



SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

February 15, 1967

LT. FRANK REASONER SELECTED AS MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

Medal awarded posthumously to family of young officer killed while aiding wounded comrade

WASHINGTON—A young Marine officer, who died in Vietnam going to the aid of a wounded comrade, became the Marine Corps' second Medal of Honor recipient since the Korean War.

First Lieutenant Frank S. Reasoner, of Kellogg, Idaho, killed in action while leading a reconnaissance patrol on July 12, 1965, was honored at Pentagon ceremonies January 31, when Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze presented the nation's highest award for valor to Reasoner's wife and three-year-old son.

Reasoner, a one-time enlisted Marine and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, was killed in action July 12, 1965 going to the aid of his wounded radio operator.

A Marine Corps camp in Vietnam has been named "Camp Reasoner" and dedicated to his memory. The hand-lettered sign near the gates of Camp Reasoner reads: ". . . First Lieutenant Reasoner sacrificed his life to save one of his wounded Marines. 'Greater Love Hath No Man'."

On the day he died, the lieutenant was leading an advance patrol of Company "A", 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, deep in Viet Cong territory, when he spotted a Viet Cong rifleman. He called to the Marines in the point, who opened fire as enemy sniper fire raked the unit. An enemy machine gun from the front pinned down the patrol. Moving

among his five Marines, he saw his radioman had been wounded a second time and unable to move.

Calling to the wounded man that he was coming in after him, the lieutenant raced toward the radio operator. Five feet from the radioman, the young officer was hit with a fatal burst of machine gun fire. Minutes before, Reasoner had succeeded in killing two of the estimated company of Viet Cong. Inspired by his actions, his men killed 16 more of the enemy, knocked out the machine gun, and, heeding the lieutenant's last words, got their wounded comrades out safely.

Lieutenant Reasoner was returned to Da Nang by his men, and from there to Saigon, and thence to the U.S. and burial in Kellogg, Idaho, his hometown. In

Vietnam he had received the last rites of the Episcopal Church from Chaplain Hugh F. Lecky.

The citation accompanying Reasoner's award reads, in part:

" . . . From the initial moments of the engagement, he unhesitatingly and continuously exposed himself to machine gun and small arms fire . . . shouting encouragement to his men, who were virtually isolated from the main body, he quickly organized a base of fire to support the assault in the enemy positions by the remainder of the command.

"Within the first few minutes one of the Marines with First Lieutenant Reasoner was wounded. In the face of intensive fire, he sought to cover the evacuation of the wounded man, himself killing at least two of the Viet

(Continued on Page 5)



1st Lt. Frank S. Reasoner, USMC

Prairie II begins

Prairie concludes; all objectives met

By: GySgt. JACK BUTTS

DONG HA — From the moment Operation Hastings ended several things became obvious. The enemy was here in force and had to be destroyed, and something had to be done to halt North Vietnamese infiltration through the demilitarized zone to South Vietnam.

So Operation Prairie was launched on Aug. 3.

In the six-month period to follow the objectives were met.

More than 1,390 enemy soldiers were killed — and infiltration slowed to a trickle — following dozens of pitched battles fought in terrain likened to that encountered on Pacific islands during World War II. More than 600 reconnaissance patrols also stretched surveillance from the South China Sea westward to the border.

During the action 12 infantry battalions representing nearly every regiment in the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions took part in the operation at one time or another. The 3rd Division operation accounted for 248 weapons and 25 prisoners of war captured.

Prairie is the largest Marine operation in Vietnam to date. Not only because of the amounts of men involved (a conservative estimate is 11,000) or the kills, but because the logistic support was unequalled.

Millions of pounds of "beans, bullets and bandages" were flown, trucked and shipped in on an around-the-clock basis.

But the heart of the operation was simply — infantry and support troops. They battled the North Vietnamese at the "Rockpile," hills 484 and 400, and dozens of others.

The men ranged from battle-tested troops—who took part in the decisive battles on Operation Hastings — to so-called "green" troops with only a few brief skirmishes with Viet Cong units down in the south of the country.

(Continued on Page 7)



Death is no stranger

Marines carry a fallen Leatherneck to the rear through heavy enemy fire during the first hours of Operation De Soto Jan. 26. De Soto, a search and destroy operation, was taking place 15 miles south of Quang Ngai city.

(Photo by LCpl. Ron Curry)

SEA TIGER

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Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

Force ISO

Editor

Asst. Editor

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*"With malice toward
none, with charity for
all, with firmness in
the right..."*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Unshakeable devotion

Abraham Lincoln was a very unlikely choice to become President of the United States, particularly at a time when the Nation was torn with civil strife.

For, with the exception of a single term in Congress, he assumed the duties of President as an untried public figure.

His lack of family position, affluence and formal education caused ambassadors and influential people to ridicule his awkward, homely ways. Even the leaders of his own party felt he was unequal to the task that lay before him.

Yet Lincoln amazed them all.

Firmly grasping the reins of government, he took unprecedented steps to fulfill his oath of office to "preserve, protect, and defend the government."

His dedication to a course of action that would accomplish that end could not be swayed. His integrity could not be shaken; his sense of justice could not be corrupted; his compassion and mercy were steadfast.

His fondest hope was for

100% club

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Feb. 6—More than 1,200 Leathernecks of the 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division are now "stockholders in our nation's future."

The battalion, commanded by LtCol. Basile Lubka, is participating 100 per cent in the U.S. Savings Bond program.

the terrible conflict to come to an end and for the Nation to be reunited.

In a time of crises that had no precedent in our history, Lincoln stood firm in the face of almost insurmountable odds to guide the Nation to peace.

This man of humble birth, whose birthday we celebrated on February 12, proved to be one of our greatest Presidents (AFNB)

Engineers fight

CHU LAI — The Marines of the 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, are well known throughout the Chu Lai area for their engineering capabilities. However, few people outside the battalion know of their combat experiences with both, the Viet Cong and Nature.

On a recent recon/combat patrol, second lieutenant James T. O'Kelley, Jr., patrol leader, said, "I knew it was going to be a bad day when not more than ten minutes out we spotted our first enemy — a bamboo viper." Killing the snake, the patrol continued on its way.

Minutes later as they crossed an open area, the patrol made enemy contact again — this time from well concealed Viet Cong snipers armed with automatic weapons. Drawing fire, the engineers reacted in typical infantry Marine fashion, routing the snipers and searching the area but with negative results.

Continuing the patrol, the "infantry-engineers" again drew fire as they talked to schoolchildren in a small hamlet. They spotted the fleeing snipers but were unable to fire for fear of hitting civilian personnel working nearby.

The patrol cautiously continued on its mission, checking I. D. cards and searching the area with no further incidents with snakes or snipers.

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Dear Editor:

I was happy to receive a copy of the Dec. 21 issue of the SEA TIGER sent to me by a close friend from MCB-40 in Vietnam. The news content was very fresh and first hand information of what is going on in Vietnam. This is my first opportunity to know and feel the real situation of what is going on in that war-torn country.

Mr. Editor, I am of the belief that the U.S. is sacrificing so much for the sake of Democracy and for the peace-loving peoples of the world just to uplift the principles of Democracy. As of now, the war in Vietnam has cost the American government billions of dollars and thousands of lives just to stop the crawling of communistic ideology on this part of Asia. Yet, other peoples of the world misunderstand the sacrifices of the U.S. and other countries like the Philippines, Korea,

Japan, etc., on its stand in the Vietnam war. I just hope that in the long run, they will realize the benefit of their doubt.

After reading the SEA TIGER I immediately turned it over to the Librarian of the School to be read by all students. Most of them took turns in reading for they are very thirsty for reading material, which our library lacks. At this writing the Librarian of the School is also appealing to the III MAF through the SEA TIGER for old magazines, books and other reading matter which may be informational or educational to our students on this re-

gion.

Lastly, we are sending all of you our prayers for safety and good luck in your endeavor for the salvation of democracy in Vietnam. Thank you in advance for all the favor you might extend to the students of this vocational school.

LUIS F. FAMATIGA
Romblon Nat'l Vocational School
San Fernando, Romblon,
Philippines

We shall be happy to send the SEA TIGER each week to your school. Perhaps some of our readers can help you out with magazines and books.—Editor



Small unit action book

Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr., CMC, receives the first copy of a new Marine Corps historical reference pamphlet "Small Unit Action in Vietnam—Summer 1966" from the author, Capt. Francis J. West, Jr. West, an experienced writer and small unit commander, returned to active duty for the assignment in Vietnam. He participated in the majority of the action about which he writes. The pamphlet is being distributed to the field through normal channels.

Servicemen in Vietnam must file income tax

SAIGON — Service members in Vietnam are not exempt from filing a Federal income tax return, but they may postpone filing it for 180 days after they leave Vietnam if they wish.

Due dates for federal tax returns are automatically postponed while the taxpayer is on duty in Vietnam or adjacent waters, or while he is hospitalized outside the United States as a result of such service, and for 180 days after his departure from the combat zone or hospital.

The postponement applies to joint as well as individual returns, but not to a wife's return if she files separately.

To postpone filing also applies to federal civilian employees, industrial technicians, Red Cross personnel, and other civilians who support the Armed Forces in a combat zone.

Postponed returns, those filed after 15 April 1967—should include an attached statement to the effect that the individual served on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces in the Vietnam combat zone from — to —.

This remark must be added: "Due date for filing this return, per section 7508 of the IRC, is —." The date can be computed by adding 180 days to the date of departure from the combat zone.

Postponed returns must be filed on the long form (1040), not on the short form (1040-A).

Refunds owed Service members will be expedited if the member marks "COMBAT ZONE" on the top of the form. (The combat

zone includes Vietnam and adjacent waters roughly 100 miles out.)

The taxpayer's Social Security number must be on all tax returns. A \$5 penalty is assessed for failure to include it.

Returns should be mailed to the District Director of Internal Revenue in the district of legal residence.

