles Workman. The packages under the tree were also sent by Miss Edmond. (Photo by Sgt. E. E. Evans)

Enemy watches for death card

By GySgt. Jack Butts

PHU BAI—An Army unit in the central highlands of Vietnam marks enemy bodies with an ace of spades to show they were killed by U.S. units in the area.

The 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company operating from division headquarters here, have gone one step further. They label about everything that North Vietnamese or Viet Cong troops can be expected to return to with the "deathcard".

"It's sort of a psychological thing," said Sergeant Thomas Nicholson. "The cards let enemy troops know we have been there, even though they had no idea we were so close."

The cards are left at enemy camp sites, way stations, on trails, on enemy bodies—in fact in any conspicuous place where the enemy will be sure to see them. One time an ace was left at an enemy cook-fire where the coals were still warm, nicely wrapped around a half-empty soy sauce bottle.

The recon Marines don't particularly care to "get lucky," the term used for making physical contact with the enemy. They are supposed to gather information about enemy movements, equipment, numbers and intelligence data of that nature.

Gunnery Sergeant Gordon B. Hopkins says the ace of spades left where the enemy can find it after completion of the mission—which many times includes calling in artillery fire or air strikes on enemy troop concentrations—is sort of a calling card. "We hope to spook them out some. That way they'll be a bit more nervous, and apt to make more mistakes."

Hopkins was heading a patrol that was a little "spooky" as he calls it in October. "We moved into an area where a VC company was thought to be operating," he said. Fortunately his four-man unit ran into only a squad of enemy soldiers, set in an ambush position.

As Hopkins puts it, "I stopped a slug with my rib cage." When the corpsman asked Hopkins how he felt, he calmly replied, "I don't know. How are you supposed to feel? I've never been shot before."

The team pulled back and called artillery come in on the well-dug-in squad. Despite the wound, Hopkins and his team didn't leave before completing the mission. They moved back to the devastated area and hung calling cards on four enemy bodies.



"DEATHCARD DEALERS"—GySgt. Gordon Hopkins (left) and Sgt. Thomas Nicholson prepare for a patrol into enemy territory. The 3d Force Reconnaissance Co., Marines leave their "trademark", the ace of spades, in Viet Cong controlled areas. (Photo By: SSgt. B. G. Highland)

