



SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 14

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

April 5, 1967



LtGen. L. W. Walt, MajGen. W. B. Kyle and MajGen. B. A. Hochmuth are seen seated during change of command ceremonies where Gen. Hochmuth assumed duties as CG of the 3d Marine Division from MajGen. W. B. Kyle.

MajGen Hochmuth new 3dMarDiv CG

PHU BAI—Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth assumed command of the 3d Marine Division from Major General Wood B. Kyle March 18.

Both Texans, Hochmuth was born in Houston and Kyle in Pecos. Both graduated from Texas A&M College before being commissioned Marine second lieutenants.

Hochmuth came to Vietnam from San Diego, Calif., where he commanded the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. He holds the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for meritorious service in the assault on Okinawa during World War II, and has served in China, American and British Samoa, Camp Lejeune, Quantico, Saipan, Tinian, Japan, Washington, D.C., and Canada.

He is married to the former Mary Stovall of Houston, Texas. They have two daughters.

Kyle holds two Silver Star Medals, the nation's third highest combat decoration. He has been the 3d Division commander since March 1966, and will assume duties as commanding general, 5th Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., upon returning to the States.

During World War II, Kyle participated in the Saipan, Tinian, Tarawa, and Guadalcanal campaigns. Other duty stations include China, Guam, Hawaii, France, Camp Lejeune, Japan, Quantico, and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

The general is married to the former Helen Mack of San Diego. They have a daughter and a son.

3/7 assist 2500 refugees

CHU LAI—Leathernecks of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, provided a security force for 2,500 Vietnamese refugees who wanted to return to their village to claim their belongings.

According to Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Bronars, battalion commander, the two-day operation was probably the most important thing the battalion has done since Operation De Soto began on Jan. 26.

He said that the ultimate goal of the operation was to "establish an atmosphere that allows people to live freely—to go about their way of life without fear of the

(Continued on Back Page)

250-man VC Bn. sweeps area

One Marine, six Soldiers in pre-dawn fight for life

By: MSgt. George E. Wilson

DA NANG—A charred, shell-torn skeleton of a building is all that remains of Hieu Nhon Sub Sector headquarters—the scene March 13 of a pre-dawn fight-for-life by six U.S. Army and one U.S. Marine Corps advisors to Vietnamese forces there.

During the 80-minute battle, 12 miles southeast of Da Nang, an estimated 250-man Viet Cong terrorist battalion swept through the headquarters and the adjacent advisors compound, gutting the building with mortars, rockets, grenades, automatic and small arms fire.

One Army advisor and 15 of the Vietnamese Popular Force were killed in the fighting.

The other half-dozen American advisors were wounded as well as 13 PFs. Four more PFs were captured and later found dead.

The VC also killed and mutilated the Vietnamese military district chief, two innocent women and four children in their drive to overrun the American advisors' house.

The district's civilian chief although wounded was saved from death when rubble from his own home covered him during the fighting.

Vietnamese Army Lt. Thanh, military district commander, surrounded by the terrorists, pulled the pins on two grenades and hurled himself onto the onrushing enemy.

At least 50 Viet Cong were killed in and around the compounds, according to Major Frank D. Simons the senior Army advisor at Hieu Nhon and one of the six American survivors of the battle.

In recounting the battle, Gunnery Sergeant Merle W. Reese of the 1st Marine Division said "We were fighting for our lives" against wave after wave of Viet Cong.

"The first time I realized we were under attack," Master Sergeant Earnest C. Lakin said, "was when a mortar round landed next to our building and the blast knocked me out of bed. I got some shrapnel in my leg from the mortar."

Two more mortar rounds landed on the roof of the team house.

Staff Sergeant Robert A. Parker, a veteran of 50 combat missions with South Vietnamese military units, heard someone yell, "They're here," at the

same time the first mortar went off.

In the darkness, with mortars pounding around them, the advisors scrambled to grab their weapons and flak jackets and ran to the front and rear of the house.