Road recon hit

CHU LAI — Marines of the 1st Engineer Battalion along with infantrymen of the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, led by Captain R. E. Maresco were hit by a force of Viet Cong Jan. 26 during a road reconnaissance along Highway One below the Tra Cau river — about 15 miles south of Quang Ngai.

During the seven-hour battle that followed, through rice paddies and deep mud, the Marines were subjected to heavy small arms fire and grenades from a small village along the river.

Sweeping through the village, the Marines encountered fire from .50 cal. automatic weapons located in well-concealed concrete bunkers along the opposite bank of the river.

Naval gunfire and Marine jets pounded the VC positions, and a Seventh Marine Regiment reac-tionary force moved in during the night to support the road reconnaissance units.

During the action six VC were killed.

100% club

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Feb. 6—More than 1,200 Leathernecks of the 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division are now "stockholders in our nation's future."

The battalion, commanded by LtCol. Basile Lubka, is participating 100 per cent in the U.S. Savings Bond program.

Supplemental budget request details Vietnam activities

In presenting a \$12.9 billion request to congress for new obligational authority to supplement the FY 67 military budget, Defense Secretary McNamara has outlined the full range of American policy objectives and activities in Vietnam.

His statement underscored that our overall policy objective in South Vietnam is a stable and independent government free of internal control and externally inspired violence.

"Our immediate objective is to influence the North Vietnamese to move the conflict from the battlefield to the conference table, or to compel them to desist in their aggression," he continued.

Mr. McNamara's statement contained a full exposition of current operations in Vietnam. It included these highlights:

Confirmed VC strength in South Vietnam at the close of 1966 was about 275,000 of which 45,000 are regular North Vietnamese personnel.

South Vietnam's regular force at year's end was about 320,000, with the force level going up to 730,000 counting various militias and national police force.

American military strength at the end of 1966 broke down into 383,000 in South Vietnam, 35,000 in Thailand and 36,000 aboard offshore ships.

Allied military strength from five nations — but principally Republic of Korea — was 53,000 at year-end.

The VC appeared to have lost about as many men as they were able to infiltrate from the North during the last half of 1966.

Limiting factor on VC infiltration rate depends not on mobility

zation potential but on numbers of men the enemy is able to support in the south.

About 1,000 fighters and attack aircraft, including carrier planes, are deployed in Southeast Asia, with the force level to remain essentially the same.

Air attacks on the north have destroyed two-thirds of POL storage there.

Navy offshore fleet will be maintained at current 90-ship level, which does not include 26 Coast Guard boats and 84 Swift boats in "Market Time" operations.

Rate of air ordnance expended almost equals World War II peak rate and is, in fact, four times more than the peak Korean War rate.



It's a dog's life

LCpl. Stephen R. Begy and his dog Gary splash across the Tuy Loan River west of Da Nang during an operation Jan. 27. Begy and Gary were on the point trying to find the elusive VC for the 2d Bn., Fourth Marines.

(Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Camp Carroll roads engineer's nightmare

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA — Camp Carroll, bristling with dozens of artillery pieces, is the heaviest concentration of firepower in the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam.

The monsoon rain has transformed the camp's roads into hardly more than muddy alleys.

Warrant Officer R. A. Johnson and Staff Sergeant Leamon Garrett were told to make passable Camp J. J. Carroll roads and install an adequate drainage system — within 30 days.

Johnsen, platoon commander; Garrett, equipment chief; and their unit, Motor Transport and Heavy Equipment Section, "D"

Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, began the arduous task.

"This is really an engineer's nightmare," exclaimed Johnsen. "On every other job, you build a road from scratch; you build up a pioneer road then cut your drainage ditches.

"Here you have to do double the work."

"First," said Johnsen, tugging at one foot, knee-deep in sucking mud, "you have to scrape up all this muck, sometimes almost three feet deep, down to a fairly hard surface."

"Then," he said, watching a lumbering five-ton dump truck approach, "you have to come back through to put in your fill of sand and gravel, sometimes a yard thick, to make the roadway. It's a real challenge."

Employing 11 dump trucks and a wide variety of tractors, scrapers, tow graders and scoop loader vehicles, the engineers set to work.

When the roads are completely resurfaced, the engineers will come back and cut drainage ditches along the road's edge. Footbridges and driveways will be built over the ditches where necessary.

Certain strips of roadway were given priority on the work schedule. When the job is completed, the engineers will have resurfaced more than six miles of road, including one route which circles the entire plateau perimeter.

Shark threat

DA NANG — A 30-foot shark seen 500 feet from the Marble Mountain Air Facility beach posed a threat to Vietnamese fishermen nearby until a UH-34D helicopter attacked and drove the monster away.

Believed to have been a hammerhead shark, the fish was spotted coming toward the beach in an area used by Vietnamese fishing sampans.

The helicopter, enroute to Phu Bai, (57 miles north of Da Nang), was hovering at an altitude of 500 feet when the fish was spotted.

Climbing to 2,000 feet, the helicopter banked to the right and made two "strafing" runs driving the shark to sea.



Shoot and kill

As other Marines move out under heavy fire Jan. 26, during Operation De Soto, other Marines look out for enemy snipers.

(Photo by LCpl. Ron Curry)



Moving out low and fast

Marines move through rice paddies under heavy fire during Operation De Soto Jan. 26. De Soto was taking place 15 miles south of Quang Ngai City. (Photo by LCpl. Ron Curry)

Unit near DMZ worries VC

By: Cpl. Tom Judge

DONG HA—"This is the northernmost area of the Vietnam conflict," says Captain J.W. Ripley. "There are 400,000 troops behind us."

Speaking of "L" Company, Third Marine Regiment, Ripley explained his unit occupies the strategic northern positions of the "Rockpile," the "Razorback" and the hills in between.

The main body of the company is well emplaced on a hill between the two strategic positions with platoon patrol bases set up on the Rockpile and the

Razorback. One squad on the former and two on the latter.

In support of the company on the hill are Marine tanks, "Ontos", and 81mm and 60mm mortars. All are given a heavy work-out daily, firing at predetermined points in the surrounding area. In addition, the artillery guns at nearby Camp Carroll can box in the entire company area with fire on pre-plotted locations.

The platoons on the hill maintain an effective lookout over nearby terrain. Names like "Happy Valley" and "the Enchanted Forest" help identify

sectors of observation.

Corporal David P. Schmoyer recently spotted movement in a cave on the Razorback from his observation post on the hill and notified the command post which coordinated fire with one of the Ontos' on the hill.

Following the fire mission, a patrol later discovered firewood, punji stakes, a ladder, enemy communications wire, tools, and a North Vietnamese manufactured base plate for a 60mm mortar in the area.

The hill also makes an ideal location for Third Marine Regiment snipers.

A road, made passable by Marine engineers, makes it possible for the company to be resupplied by truck. In the past, all resupply to that area was by chopper.

The company in its present position, poses a severe problem to the enemy near the Demilitarized Zone—a problem the enemy cannot solve.

Trial by fire

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — Just forward of the right door of one of Marine Aircraft Group 16's CH-53 "Sea Stallion" helicopters is a small painted silhouette of a man in a large cone-shaped hat.

It signifies the Marine Corps' newest helicopter has undergone its trial by fire and emerged the victor.

On Jan. 17 the "Sea Stallion" of Detachment Alpha, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 set out on its first combat mission. Piloted by Captain Michael Wasko the helicopter was to take supplies to Navy Seabees in the village of Ba To, 40 miles south of Chu Lai.

Lance Corporal Frank Burke, mechanic on the big chopper, was surveying the unfamiliar countryside enroute to Ba To when he spotted three men running from a house. They began firing at the aircraft.

"I couldn't believe they were actually shooting at me until I heard a round hit the tail section," he said. "Then I got mad because they were shooting up my airplane and I shot back."

A burst from his machine gun dropped one of the Viet Cong and silenced the other two. Soon after their return to the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang, the little black silhouette was painted on the chopper.



Operation Tuscaloosa

Navy Hospitalman Conrad Savoie (left) and Corpsman Allen Hasselbach give an elderly Vietnamese a helping hand from a helicopter at An Hoa. The villager was evacuated during Operation Tuscaloosa for medical treatment. In addition to killing 79 Viet Cong during the five-day operation, 1st Mar Div Leathernecks from the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, gave free passage to freedom to over 75 South Vietnamese refugees. (Photo by Cpl. N. B. Call)

World of Sports

EAST	
Wednesday Night	
Boston Coll. 83	St. Joe's (Pa.) 69
Lehigh 74	Muhlenberg 61
Long Island 63	Rider 35
Hartwick 101	NYAC 99
Ithaca 80	Hamilton 74
Colgate 75	Lafayette 62
Syracuse 67	Niagara 65
Temple 79	Lasalle 65
Providence 89	Fairfield 71
Wash. & Jeff. 91	Allegheny 67
St. Vincent 98	Waynesburg 80
Huntington 86	Livingston 78
Stroudsburg 88	Bloomsburg 82
Mansfield St. 82	Kutztown 59
Rensselaer 69	Union (N.Y.) 68
St. Peter's (N.J.) 69	NYU 68
Rochester 94	Hobart 70
Lincoln U. 71	Phil. Pharmacy 62
Holy Cross 88	St. Anselms 69
Bowdoin 68	Colby 56
New Brunswick 70	Ft. Kent 52
E Bentley 124	Husson 79
Suffolk 102	Babson 67
St. Michael's 96	Vermont 78
Bates 93	Maine 92
Oneonta 85	New Paltz 73
Amherst 70	Trinity (Conn.) 68
American Int'l. 77	Hartford 56
Nichols 79	Willimantic 66
Coast Guard 87	Wesleyan 80
Lowell St. 78	Lowell Tech 77
Drexel 62	Haverford 43
Millersville 114	Shippensburg 96
Cheyney 79	Westchester 54
Northeastern 91	Boston U. 54
Bridgewater 74	SE Mass. Tech 63

MIDWEST	
Tulsa 72	Bradley 71
Wis. (Mil.) 67	Dominican 60
Washburn 77	Roberts 69
Denison 106	W. Reserve 72
Mich. Lutheran 91	W. Ontario 41
Findlay 98	Tri-State (Ind.) 82

SOUTHWEST	
Houston 92	Hardin-Simmons 85
Dillard 115	Tex. College 103
New Mexico 65	New Mexico St. 57
Texas Western 75	Arizona 65
Arizona St. 87	Japan Nat. 69
N. Arizona 77	E. New Mexico 63

FAR WEST	
Utah St. 82	Denver 81
Seattle 66	Seattle Pac. 47
San Jose St. 92	St. Mary's 74
U. Pacific 84	Santa Barbara 71
Pomona 87	LaVerne 79

Hockey Standings

Compiled From Wire Services

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Chicago	29	11	7	65	175	110
New York	23	17	7	53	131	114
Montreal	20	20	6	46	117	119
Detroit	20	24	3	43	147	150
Toronto	17	21	8	42	114	143
Boston	13	29	7	33	119	167

Thursday Night

(No games scheduled)

Friday

(No games scheduled)

Saturday

Montreal at Boston.