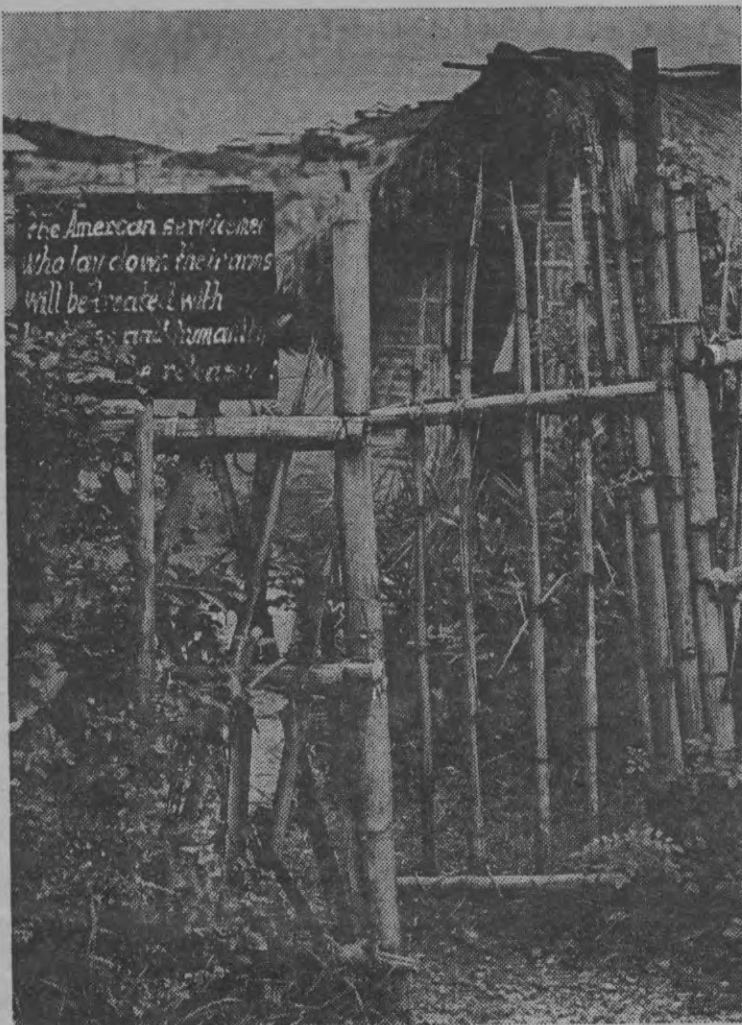
Million to one shot

PHU BAI—Five Viet Cong soldiers wandered down the winding trail, weapons slung over their shoulders. From a vantage point several hundred yards up the side of a hill, a patrol from 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, watched the casual approach.

The day before, the 3rd Marine Division team, on the lofty perch for five days called in registration rounds from the 8" inch howitzers at Phu Bai. One shell exploded on the trail leaving a gaping hole in the earth's surface.

The VC began gesturing wildly, and gathered around the edge of the crater. The patrol leader's radio crackled as he asked for an artillery mission on the registration point.

Seconds later, a round was on the way, and a million to one shot occurred. The round hit directly in the center of the crater. The five VC were blown to bits.



DEADLY SOUVENIR—The Viet Cong propaganda sign would ordinarily be an inviting souvenir, but graduates of the 3rd Engineer Bn.'s land mine warfare school know better. The sign is wired to a bomb in such a way that if it is moved an explosion will occur.

Good tasting vitamins

CHU LAI—Two members of the First Medical Battalion found many friends during Medical Civilian Affairs Program MED-CAP journey to the village of Hoa Thuan, located on the island of Ky Hoa.

Hospital Corpsmen 3rd Class John F. Chetister and hospitalman Frank J. Bonzyk were welcomed with friendly smiles as they brought much needed medical aid and supplies to the villagers. News of their arrival quickly produced a host of smiling chil-

dren.

"Medical teams are sent to villages near Chu Lai. Each is capable of caring for minor illnesses, but serious cases are taken to Chu Lai where there are better facilities," Chetister said.

"We treat as many as two thousand patients a month in our travels" Chetister stated.

"A hypodermic needle is always unpopular with the children, but those good-tasting vitamin pills seem to make them forget the needle," added Bonzyk.

Sea Tiger spotlight on:

Land mine warfare school

By GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—Take one rat trap, add a length of wire, a .30 caliber bullet, mix in a dash of oriental ingenuity, and the rat trap is capable of killing a man.

However, if the man happens to be a graduate of the 3rd Engineer Battalion's Land Mine Warfare School here, the chances are excellent that the device will not work effectively.

Established in October, the school's purpose is to familiarize Marine students with U.S. landmine warfare, military explosives, and Viet Cong mines and booby traps.

Designed primarily for Marine infantrymen and combat engineers, the school offers five courses varying from one to three days in length. The two primary courses are the "B" for engineers and the "D" for infantrymen; both last three days.

During the first hours of instruction, conventional type mine warfare is discussed. Students are shown U.S. mines and taught how and where to plant them. They also learn how to sweep and probe for mines.

They are also introduced to military explosives and are required to set off TNT and composition charges. After this course the infantryman is able to aid combat engineers when they have large tasks such as clearing a helicopter landing zone or removing obstacles from vehicle routes.

Up to this point everything has been based on conventional mine warfare and instruction has been "by the book."

From now on, it's time to throw the "book" away.

The Viet Cong use no "book" as such. They use anything that is available to put together innocent appearing devices that can maim, or kill the unwary. They use everything from coconuts to discarded C-ration cans.