Chicago at Toronto.

New York at Detroit.

Sunday

Montreal at New York.

Toronto at Boston.

Detroit at Chicago.

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Hershey	28	13	7	63	202	139
Quebec	23	22	5	51	180	180
Baltimore	23	20	4	50	166	162
Springfield	19	23	8	46	183	196
Providence	10	39	8	28	177	221

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	32	10	7	71	212	141
Rochester	28	17	5	61	207	152
Cleveland	23	22	7	53	200	179
Buffalo	8	35	7	23	141	258

Thursday Night

Rochester 1

Friday

Hershey at Baltimore.

Providence at Buffalo.

Saturday

Buffalo at Cleveland.

Providence at Pittsburgh.

Rochester at Springfield.

Sunday

Baltimore at Buffalo.

Quebec at Cleveland.

Pittsburgh at Providence.

Hershey at Rochester.

EASTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Northern Division

	W	L	T	Pts.
Clinton	33	23	2	68
New Jersey	27	25	3	57
Johnstown	27	28	2	56
Long Island	22	29		

Helicopter completes MEDEVAC without protection of gunship

By: GySgt. E.C. Nolen

CHU LAI—The Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362 chopper crew was on emergency medevac standby at Quang Ngai when the call came.

A Marine shot by a Viet Cong sniper lay near death in a water-filled rice paddy near Duc Pho, some 20 miles away.

"We were in the air and on our way in a matter of seconds," the pilot of the UH-34D helicopter, First Lieutenant John F. Longdin Jr. said.

It took about 20 minutes for the Ky Ha-based helicopter to get to Duc Pho.

"As we circled, our chase plane, a UH-1E "Huey" gunship from Marine Observation Squadron-6, strafed the areas surrounding the zone where we were to pick up the wounded Marine," explained co-pilot First Lieutenant Frederick K. Jones.

During one of the gunship's passes, it was hit by Viet Cong sniper fire. Losing fuel it had to return to Quang Ngai.

"Without the gunship we knew we would probably be hit getting in and out of the zone," Longdin said.

The helicopter took at least five rounds before landing and the VC poured round after round into it while the wounded Marine was being loaded.

"We were only down a couple of minutes, thanks to the fast work of Hospital Corpsman Third

Good shot

DA NANG—A Viet Cong sniper took a lesson from a Marine helicopter gunner and paid with his life.

Corporal Jerry Ross was flying as crew chief in a CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopter of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164 carrying troops to an area 15 miles southwest of Da Nang.

On the way into the zone the aircraft in front of Ross's received fire from a clump of trees approximately 600 yards away. After they had unloaded their passengers the two Marine Aircraft Group-16 choppers took off, alert for further trouble.

When the sniper opened up again Ross was ready. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Marine answered with a quick burst from his .50 caliber machine gun and the sniper toppled from the tree top.



Name of game

By: LCpl. R.R. Keene

CHU LAI—The tired Marine Attack Squadron-211 pilot studied the bullet holes in the wing of his A4E "Skyhawk" jet attack plane and said, "They (the Viet Cong) were really out to get us today."

Major John Evens and Major Dorsey Page had just returned to their home base at Chu Lai, Jan. 28, after a successful mission of destroying a downed helicopter at a known Viet Cong stronghold 12 miles south of Da Nang.

Evens' plane took several small arms rounds during bombing and strafing runs to destroy a crippled U.S. helicopter which had been shot down by enemy ground fire earlier this week. "They didn't have any heavy stuff to shoot at us, but we had to fly through a hail of small arms fire every time we made a pass over the helicopter," explained Evens, flight leader during the mission.

"I didn't get away clean either," stated Maj. Page, as he pointed to a couple of holes in the wing of his sleek little attack plane.

"That's the breaks though. We expect to take hits on every combat mission. It's part of the game," concluded Maj. Evens, who has flown 72 combat missions since coming to Vietnam last October.

During their runs both pilots fired out their 20mm cannons and dropped all their 250-pound bombs on the crippled chopper completely destroying it.



Passing the colors

Col. Fred E. Hayes, Jr., (right) CO, 5th Marines, 1st MarDiv., receives the regimental colors from LtCol. William R. Draper, executive officer, at change of command ceremonies near Chu Lai. BGen. C. F. Widdecke, outgoing regimental commander is now Chief of Staff, FMFPac and was unable to be present for the ceremony. In addition to his duties as regimental commander, Col. Hayes will serve as Chief of Staff, Task Force X-Ray.

AO's sharp vision eliminates 15 VC

By: Sgt. Mike McKusher

CHU LAI—The sharp eyes of a First Marine Division aerial observer led to 15 Viet Cong dead yesterday.

First Lieutenant William A. Barry was flying as an observer in a Marine two seater jet when he sighted the VC in an open rice paddy, several miles northwest of Chu Lai.

The VC had frozen their movements to avoid detection.

Medal...

(Continued From Page 1)

Cong and effectively silencing an automatic weapons position. As casualties began to mount, his radio operator was wounded.

"After crawling a considerable distance, and before reaching a covered position, the radio operator was hit a second time and could move no further. Realizing that the man could not survive in the heavy enemy fire sweeping the open ground between him and the radio operator, First Lieutenant Reasoner jumped to his feet, shouting to the man that he would carry him out. He ran through the grazing machine gun fire but was struck and fell mortally wounded at his radio-man's side."

Frank Stanley Reasoner was born at Spokane, Washington. He attended grammar schools in Washucna, Washington, and in Kingston and Kellogg, Idaho.

River checkpoint

PFC Thomas A. Puleo stands watch on the Tuy Loan River, west of Da Nang during a two-day search and destroy operation. His platoon of "E" Co., 2d Bn., 26th Marines, was a blocking force on the river, checking boats and their passengers as they passed. (Photo by Sgt. Neil J. Broussard)

Medevac pilot

DA NANG—The CH-46A "Sea Knight" pilot was told it would be tough getting into the zone to pick up the eight wounded Marines.

"We had already lost one helicopter trying to get the men out, and if I didn't get in they might die," said Major Robert H. Lockwood, as he recalled the emergency medevac mission of Jan. 29.

"I really had only one choice. These were seriously wounded Marines so I had to go in," the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165 pilot said.

As the chopper neared the ground it was met by a barrage of Viet Cong small arms fire knocking out the generator and puncturing the main fuel line, causing gas to spew throughout the plane.

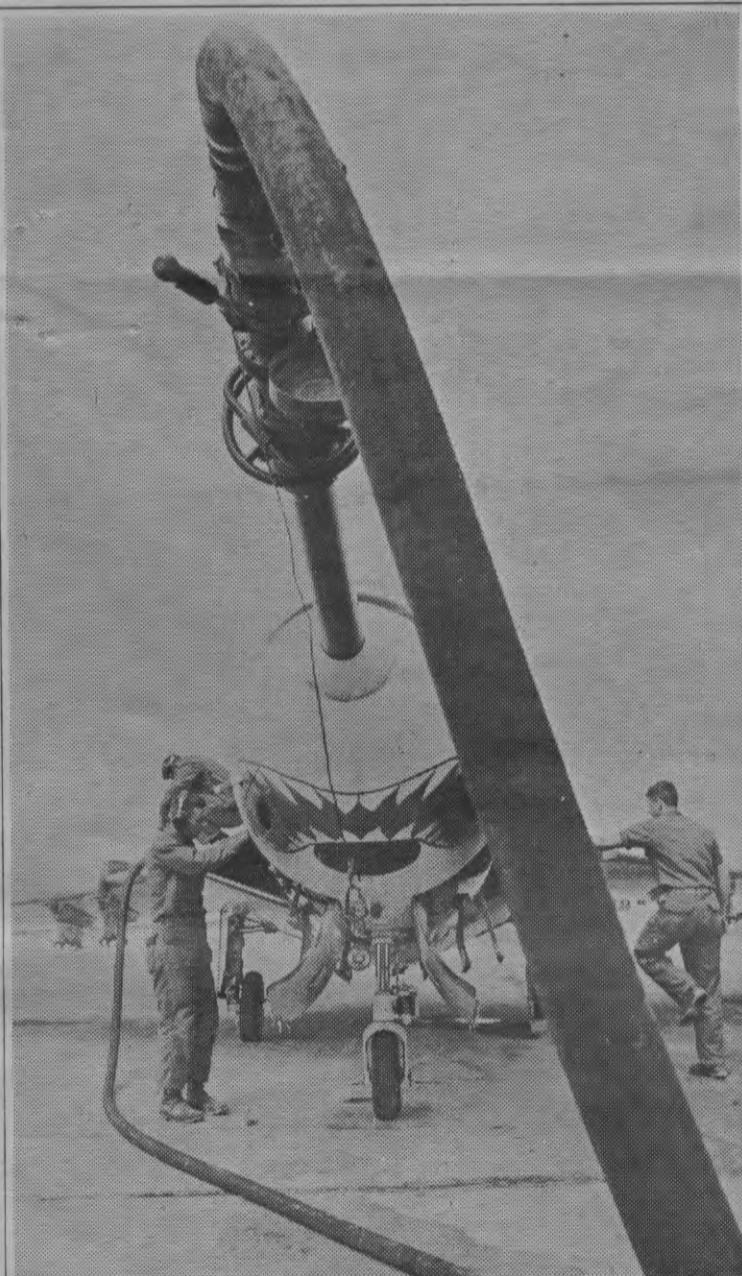
"We landed and took on the wounded in the middle of a rice paddy," explained co-pilot Capt. John C. Tatum. "I watched our gas needle drop towards empty and wondered if we would have enough to lift out of the zone," he said.

Unknown to either, a tracer round had ignited the gasoline coming from the broken fuel line. Crew members and Marines loading the wounded, put the fire out using water from the rice paddy.

Once airborne, the crippled plane made it about nine miles, almost to Mo Duc, before both engines stopped.

"We were at 1,500 feet so I put the craft into auto rotation and we settled down nice and soft in a rice paddy injuring no one," Lockwood said.

The "chase" helicopter landed immediately and the wounded Marines and crew members were put aboard and returned to Ky Ha airstrip.



Feeding a 'cougar'

LCpl. Joseph W. Daniel (left) finishes feeding 20mm cannon ammunition into the gun systems of a TF-9J "Cougar" of H&MS-13, while other members of the Chu Lai-based squadron refuel the jet in preparation for a combat mission. The "Cougar" is used to make damage assessment flights over enemy positions; for aerial recon missions; for airborne tactical air coordination; and to provide escorts for helicopters.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)



'Hat,' say 'hat'

PFC Thomas Schafer, a rifleman with "F" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, 1st MarDiv., tries his hand at teaching English to a group of Vietnamese children at Ben Dau, two miles southwest of An Hoa. The interpreter, SSgt. Pham Van Dong (left) translates the words and helps the children with the new language. Marines served as security elements for a country fair operation at Ben Dau.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

Crew chief saves pilots

By LCpl. Larry Belcher
CHU LAI—"The helicopter was on fire and I knew I had to move fast if I was to save the pilot and co-pilot," explained Lance Corporal Richard Sieloff, a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 crew chief.

The Marine's CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopter had been downed by intense enemy fire during an emergency rescue mission near Chu Lai, Jan. 25.

"Within moments our plane burst into flames, trapping all of us, including the 15 passengers. I fought my way through the blazing flames to get outside the plane," Sieloff said.

"Bullets were flying all over the place. I went to the front of the chopper to check on the pilot and co-pilot. They were trapped inside the cockpit. Someone had to do something, or they wouldn't

have a chance," he said. Sieloff couldn't force open the jammed forward emergency exit bent in the crash.

Exposing himself to enemy cross-fires, the Marine Aircraft Group 36 Marine knocked a hole in the helicopter's plexi-glass front with his rifle. In desperation he ripped the material with

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.

his bare hands, making a hole large enough for the two pilots to escape.

By the time Sieloff had freed the two aviators, another helicopter had landed in the zone to rescue the aviators and passengers who had escaped the burning aircraft.

While the Marines were down, A4E "Skyhawk" jet fighters from Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-12 dropped 250 pound bombs and fired 20mm cannons at the VC position.

Along with the "Skyhawks", several Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36 UH-1E "Huey" helicopters made strafing runs against the Viet Cong.

"My co-pilot, Captain Michael Sullivan and I, owe our lives to our crew chief," explained the grateful pilot, Captain James R. Wilkie Jr.

Short Rounds

Scramble

DA NANG—A late afternoon scramble of two F-4B Phantom jets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA)-115 accounted for 25 Viet Cong killed, five huts destroyed and six damaged eight miles south of Da Nang and approximately eight miles inland of the Hoi An River.

On the third pass the lead plane, flown by Major Charles D. Hatfield, sustained a hit in the left wing from small arms fire.

Still carrying half-a-dozen 250-lb. bombs, the Major made another pass while warning lights began flashing in the cockpit.

His wingman, Captain Robert "Dan" Daniels, described the major's last pass as "laying a stick" or dropping all six bombs in a straight line approximately 40 yards apart.

The target area was a VC hut concentration nestled in a bend of the river. U.S. Marines on a search and destroy mission were pinned down by heavy automatic weapons fire which ceased after the strike.

Maj. Hatfield, his damaged plane streaming hydraulic fluid, was unable to lower his landing flaps upon return to Da Nang. Using the MOREST (Mobile Arresting) landing gear, he brought his aircraft in safely.

Record

PHU BAI—"C" Battery, 13th Marine Regiment, fired 10,000 105mm artillery shells in support of other Marine units—in 30 days.

The battery is firing in support of the 3rd Bn., 26th Marine Regiment which has been battling it out with the Viet Cong since December.

"A record? Indeed it is," said Captain James T. Brackmon, battery commander. "What's more," added Brackmon, "gun one, which fired the battery's first round for the operation, also fired the 10,000th one."

"Gun one is one of the oldest 105mm artillery guns in existence," gun chief Corporal James Cloud said. "It's more dependable than any other artillery piece I have ever worked with," he said.

The gun barrel was made in 1943, and has seen action in World War II, Korea and now Vietnam.

Both 1st Battalion, 13th Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 26th Regiment, formed their ranks at Camp Pendleton last July. The two units landed in Vietnam just a few weeks before the 3rd Marine Division started Operation Chinook last December.

Sorties

CHU LAI—Pilots of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-323, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flew more than 20 combat sorties over South Vietnam Jan. 30, expending more than 34 tons of high explosives.

F-4B Phantom jets of the "Death Rattlers" squadron ranged throughout the I Corps area, bombing and strafing enemy fortifications with 250 and 500 pound bombs and rockets.

In Quang Ngai Province VMFA-323 pilots blasted enemy supply and food storage areas, bunkers, and trenchlines, while other aircraft of the squadron bombed and strafed Viet Cong tunnel systems and sniper positions in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces.

Also in Quang Tin, an enemy anti-aircraft gun site was destroyed by a flight of two 323 Phantoms, when a light observation plane called for the air strike.

"We were enroute to an as-

signed target when the observation craft requested we bomb the anti-aircraft position," Major Joseph B. Wuertz, pilot of one of the aircraft said.

"We made six runs against the gun position, dropping a 500-pound bomb each time. The pilot of the observation plane reported the target completely destroyed," he said.

Continuing on their primary mission, the F-4B's dropped an additional 3,000 pounds of explosives over Quang Tin, sealing entrances to caves used as shelter and storage areas by the enemy.

Mud

DONG HA—Vietnam's monsoon season brings with it the thick, sticky mud which makes life miserable for everyone. Every one, that is except Private First Class P.J. Panarelli—one Marine who will always be thankful for the mud.

The mud at Ba Long, where his Thirteenth Marine Regiment unit is dug in, probably saved his life while he was digging an ammunition bunker.

Digging in the ankle-deep mud, Panarelli's shovel struck a metal object just below the thick layer of mud. The cannoneer heard a "pop" and saw a puff of smoke signifying a "Bouncing Betty," anti-personnel mine.

"I thought it was all over," said Panarelli, "but the thick mud piled on the mine prevented it from bouncing into the air and detonating."

The mine was later exploded by a demolitions man.

Sam

DONG HA—One of the most familiar figures at the Fourth Marine Regiment headquarters these days is a dark-haired, seven-year-old Vietnamese youngster nicknamed "Sam."

Sam was "discovered" several weeks ago by regimental commander Colonel Alexander D. Chereghino during a tour of outlying units, when the boy's mother brought him to the colonel with a badly burned and infected left arm.

Chereghino took the youngster to the regimental dispensary, clothed him, and then arranged for Sam to visit the hospital ship Repose for a skin graft and treatment of the infection.

Following the skin graft, Sam returned to the compound where he has become a familiar figure touring the camp with the regimental medics while his arm heals.

Sam's mother was also flown by helicopter to the camp for a reunion with her son. She was told how to care for Sam's burned arm when he returns home.

Strike

DA NANG—Two Marine F-8E Crusader jets from Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron-232 hit an enemy troop concentration killing 15 Viet Cong.

The pilots, on a direct air support mission 44 miles south of Chu Lai caught the enemy in a box canyon while supporting Operation DeSoto.

Major Frank P. Williams and his wingman Captain Don A. Brigham received heavy automatic weapons fire during their four passes over the troop concentration but neither plane was hit.

On the first and second runs the Leatherneck pilots dropped 2,000 pound bombs and followed with strafing runs firing 20 millimeter cannons.



Right there

Maj. Charles D. Hatfield shows the hole in the left wing of his F-4B Phantom aircraft to his Radar Intercept Officer, 2d Lt. Otto T. H. Althoff III, during a post-flight inspection of their aircraft which launched on a scramble from Da Nang Airfield.

'Swing sling' retrievers

By: Cpl. Dan Lubell

PHU BAI—A Huey gun ship was down in the impenetrable jungle 20 miles northwest of Phu Bai last month.

There was no way to lift it off quickly or move in a unit of troops, before the Viet Cong in the area could strip the ship clean of its six M-60 machine guns and air-to-ground rockets.

Time was running out when two Marines from "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines, volunteered to be inserted by sling to dismantle the weapons for a lift out.

Corporal John Henly and Corporal Dave Clementson had made 30 or more helicopter landings on search and destroy missions,

but never been inserted by sling. It was a strange feeling to be lowered into the dense canopy not knowing if the enemy was waiting below.

There were no VC at the site, and the pair quickly found the Huey and set to work dismantling the weapons. It was slow work because they had to take turns keeping watch so they would not be taken by surprise.