The school has an extensive collection of VC mines and booby traps found before they could do any harm. Disarmed by engineers or explosive ordnance technicians, they are now used as training aids.

The rat trap mentioned earlier was fixed on the inside of a door in such a way that a "Rube Goldberg" chain of events would have caused the bullet to fire at the chest of anyone entering. A trip wire at ankle level released the

trap when touched, the forward spring of the trap drove a nail into the primer of the bullet, which was lodged in a two by four in such a way that it was aimed at the chest of an average-sized American.

A coconut becomes deadly when it is drained of fluid, which is replaced by an explosive, and the small drain hole filled by a detonating device. It is attached to a palm tree and the first person who tries to pick it is greeted by an explosion.

Other devices include "bullet traps" which are activated by the pressure of a man's foot stepping on a piece of wood placed at ground level across a trail. The step drives a bullet onto a nail that hits the primer, and, if everything works right, cause another casualty.

Students are taken to a special village constructed by the school's staff.

Chances are, unless he is an unusually apt student, the Marine will become a "casualty" at least once, either by his own or a fellow student's misstep.

Even opening a gate that leads to the trail to the village is dangerous. One booby trap in the form of a hand grenade is obvious. But when this is removed there is still another that is activated when the gate opens.

A series of punji traps are left open and in plain sight so that no one will get hurt. The sight of these devilish contraptions alone is enough to make one wary of where he steps.

Trip wires also release simple warning devices that make enough noise to let the entire neighborhood know that someone is approaching. They can also be rigged to release grenade or mine explosives that could disable up to entire squads (in the village there is just a loud "pop" as a small charge is loosed to let the student know he made a mistake).

Along the trail students pass by tunnel entrances where a VC could drop out of sight until danger passes, then pop up to shoot or throw a grenade.

A propaganda sign on an inner gate that leads to a thatched hut and typical Vietnamese farm "building" would be a fine souvenir, except whoever picks it up would become a casualty statistic—it is wired to a grenade.

Just inside the gate a short flagpole flying a North Vietnamese banner, another tempting souvenir, is also booby trapped.

Both entrances to the hut are also booby trapped. On one side a bench is set "carelessly" across the doorway. Moving it will cause a mine to go off.

At the other door there is a trip wire at ankle height attached to a "swinging deadfall," a silent and deadly device designed to impale a man on barbed, poisonous spikes.

Outside, an innocent-looking haystack proves to be hollowed out to hold from six to eight VC or many pounds of explosives or rounds of ammunition.

On the way out one has to be careful also. The bamboo pole used to hold the gate has been hollowed out and a bangalore torpedo placed inside. As the gate is pushed open, the explosive is detonated.

One trip through the "ville" is all that it takes to make a Marine aware of the danger of blithely charging through an area where VC could be. It also teaches them what to look for—anything that appears unusual or out of place.

Marines have also learned many of the signs that VC use to warn villagers of a mined or booby trapped area. These are scattered throughout the demonstration village.

Graduates of the school are better prepared to meet the unexpected welcomes planned for them by their VC adversaries, and often can teach the enemy a few tricks of their own.

Grenade in throat—

(Continued From Page 1)

ing it also," Chandler said. Chandler said he would have acted a little differently if he knew beforehand that the grenade was still in the Marine's throat.

He said he would have sought the advice of someone who knew the characteristics of the round, and approached it under a direct vision incision so that he would not have had to pop it into his fingers.

There's no doubt the operation would have been performed though, Chandler said. He stated that everyone in the room would have thought, "this Marine's got a grenade in his neck and we'd better get it out."

"After all", he said, "there's no one to pass the buck to."

X-rays taken just prior to the operation showed an opaque object below the Marine's jaw, but because of other faults in the hastily produced picture, Chandler believed the round object was something on the field stretcher the Marine was medically evacuated on.