The chopper hovering above radioed that it had to go back to refuel.

Later, Henly heard movement in the nearby jungle. Knowing that there were Viet Cong in the area he opened up full blast with one of the ship's machine

guns, while from the other gun port Clementson cut loose.

Their fire power was so intense the attacking force broke and fled.

The two Marine volunteers returned to their work getting the weapons ready to be lifted out. They were sure the VC would be back, and continued to watch the small patch of sky showing through the dense overhead canopy. Several times they heard movement in the jungle and opened up with full automatic fire.

Suddenly the chopper reappeared. Quickly the sling was lowered, weapons picked up, and the two Marines flown back to safety.

Chemical available for immersion foot

By SSgt. Norman MacKenzie

PHU BAI—Third Marine Division units participating in Operation Chinook completed their first mass use of silicone, a new chemical which helps prevent disabilities caused by constant wet feet.

More than 900 Leathernecks were taught use of the medication by Navy doctor Ted D. Gross.

Gross set up a foot clinic to thwart the many cases of "immersion foot" caused by long exposure in the monsoon-soaked jungles.

Marines were brought in by squads. They washed and dried their feet, applied silicone and put on new dry socks.

Socks must be worn after application of silicone. If not, the substance will attract sand and dirt which will cause another foot injury known as abrasion foot.

The chemical preventive is applied twice a day when Marines are slogging through rice paddies and other wet areas, which is much of the time.

Since Marines often depend upon their feet for transportation, it was necessary to devise protective measures against wet foot problems that plagued them.

A number of compounds were tested at the Naval Medical Field Research Laboratory at Camp Lejeune, and silicone was found to be the best substance to keep water from penetrating the skin.

Silicone comes in one and one-half ounce tubes and it takes a quarter of an ounce to protect each foot. It doesn't produce any sensitizing effects because it isn't a drug.

"We know silicone works," said Gross. "The important thing now is to let everybody know it's available and to use it properly."



Waiting for the Viet Cong

1st Division Marines sit in their blocking position near the Tuy Loan River, while other Leathernecks sweep the Hoi Vuc valley during a search and destroy operation near Da Nang. The men, members of "E" Co., 2d Bn., 26th Marines are: PFC Thomas C. Jones and Cpl. Gary E. Campbell.

(Photo by Sgt. N. J. Broussard)



And one for you

LCpl. William E. McGill, 2d Bn., 11th Marines, 1st Marine Div., adds to the civic action program of Dooly County, Georgia residents as he passes out candy to the youngsters of Tien Sung hamlet. McGill was one of several Marines who distributed clothing donated by Georgians to villagers of Ky Khuong Province. (Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)

Prairie 1 ends—

(Continued From Page 1)

To say both factions and those in between acquitted themselves admirably is an understatement. That they did is attested by the fact that the long-expected North Vietnamese monsoon offensive never materialized.

Instead, entire North Vietnamese units were smashed in many battles to small fragmented groups that were unable to mount any sizeable offensive action.

Deciding factors were air power, and artillery that reached out for miles to blast troop movements, and provide support for Marine units searching for the enemy.

One of the big battles took place Aug. 8-9, just five days after the operation began. A reconnaissance patrol contacted an enemy force and radioed for reinforcements.

A platoon from "E" Company, Fourth Marine Regiment was lifted in. Several hours later they were battling an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese.

Captain Howard Lee took command of the unit, and led it to a decisive victory over a numerically superior force. Lee and most of his men were wounded during the night-long battle, but still managed to inflict heavy casualties on their attackers.

Then there was the battle for Gia Binh and An Dinh in the coastal flatlands.

The 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Regiment, newly-arrived in country, fought four days to take these North Vietnamese strongholds. They killed more than 150 enemy soldiers in the heavily-fortified villages that even air strikes, naval gunfire and artillery couldn't penetrate.

These were the "green" troops, conducting themselves like veterans, fighting like Marines have always fought, in one of the fiercest battles of the war.

Another battle reminiscent of the island hopping campaigns of World War II was the fight for hill 484.

Captain J.J. Carroll's "K" Company, Fourth Marine Regiment measured its gains in inches as it wrested control of a strategic piece of high ground from another numerically superior force.

For three days the unit fought its way up the slopes in some of the densest jungle imaginable. They threw countless air and artillery strikes, fired hundreds of rocket rounds, and hurled thousands of grenades at hundreds of well-entrenched enemy troops. When the smoke cleared, the Marines had the high ground.

Prairie ended Jan. 31, six months after it began.

The next day Operation Prairie II began.

Decorations and awards

Silver Star

DONG HA—For his heroic actions and exposing himself to heavy enemy fire while destroying a Viet Cong machinegun team, Corporal James Q. Honeycutt was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

During the operation in the Ap Ba area on Oct. 22, 1966, Honeycutt was a fire team leader in the point squad on a sweep and clear mission with "G" Co., Third Marine Regiment.

Moving across a rice paddy toward a hamlet he saw a group of Viet Cong in the village. The Marine squad opened fire, driving the VC to a nearby hill, and continued the sweep until it was pinned down by heavy small arms and machinegun fire.

From his position Honeycutt could see his squad taking casualties from the gun. With six Marines of the point squad wounded, the fire team leader made a one-man assault on the VC position.

"I knew I had to knock out that machinegun or it would wipe out the whole squad," said Honeycutt.

Advancing to within yards of the machinegun, Honeycutt threw a grenade, killing one of the VC manning the gun. He then rushed the position and killed the other VC with his rifle. The corporal then turned the weapon on the fleeing enemy, saving his squad from further casualties.

Bronze Star

DONG HA—Lance Corporal Eugene D. Donovan was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

He was cited for his actions as a fire team leader with "G" Co., Third Marine Regiment during Operation Kern in Quang Nam Province Oct. 22, 1966.

While on a sweep and clear mission, Donovan's company came under intense small arms and machinegun fire, which pinned one platoon down in a rice paddy.

Donovan and his platoon sergeant ran 50 yards through an open rice paddy to aid a wounded Marine, and carry him back to medical aid.

Donovan then made repeated trips through the intense fire until all wounded were back with the corpsman. He then returned to his fire team and directed fire on the enemy.

Navy Commendation

CHU LAI—Augustine Lara, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division was presented the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" during ceremonies at Headquarters, 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment.

Lara earned the award during operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on July 18, 1966, while serving as a platoon sergeant with "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment.

During a two platoon night patrol in Quang Tri Province, Lara's unit made contact with an enemy force which immediately inflicted seven casualties on the patrol by heavy volumes of machine gun fire.

While his platoon commander was calling in mortar fire, Lara took the initiative and maneuvered the patrol to more advantageous firing positions.

In positioning his men, he repeatedly exposed himself to intense automatic weapons fire by crawling across open areas in an attempt to locate the enemy machine gun positions.

According to his citation, "By exhibiting a high degree of personal courage and presence of mind under devastating enemy fire, Lara rallied his men and

inspired all who observed him."

The medal was presented by Colonel Fred Haynes, Chief of Staff, Task Force X-ray and commanding officer, 5th Marine Regiment.

Navy Commendation

DA NANG—Corporal Frederick R. Engleman II, was presented the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" by Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Engleman, a member of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164, was cited for his actions on July 15 when the helicopter in which he was flying as gunner was involved in a collision with another aircraft.

The Marine Aircraft Group-16 Marine assisted in rescuing two Marines who were trapped underneath the aircraft. Despite leaking fuel that threatened to explode, Engleman not only aided in saving the Marines, he also helped recover weapons and equipment from the downed chopper.

After he had been evacuated, he volunteered to return to the crash scene with a maintenance salvage crew. When his aircraft came under enemy fire, Engleman provided suppressive fire with his own rifle.

The citation cited his "exceptional devotion to duty" and courageous actions under fire.

Navy Commendation

KY HA—Four members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-363, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, were awarded Navy Commendation Medals recently, during ceremonies at Ky Ha, Vietnam.

Receiving the awards were: Captain Ronald W. Rensch, First Lieutenant Richard L. Basinger, Sergeant Aaron D. Thomassen, and Corporal Ronald T. Tuskowski.

The four were the crew of a UH-34D "chopper" of HMM-363, flying medical evacuation and resupply missions, when their plane was forced down near Dong Ha, Sept. 18, 1966, during Operation Hastings.

As Capt. Rensch brought the plane into a zone, enemy forces poured intense fire into the area, damaging the craft and forcing the pilot to "shut down" in the zone.

Despite heavy enemy small arms and mortar fire, the captain and his crew quickly began repairs to get the craft airborne again.

For nearly an hour the four labored while Marine ground forces and UH-1E "Huey" heli-

copters provided covering fire.

With repairs completed, Capt. Rensch and his crew reboarded the plane and lifted from the zone, "skillfully maneuvering" to avoid enemy fire.

Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth F. Huntington, Commanding Officer of HMM-363, cited the Marines for their "professional skill, presence of mind under fire and devotion to duty."

Cross of Gallantry

DONG HA—Captain Adolf P. Sgambelluri was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star during ceremonies held at Hue.

Sgambelluri, intelligence officer with the 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, was presented the award for his actions while serving as commanding officer, "G" Company, Twenty-Sixth Marines, during Operation Pawnee III.

The operation was conducted in the Phu Loc District about 20 miles south of Phu Bai.

Oil stains betray VC

DONG HA—Oil stains on his clothing betrayed a Viet Cong to Marines of 1st platoon, "K" Co., Third Marines during a recent village sweep.

Two squads of the platoon, accompanied by a squad of Vietnamese Regional Forces were conducting a sweep near the village of Fu Ton, located along Route 9 south of the Rockpile. In their search of the village, they discovered a Russian bolt-action carbine.

Finding the owner proved to be simple. One of the villagers was discovered with oil stains on his clothing as if he had just finished cleaning the weapon. He had been unable to evade the Marines when they entered the village.

New MAG-13 CO

CHU LAI—Colonel Dan H. Johnson assumed command of Marine Aircraft Group 13 during ceremonies Feb. 5.

He replaced Colonel Douglas D. Petty, Jr., who has been reassigned as assistant chief of staff (G-3), 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Petty commanded the group since Aug. 15, 1966.

Johnson joined the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing July 31, 1966 and previously served as assistant chief of staff (G-1) for the wing before assuming his present command.



Helping hand

A injured Marine is helped by Marines and Navy Corpsmen across a river during an operation west of Da Nang, Jan. 27. Marines are members of the 2d Bn., Fourth Marines, 1st MarDiv. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

9th Marines snipers use long range rifle

By: SSgt. T. A. Kraak

DA NANG—Although the Marine Corps has had snipers ever since John Paul Jones sailed the seas during The Revolutionary War, new employment of snipers is being developed in Vietnam.

Master Sergeant Donald L. Reineke, non-commissioned officer in charge, 9th Marine Regimental Sniper Teams said, "we have to start from scratch here, and train our

for rifle fire, so we observed and reported their activity. Then we set up the long range gun and penetrated their area of activity. The next day we observed no activity in that area."

The overall success of the scout-snipers must include more than "confirmed kills." Daily sightings of Viet Cong activity are reported to regiment. As a result, infantry squads and companies have been able to engage the enemy.

The average daily sightings turned in by the scout-sniper team is 10 to 15 Viet Cong, although sometimes many more are sighted and reported.



Vietnam out-patients at County Fair

Over 400 children of Ben Dau hamlet line up for a quick check by doctors and corpsmen of the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division, during a county fair operation, Jan. 16, 30 miles southwest of Da Nang.



A leader of men

Capt. R. E. Maresco, a Marine company commander, led his men during seven hours of bitter fighting Jan. 26 during the first fire-fight of Operation De Soto. His every move was hampered by heavy enemy fire from all sides.

Memorial services for Deckhouse-Five

By: Cpl. Russell R. Hurley

CAMP SCHWAB, Okinawa — "Gentlemen we will."

Thus Major James L. Day, Commander of the First Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment stressed to the congregation the pledge made to battalion Marines who had died fighting in the Republic of Vietnam.

Day was speaking at memorial services Jan. 30 for seven men who had been killed on Operation Deckhouse-five, the first large American campaign in the Mekong River Delta.

The battalion had spearheaded the largest amphibious operation of the Vietnamese war as 4,000 U.S. and Vietnamese Marines invaded the Communist sanctuary.

"A few weeks ago," Day began his address, "We gathered here at Camp Schwab to honor those members of this battalion who had fallen in combat over a fifteen month period."

"Today we add seven more names to that list. We made a promise to them at that time. That we of the First Battalion, Ninth Marines would carry on in their absence."

"Gentlemen we will."

"Eternal Father," Marines bowed their heads as Battalion Chaplain LCdr. T. McDermott prayed, "We pause . . . remembering . . . honored dead . . . of our . . . battalion . . . dedicated their lives . . . services of . . . their country."

2/5 change

DA NANG—Lieutenant Colonel Mallett C. Jackson Jr., a veteran of 24 years Marine Corps service, assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Jan. 31.

He replaces Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Airheart who has commanded the battalion since last October. Airheart returned to the United States where he will be assigned to Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, at Norfolk, Va.

New 2/1 CO

DA NANG, Vietnam, Feb. 1 — Lieutenant Colonel M. M. Hewlett, assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division Feb. 1, in ceremonies at the battalion command post 12 miles south of DaNang.

Three VC try ambush

PHU BAI — It isn't often the Viet Cong escape an artillery barrage and then try to ambush you.

They tried it two weeks ago in the mushy rice paddies 27 miles north of Phu Bai during Operation Chinook. But Corporal Bruce Krag spoiled their plans and killed three of the six.

Krag was one of four Marines of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment guarding an observation post just outside their battalion perimeter.

"I was looking over the area," said Krag, "when I saw six Vietnamese walking from a tree line towards our position. I watched awhile to assure they were carrying weapons."

The "I" Co. squad leader quickly called artillery on the enemy's location.

"When the barrage let up, I could see three men running back into the tree line," Krag said. "I thought all of them had fled, because I couldn't see them anymore," added Krag.

He and his men then relaxed, settled down and began to eat their chow.

"I had just handed the binoculars to one of the other men when I saw three figures walking up behind us. One of them was carrying a rather long object in his arms," Krag recalled.

Krag quickly picked up his weapon and let loose with a burst of fire, killing the three VC.

One of the three intruders was a woman. Cradled in her arms was a French-made submachine-gun. The others had carbines, grenades and other combat gear.

Farrell for May

CHU LAI—Major Frederick L. Farrell, Jr., assumed command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron VMFA-542 Feb. 3.

He replaced Lieutenant Colonel Donald L. May, who has commanded the squadron since July 1966.

Young man keeps promise to bring Marine rescue force

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—The youth climbed above the jungled valley. He turned for a moment and looked back at the tiny cluster of huts where he had left his young wife and son, his parents, his brothers and sisters.

"I will come back," he promised silently. "I'll bring the Marines to lead all of you safely from the valley to where there are no Viet Cong to harm you."

For a brief second he remembered with bitterness his time as a captive of the VC, breaking his back in forced labor. Then he turned to the east and crossed the mountains to the sea . . .

A few days later, "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division Leathernecks splashed across the murky rice paddies on a gloomy, rainy morning.

The column passed a water buffalo and quietly snaked into the mountains, following an ancient trail over misty ridges and through jungled valleys.

Guiding the Marines, the young Vietnamese was keeping a promise to his family.

Watching him, First Lieutenant Arthur Blades, company commander, wasn't quite ready to trust his guide. The 25-year-old officer thought the Vietnamese might be leading them into a trap. The youth's disappearance the previous day added to Blades' suspicions.

He claimed to be a former prisoner of the VC when he first appeared at the Ly Tin District Headquarters near Chu Lai a week before. He said that he crossed the mountains to rescue his family from Viet Cong control.

Ly Tin said they would help and "A" Company was given the job.

Blades and his men had been ready to move out but at the last minute the Vietnamese couldn't be found. When the whole thing was just about to be called off, he showed up with the explanation of visiting a close relative and now, 24 hours later than planned, the company was on the march.

Maybe he was telling the truth, or maybe he was VC and had slipped off to warn his friends and set up an ambush in one of the narrow valleys that could so easily become death traps.

Blades knew his men felt the same way. They were combat-hardened, tough and wary, never fully trusting anyone or anything. They understood his desire for silence and were ready for trouble if their guide wasn't what he pretended to be.

Late in the afternoon, tormented by rain and a cold wind, the column reached the valley. It was quiet except for the sound of a river ahead and the wind whispering in the trees of the jungle trail.

The point squad stopped at a clearing for a quick inspection before exposing themselves.

Across a stretch of rice paddy, intersected by the now visible river, three thatched huts were almost hidden by trees and tall grasses.

The young guide nodded excitedly; this was the home of his family.

The Marines started across the paddy and crossed the river on a small handbridge as a young

woman holding a baby emerged from one of the huts.

Watching the Vietnamese as he greeted the woman, Blades saw she was the man's wife. More people came from the huts and they crowded around the young couple, laughing and talking all at once.

Some of the tension relaxed. They hadn't been hit coming in and these people were undoubtedly the young man's family.

"Tell them we will take them out of the valley in the morning," Blades told an interpreter. "We'll also help them carry their belongings."

It rained almost all night and a couple of local guerrillas threw grenades and fired rifles, but were quickly chased off. The morning was gray but the rain had stopped for awhile and everybody was ready to leave.

The walk back was like an exodus.

The family, totaling 14, left nothing behind for the VC; their pigs and chickens, rice and betel nut were all carried out.

Marines hefted bags of grain on their shoulders while others attempted to master the delicate balance of heavy rice baskets and cages for the animals on opposite ends of long bamboo poles.

All hope for a stealthy return through the mountains was shattered with the first step. The squealing pigs could be heard in the next three valleys, the chickens squawked, and the family kept a running banter of chatter the entire trip.

Nobody was surprised when the first snipers opened up.

They didn't start shooting until the group reached a wide, rain-swollen river with a fast, tricky current.

A burly Marine grabbed a rope and waded to the opposite shore in neck-deep water. He held the line taut as other Marines scrambled across to lend a hand.

The children were the first to cross, riding piggy-back on the shoulders of Marines. Splashing, choking from tiny arms wrapped tightly around their necks and struggling hand over-hand on the rope against the rapid current, the Leathernecks deposited their "passengers" safely on the other side.

Then came the pigs and chickens, screaming dislike for the water.

Sniper fire hit the end of the column just as the elders were "ferried" across. The VC were quickly run off by answering fire and charging, angry Marines.

A few more snipers arrived and threw in some wild rounds, then the towel as more answering fire chopped up trees and hedgerows.

The group was left alone after that and the menacing ridges were crossed without incident.

As they descended the last mountain, relief flooded through Blades' weary body, and he paused for a second to look at the man he now trusted.

The Vietnamese walked ahead of his family. His wife, carrying his son, was directly behind.

There was a hint of pride in the man's walk. He had led his family to safety, and they no longer had to live in fear.



PIGGY BACK—A Leatherneck from "A" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, carries a small girl across a rain-swollen river. Rescuing a family of refugees from Viet Cong control, the Marines ferried all 14, their domestic animals and bags of grain across the river.

Sea-going howitzers bang Mekong Delta

By: MSgt. G.E. Wilson

DA NANG — Six 43-ton amphibious howitzers ploughed through the placid waters of the South China Sea, their cannons belching fire in unison at a tangle of mangrove swamps and tree lines along the sandy beach.

Behind them waves of amphibious tractors rocked in the wake, their steel bodies crammed with Marines waiting to burst out of the hatch as they ground up on the sand.