Ironically, the wound made by the grenade is expected to give

doctors less trouble than another which broke the Marine's leg.

From notes the Marine writes to his doctor following the operation, Chandler said he "would bet, in time to come, if anyone follows through on this fellow, you'll find he's an outstanding citizen."

One note asked when the Marine would be well enough to fight again.

New dental clinic

DA NANG — The new III MAF Dental Clinic opened its doors Dec. 14 and welcomed all "tooth-aches and pains to enter and be healed."

Lieutenant General L. W. Walt, CG, III MAF was the first patient of Lieutenant Commander Philip Rochford and his assistant Dental Technician Barney Clark.

Sick call will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. and 1 to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Other hours are by appointment; emergencies will be taken at any time.



Merry Christmas

Linda Woldron (right) and Vicky Lye, American Red Cross workers, present two men of MAG-36 with Christmas gift packages. The packages were donated by a Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross. It was the Red Cross goal to have enough packages for every serviceman in South Vietnam. (Photo by LCpl. Roger Van Druff)

Christmas letters from Congress

Lieutenant General L. W. Walt, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, has received many letters from congressmen and senators who would like to express their Christmas greeting to servicemen in Vietnam. Due to space limitations, the SEA TIGER could not print all of them, but we feel this one conveys the greetings of all who have written:

To our servicemen in Vietnam:

I would like to join with the citizens of the 38th District and all of California in expressing our thanks and appreciation for your work in Vietnam.

In time of crisis each generation of America is called upon for extraordinary sacrifices. Our generation is no different. Because the battlefield is far away and the battlelines vague does not diminish the importance of your efforts.

Thomas Jefferson who also fought in a war that had many dissident voices said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Those words are no less true today than they were then.

You men are our representatives in this time and place in history. But those of us who must remain here are deeply moved and appreciative of your sacrifices.

Again my sincere best wishes and prayers for a safe return.

Sincerely,

JOHN V. TUNNEY
Member of Congress



Chief of Staff visits

LtGen. Leonard F. Chapman, Marine Corps Chief of Staff, is briefed by Le Kin Bat, village chief of Thuy Phu and Sgt. Calvin Brown, team leader of CAC-3. The general visited 3dMarDiv activities and units here at Phu Bai, and at Dong Ha near the DMZ. (Photo by SSgt. B. G. Highland)

Arizona vacation

DA NANG—Two Marines from the 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, spent a sunny seven day, cost-free vacation at the Camelback Inn outside of Phoenix, Ariz.

Sergeant Gregory S. Dixon and Corporal Leo W. Dupuis were first told of their free trip last month after they were asked if they would like a stop-over in Phoenix before going home.

"We couldn't understand what was going on at first," said the two Marines, "and after we got the full story we still couldn't believe it was going to happen."

"Why would anyone want to pay my way for a week's vacation?" asked Dixon. "I don't even know anyone in the Phoenix area."

After seeing the brochure which the Camelback sent along, they didn't take long to agree it was the thing to do.

It was the first trip to Arizona for both Marines. The first thing both Leathernecks did was to send home for their dress uniforms.

Their only comment, "We gotta look our best, don't we?"

The two spent a week at the Inn beginning Nov. 10, along with 58 other Marines returning from Vietnam.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM:

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

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A KANSAS STATE COLLEGE STUDENT, Cheryl Dowell, 19, a sophomore from Parsons, Kan., adds her name to the 50-foot Christmas card to be sent by the students to Marines in Vietnam. Also waiting to add his name to the card is Dennis Goddard, a 24-year-old junior from Alba, Mo.

Student's brother killed here

Kansas college students back Marines in Vietnam

PITTSBURG, Kansas—The group of Kansas State College students shaded their eyes from the strong rays of sunlight pouring through the windows of the cafeteria in the Student Union Building as they paused to look at the display in a glass case.

Moving over to a nearby table at which three neatly-dressed young men were seated, the students formed a line and began digging coins out of pockets and pocket-books, handing the money to the men.