Enemy machineguns sent tiny spouts of water leaping around the first wave of howitzers as they continued to fire.

Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force aircraft screamed down ahead of the landing force while naval gunfire whistled overhead into the landing zone.

For the Marines ready to storm ashore in the Mekong Delta, Jan. 4 it was a classic landing. And for the men of the 1st Armored Amphibian Company, 1st Marine Division it was a historic moment.

For the first time in modern warfare the amphibious 105mm howitzers had fulfilled the mission for which they were designed—to lead an amphibious landing into an enemy held beach.

Tuscaloosa

DA NANG—The multi-company search and destroy operation was over and the weary Marines of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, were headed home.

Crossing through the relatively open terrain three miles north of An Hoa, the Marines completing Operation Tuscaloosa were suddenly met by a barrage of Viet Cong mortar and small arms fire.

They had finally closed with the enemy, estimated to be a reinforced company of Viet Cong.

Immediate action kept Marine casualties light, while the Leathernecks accounted for 79 confirmed Viet Cong kills and two captured.

At the start of the battle, on the third day of the operation, Marine air and artillery were called into action. Twenty-three of the VC were killed by air strikes.

Captured weapons included three automatic rifles, two Chi-Com sub-machineguns, three Chinese assault rifles, three bolt action rifles, a carbine, and numerous grenades and ammunition.

Marines of "F" and "H" Companies also aided 75 South Vietnamese refugees in fleeing the area.

Marine casualties for the five-day operation were light.

Before the 10 day operation was completed the platoon of "How Sixes", as the Marines affectionately call their floating artillery pieces, had been credited with 20 Viet Cong killed and a machinegun nest on the beach destroyed.

Designed to provide continuous artillery support for the landing forces, the How Sixes did just that in the Delta. Platoon leader, First Lieutenant Stanley E. Cottle said execution of the mission was almost perfect.

From LSTs the How Sixes splashed out into the sea off the Thanh Phu Peninsula, 58 miles southwest of Saigon.

Called the "secret area of Vietnam," the fist-shaped peninsula was bordered and crisscrossed by rivers, their banks choked with thick mangrove swamps. The enemy had enjoyed immunity and a free hand in the area for 20 years prior to the landing.

Cottle and his platoon sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant Charles J. Hoke guided the How Sixes into the beach from their command tractor vehicle.

Once on the beach the amphibious howitzers resumed their role as fixed artillery, firing support missions as the amphibious tractors swung open their hatches to leave off platoons of riflemen.

The 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Leathernecks quickly moved inland to find and destroy the Viet Cong.

From their beachhead positions the How Sixes continued to lend support during the ten day operation. According to Cottle the guns fired about 100 rounds as their first wave went into the beach.

At the end of the operation the Marine BLT had cleaned out an enemy training area, uncovered a Viet Cong hospital, grenade factory and captured several tons of cement, rice and many Viet Cong weapons.

449 sorties

CHU LAI—A-4 "Skyhawk" jets of Marine Aircraft Group-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flew 449 combat sorties over South Vietnam from Jan. 29-Feb. 1.

The Chu Lai-based planes from Marine Attack Squadrons-121, 211, and 311 rained more than 475 tons of explosives on a variety of targets during the four-day period.

Using bombs, rockets and cannon fire, MAG-12 pilots destroyed 147 structures, damaged an additional 103, and knocked out two bridges.

Additional hits included four enemy bunkers destroyed and four others damaged, two sampans sunk and four damaged, eight supply routes cut, and two automatic weapon positions destroyed.

Foxtrot was surrounded!



A wounded lieutenant from F Co., 2nd Bn., 26th Marines is evacuated by his men following a firefight during Operation Independence approximately 18 miles southwest of Da Nang.

(Photo by Sgt. Bob Bowen, Leatherneck Magazine)

Foxtrot won't soon forget village of Minh Tan (2)

By: Sgt. Bob Bowen
Leatherneck Magazine

DA NANG—It will be some time before Marines of Foxtrot 2d Battalion, 26th Marines forget the village of Minh Tan (2) ... that is, if they never forget.

Operation Independence was in its sixth day and Foxtrot was pushing north, heading for another village, another thriving metropolis, bordered on one side by a rice paddy, on the other by the Song Vu Gia River. There would be huts to search and bomb shelters to give the once over. Nothing new to the men of Foxtrot.

Hotel 2/4 was entering the village from the west, along the river, when the first shot rang out. The VC fire was overpowering and Hotel was forced to withdraw with their casualties. Foxtrot waited.

Jet aircraft were called on station and after they had done their bit, Foxtrot moved out, across 1,000 meters of rice paddy and into the village of Minh Tan (2). Charlie waited. . . underground.

When the Marines had advanced about halfway through the village, a hedgerow erupted in a volley of fire. Charlie had his back to the river and he was fighting for his life. Foxtrot answered, their M-60s and M-14s rising above the whimper of Charlie Cong's popping carbines. But, Charlie Cong's popping carbines were finding their mark.

Foxtrot received seven casualties in a matter of minutes, and still, the battle raged. Suddenly, sniper rounds began kicking up dust at the heels of the men of Foxtrot. Charlie Cong had gotten behind them and he was making things rough.

Foxtrot was surrounded!

Fire

CHU LAI—As the F-4B Phantom II started down the runway for take-off the powerful blast of its afterburners was joined by an explosion and ball of fire.

Within seconds the Marine Aircraft Group-13 Crash Crew was in motion. Before the Phantom had stopped some 5,000 feet from its starting point, the crash truck and crew were on the scene.

Minutes later the explosive ordnance section was on hand to disarm the aircraft's ordnance as soon as the crash crew personnel had cooled it down with foam.

A crash crew member said the fire appeared to have started from a ruptured fuel line when the afterburners were ignited.

Captain Frederick Lewis, pilot of the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-542 Phantom and his Radar Intercept Officer jumped from the burning plane the moment it stopped. They were uninjured.



Wet Marine...dry weapon

LCpl. William Markavich keeps his weapon high and dry as he wades across a rain-swollen stream during an operation west of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. J. L. Mc Clory)

A Poem for Peace by a seventh grader

What is this peace? Can we see it? Can we feel or hear it? No, we can't see, feel or hear it, but you can understand peace as freedom from war or strife of any kind. Peace also can be understood as just being calm and quiet.

We all want peace in Viet Nam but there is not much we ourselves can do to help. In Romans 12:17 and 18 we read: Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. But can we live peaceably? No, there are a few people in the world who can't. They just can't live peaceably with others, that is why we are in Viet Nam today trying to cope with one of those people who can't live peaceably. When those men who are fighting for our country return then there will be peace.

Prayer—We pray for our dear native country and all nations, that the faith of God may liberate the people from fear and distrust, and the cross of Christ everywhere give victory and peace to the glory of Thy Holy Name. Amen.

Written by Steven Wrobel, a 7th grade student at the John F. Peeler Elementary School, Dallas Texas, during a presentation and showing of a film "Why Viet Nam"

Submitted by MSgt. Joe C. Casillas, Marine Corps Recruiting Substation, Dallas.

Steel pot does the job

DA NANG—Private First Class Rick W. Holloway is thankful for his "steel pot"—a Marine helmet.

During Operation Tuscaloosa, 30 miles south of Da Nang, Holloway, the fire team leader with "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines was stopped momentarily by an enemy bullet.

But, the helmet did its job and Holloway wasn't wounded.

The slug entered the front of his helmet, curved its way across the top and down the back between the helmet and liner. It came out the bottom, passed through his combat pack struck into the ground behind him.



Up and over

Loaded down with his own gear plus mortar, ammunition and an aiming stake, a Marine gets a helping hand up the bank of a river during an operation west of Da Nang. Jan. 27. Two 1st Marine Division units took part in the operation: 2d Bn., Fourth Marines and 2d Bn., 26th Marines.

Wins Silver Star

PHU BAI—Marine Major Clark G. Henry has been awarded the Silver Star Medal for his inspiring leadership during fierce communist "banzai" charges upon his company.

Henry was serving as executive officer of the 3d Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment last July 18 when they were attacked with mortars and automatic weapons by an estimated regiment of North Vietnamese.

Henry quickly organized a relief force and raced 400 yards to the aid of a hard-hit company—receiving the blunt of the attack.

Once there he coordinated the firepower of the two units to relieve pressure there and on the rear guard company, and directed evacuation of all the wounded.

During the night-long battle Henry carried a seriously wounded Marine to safety through 300 yards of intense enemy fire and exploding mortars. Henry remained on the battlefield until he assured the evacuation of all

the wounded.

His leadership and actions are credited with saving many Marine lives and help to prevent the enemy from overrunning the battalion position.

Lampshades

DONG HA — They may not become a fad in home decoration, but the Marine-Naval Memorial Chapel here definitely does have some unusual overhead light shades.

The church-builders, all Vietnamese laborers, used expended 106mm recoilless rifle casings, cut in half and dipped in white paint, to provide the church with 18 unusual but effective shades.

The church was dedicated Dec. 22 in memory of Marines and naval personnel who were killed during Operations Prairie and Hastings.

101 Viet Cong killed

Search and destroy mission mushrooms into heavy battle

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—A routine search and destroy mission by members of the 2d Battalion, First Marine Regiment, mushroomed Jan. 29 into a multi-company operation that killed 101 Viet Cong south of Da Nang.

The action escalated when Leathernecks of "H" Company spotted 30 green-uniformed guerrillas carrying a mortar and automatic weapons about 13 miles southwest of Da Nang and took the Viet Cong under fire.

A rapid reaction force from the regiment's 1st Bn. was heli-lifted into place to cut off the guerrillas' escape.

A platoon of "B" Company made immediate heavy contact while leaving the helicopters, and was pinned down in the landing zone.

Two platoons of "H" Company set out immediately through sniper fire to link up with the trapped Marine force some 3,000 meters away.

The company assaulted across 850 meters of open rice paddies. The Viet Cong retreated as the Marines advanced.

When the Leathernecks got within 100 meters of a treeline, near Hoa Nong Toy hamlet, the guerrillas pinned down one platoon with heavy automatic fire.

One element continued to move forward despite the heavy fire, and after an hour and one-half of heavy fighting at almost point-blank range managed to force the Viet Cong to break contact and flee.

The relief forces made contact about 4 p.m., and arranged for medical evacuation of "B" company's more serious casualties by helicopter during the night.

"G" Company meanwhile, had also encountered heavy resistance as it swept 2,000 meters to Ha Nong Toy (2). Viet Cong with automatic weapons kept up continual fire as they fled before the Marines, who boxed in the hamlet.

After a three-hour firefight the Leathernecks fought their way into the heavily-fortified village, where residents told Marines the

Viet Cong force which fled had been made up of three bands of 20 men each.

Air strikes and artillery fire were called in on the fleeing enemy throughout the seven-day operation, which terminated Jan. 31.

A total of 39 Viet Cong were

confirmed killed by ground troops and 44 others were reported by aerial observers following artillery strikes.

Eighteen more guerrillas were killed by the 1st Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment as they attempted to flee into the Marine unit's area.

Corpsmen thankful for field equipment

By Cpl. David A. Hines

DA NANG—Two Navy corpsmen can thank their combat equipment for possibly saving their lives during separate patrols recently.

Both are members of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division.

During a recent patrol a sniper's bullet ripped through the helmet of Hospital Corpsman Third Class David

Hadesty missing his head by a fraction of an inch.

The already twice wounded corpsman was on a squad-sized patrol when the sniper's round knocked him to the ground.

"I was dazed for a few minutes, but when I came around I started feeling for a hole in my head," Hadesty said. "I was certain I'd been hit."

After assuring himself that the bullet had missed, Hadesty picked up his helmet. A large hole had been cleanly cut through the hard hat and liner.

Hospital Corpsmen William Culbertson credits his jungle boots with saving his life.

The patrol he was accompanying was heading back to the battalion command post when brought under heavy fire.

"We were making our way across a rice paddy when the Viet Cong opened up on us," Culbertson said.

As Culbertson dived for the ground a high caliber round hit his left boot.

"I looked down and saw that the entire heel of the boot had been torn off by the round. It then dawned on me that from the way I was positioned on the ground the only thing that kept the bullet from getting me was the protective metal liner in my boot," he said.

Corn

CHU LAI—Indiana corn may soon flourish in Vietnam due to the efforts of a member of Marine Aircraft Control Squadron-1.

Corporal Arthur W. Bowers, wanted to help the people of Quang Tin Province improve the quality of corn grown in their fields.

Bowers, a supply clerk with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing unit, wrote to his father requesting help in obtaining hybrid seed so the province farmers could raise an improved grade of corn.

The elder Bowers, who raises a variety of crops including corn, got the seed from the Indiana State Agricultural Department.

With the aid of Indiana State Senator Birch Bay, 28 pounds of seed was soon on its way.

Through Captain James Giermanski, MACS-7 civil affairs officer, the corn was distributed to local farmers.

The civil affairs section also plans to provide commercial fertilizer and advisory personnel for the planting.

MACS-7 Civil Affairs personnel and representatives of the United States Agency for International Development plan to organize an agricultural co-operative within the province.



It's a girl

Members of the 11th Marine Regiment's medical team pay a visit to Linda, a Vietnamese baby delivered at the regimental aid station, and her mother. The outfit Linda is wearing is part of a wardrobe donated by members of the regiment. Paying the visit are Lt. John T. Freie (left) who delivered the infant, and HM3 Kirk J. Kasberg, one of the corpsmen who assisted.

(Photo by Cpl. J. J. Williams)



FIGHT SMOLDERING FIRE—Marines of the Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha" and Seabees of the Military Construction Bn. 58, fight side-by-side in an attempt to halt the fire which demolished 160 houses and left over 88 people homeless in the Refugee Camp of Puc Quang, located nine miles northwest of Da Nang.

160 Houses destroyed in fire; FLC aids disaster victims

By: Cpl. D. L. Cellers

DA NANG—One hundred and sixty houses were destroyed and over 88 villagers left homeless, by a fire Feb. 2 in the Puc Quang Refugee Camp, nine miles northwest of Da Nang. Nearly one-quarter of the camp was destroyed.

No serious injuries were reported among the villagers or more than 250 fire-fighters.

Strong winds fanned the blaze as it swept through the village burning the "cardboard and crate" huts valued at approximately \$100 each, like match boxes. In a matter of minutes the fire covered an area of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile square leaving only a charcoaled skeleton.

Brigadier General James E. Herbold Jr., commanding general of the Force Logistic Command, located one mile north of the camp supervised the fire-fighters in helping villagers move as much of their valuables as possible from the flaming huts.

Many of the refugees work for the Force Logistic Command, and were not home at the time of the disaster.

Victims are being aided through the FLC Civic Action program and the USAID organization.

Victims are being housed in tents constructed by the FLC Marines, and in the Puc Quang school building. Others are staying with friends.

Blankets, flood lights, water and food were distributed at the scene yesterday.

Marines from Combined Action Company Three (CAC-3), located 50 yards south of the village, are guarding the area and a fire truck is standing by in case of rekindling.

Seabees of Military Construction Battalion 58, were at the

camp at daylight this morning to begin construction of new houses. The fire, reportedly caused by a gas stove exploding, was brought under control approximately 45 minutes after it started. Marine fire fighters involved

included units from FLSG-A, 1st Marine Air Wing, Seventh Bulk Fuel P, and the Seventh Engineer P. Aiding the Marines were Naval Fire Departments from Camp Tien Sha and the MCB-58 detachment.

Corpsmen design new vest for combat use

By: Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The hospital corpsman's familiar "Unit One" medical kit may share the fate of the high-button shoe, thanks to two 1st Marine Division corpsmen.

A first aid vest combining the features of the medical kit and flak jacket is presently being tested in the field by corpsmen of the 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment.

After three months of continual use, the battalion's corpsmen give the vest their unanimous endorsement.

The vests, designed by Hospital Corpsmen Third Class Donald H. Gates and Eugene D. Rosandich were fashioned by members of

the Force Logistics Command in Da Nang.

Four vests were made in all, using varying designs and materials to provide a comparison. One vest is now in use in each of the battalion's rifle companies.

Basically, they all consist of heavy canvas interlaced with zippers and pouches which will hold more than the standard medical kit. Crammed with supplies and bandages, they provide nearly the same protection as a flak jacket, the corpsmen say, and distribute the load evenly over the wearer's body.

One other feature didn't escape the wearer's notice, the vests eliminate the necessity to carry the "tell-tale" medical bag which makes corpsmen a prime target for Viet Cong snipers.

Although still in the experimental stage, the vests will likely be recommended to the division surgeon to be considered for use by all corpsmen in the field.

Both Gates and Rosandich were awarded meritorious masts by their battalion commander Jan. 27, (just prior to their rotation) for designing the vests.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home



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

Recon patrol ends in nightmare

By: GySgt. Jim Northrop

DONG HA—A routine Marine reconnaissance patrol ended Jan. 22, in a nightmare for seven Marines and a Navy hospital corpsman.

On the patrol six of the Marines and the corpsman were wounded.

The patrol, from "D" Company, Third Reconnaissance Battalion, was inserted Jan. 18, by helicopter, west of the Tiger p-12 recon Rockpile 11 miles south of the demilitarized zone. Its mission to determine avenues of approach of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops into the Marines operational areas.

All was normal until Jan. 22, when the patrol was to be returned to Dong Ha by helicopter. Bad weather, with low visibility, stopped the helicopters from getting in and the Marines had to stay.

At 6:30 p.m. members of the patrol sighted a group of seven NVA and VC troops, in black pajamas and gray uniforms, looking over a Claymore mine the Marines had previously placed outside the defensive area.

The Marines opened fire. The enemy retaliated and the close-in fighting began.

Lance Corporal James G. Craig came face to face with an enemy soldier armed with an automatic weapon. The NVA soldier opened up on Craig at five feet; hit his rifle stock, shot his cartridge belt in half and shot off his cartridge belt suspender strap.

The NVA was then shot by Lance Corporal P.E. Evans, later hit in the left wrist by enemy rifle fire.

In the initial action, the hospital corpsman Michael A. Lane and Lance Corporal W.D. Schoening were shot by automatic weapons fire.

Marines killed an enemy machine gunner with grenades when his weapon jammed.

Sergeant Robert L. Barham, the patrol leader called for support.

Port fire. Artillery started coming in 400 meters from the Marines' position. Later the Marine gunners walked the rounds encircling the Marines to as close as 50 meters. More than 1,100 rounds of artillery were fired that night.

Lane, disregarding his own wounds, began treating Schoening and other wounded Marines. Twice medevac helicopters were called. Neither could reach the Marines' position because of the bad weather.

The first helicopter landed at 7:30 the next morning, while the enemy began another assault, it lifted the patrol to safety.

Good reply

DA NANG — It's obvious that whoever put out the radio/TV questionnaire recently distributed in the 1st Marine Division, were not thinking of Marines when they asked the first question.

It read:

"What are your normal duty hours when not involved in tactical operations?"

The tired, dirty, patrol-wearied Marines have one almost unanimous answer: "0001-2400."

For the disbelievers in the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service who may doubt the truth of that answer they are invited to spend a week — any week with any Marine infantry unit in Vietnam.

It will make believers out of them.



Rest and smoke

LCpl. George A. Philyaw takes time out for a smoke and rest before continuing on a search and destroy operation conducted a few miles southwest of Tam Ky by "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st MarDiv. Philyaw, a radio operator, was attached to "B" Company for the three day operation.

(Photo by Cpl. Carl D. Mincemoyer)