Each of the students signed a roster laying on the table, then picked up a package of Kool-Aid for each dime they spent. Moving over to a large barrel they dropped the packages of pre-sweetened soft drink powder into it.

A second group of students entered the cafeteria and paused at the display case. The first group walked toward the door, passing a lighted Christmas Tree and a large plaster gorilla being used as a bank. The gorilla is the school's mascot.

Once again several of them paused and tossed coins into the opening in the gorilla's head, then signed their names on a piece of paper more than fifty-feet long.

One of the young men seated behind the table next to the display case, John D. Laws, 22, of Grandview, Mo., explained what was happening.

"This year the people of Pittsburg and the students at the college are taking part in 'Operation Vietnam' to express our admiration and concern for our fighting marines."

The project has special meaning for Laws who is vice-president of the senior class. His brother, PFC Billy W. Laws, a 23-year old marine, was killed near Quang Tri, Vietnam, on September 26.

"A year ago our fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon, adopted the project on a national scale with 215 chapters — including our chapter here — participating in it," continued Laws.

In reviving the project again this year, Laws, who is the chairman for the operation explained that it is to make the holidays a little cheerier for the marines of the infantry company his brother was fighting alongside when he was killed.

"It is also to show that the demonstrations on some campuses have obscured the fact that most collegians are willing to fight for their country," said

Laws.

"I suppose it was several weeks ago that I first heard of 'Operation Vietnam,'" said Dr. George Budd, president of Kansas State College. "I first heard about it from the merchants downtown and then from groups here on the campus who had become quite interested in it."

"There is a depth to this campaign that has pulled our students together in their appreciation of our fighting men in Vietnam," continued Dr. Budd. "Many of our students are veterans and this has really helped the others here to understand."

"The support here is in favor of Vietnam and an understanding of what is involved there. It is a positive approach while there are negative approaches on other campuses."

The project, Operation Vietnam, was designed to run in two parts. The first, a contest in which student groups and civic organizations in Pittsburg, a farming and mining community of 20,000, competed for a trophy and plaque. Each 10-cent package of Kool-Aid sold was counted as a vote for the Marines in Vietnam.

"The second part of the drive," explained Laws, "was a 50-foot Christmas card signed by the students."

By Tuesday morning the Christmas Card, a long roll of paper wishing the marines of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, a Merry Christmas, had been filled with 1,500 signatures.

"After we reached the 50-foot mark," Laws continued, "there were still more students who wanted to sign it. We extended it another two-feet and that was filled too. Then we had to stop because that was all the paper on the roll."

The latest tabulation showed

the total collected to be over \$850 with Bowen Hall, a men's dormitory tallying 2,900 votes, or donating \$290.

In a letter to the commanding officer of his brother's company in Vietnam, Laws outlined the operation's purpose: "These tokens (Kool-Aid and canned fruit) of our appreciation and support are sent to 'Kilo' Company in memory of PFC Billy Laws, who lost his life while engaged in battle with the spirited 'Kilo' Company."

"Bill was proud of his company and the Marine Corps, and was always mindful of the importance of his role in the defense of our country."

Laws got up from the table and walked over to the display case. He stood for a long time looking at it. On top of the case was a sign made of parchment, its edges charred, and on the sign was a photograph of the brother who had died a Marine.

Inside the case was a folded American flag, the one that had covered the coffin used to bring Billy Laws home in. These were medals there too. One of them, the Purple Heart, told the silent story of a marine. It had a gold star in the center of the ribbon that signified an earlier wound Private Billy Laws had suffered prior to his death.

John Laws, college leader and a man proud of his brother, looked up from the display case. He glanced fleetingly toward the three bearded students with the unkempt hair, then looked again at the case.

For a long moment he stood there, lost in his own thoughts, then turned and quickly walked back to the table to thank the students gathered there for their support and to encourage a new group coming through the cafeteria door to join 'Operation Vietnam.'