Parker said earlier in the evening the seven had just discussed the defensive plan.

"We had reacted to alerts many times before," Simons said, "and knew just what to do."

Parker called the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines for artillery illumination as soon as they reached the bunker. Simons; Sergeant First Class Norman Jamison, the NCO in charge of the group; and Lakin were in the rear bunker.

On the opposite corner of the house, up front, Captain Thomas Sauble, Reese and Specialist Fifth Class Norman Wright covered the western approaches.

As the mortar barrage lifted the Viet Cong hit the compound from three sides with automatic weapons fire, grenades and rockets.

Suddenly the area lit up when a Viet Cong grenade hit the butane tank valve and it burst into flames.

"It worked like a torch," Parker said, "and we were all nervous that the tank was going to blow."

In the light the men in the rear bunker could see "whole platoons" coming over the wire. The VC used bangalore torpedos to blast their way through the wire and over the minefields around the compound.

"We were all firing automatic weapons and they went down like bowling pins," Simons said. "It seemed like very time we shot one, two or more would drag his body off," he added.

Jamison was shouting over the din to hold fire until they got close.

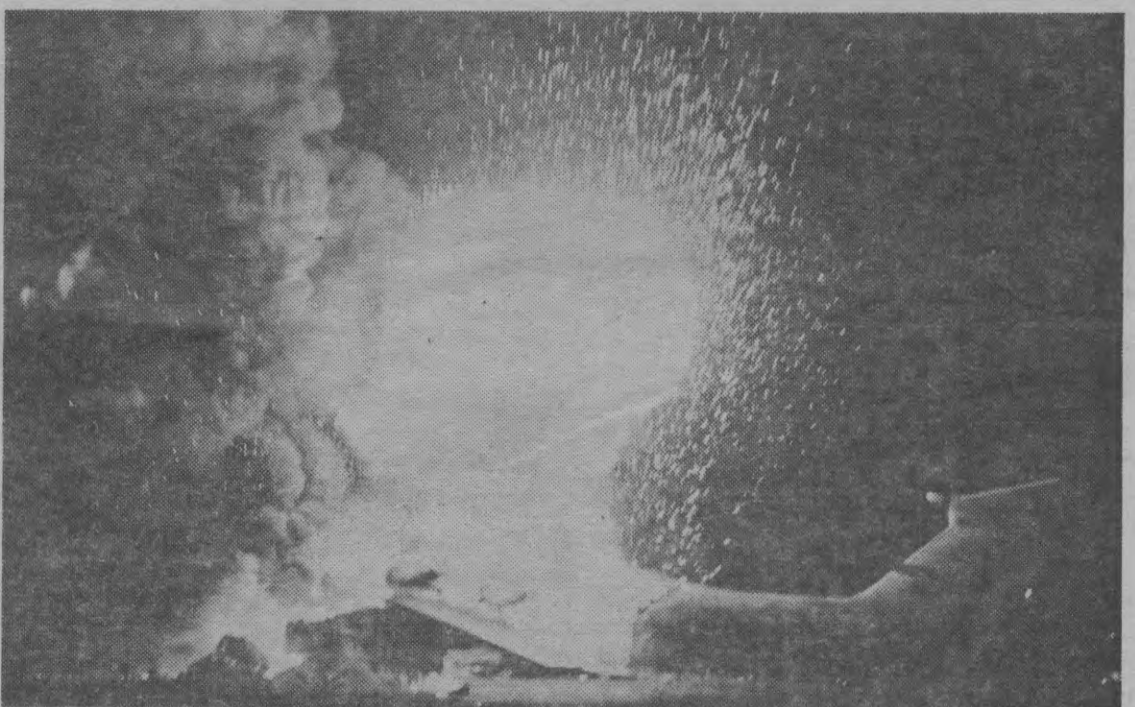
One VC, carrying a satchel charge, got within four feet of the bunker before Jamison killed him.

Viet Cong bodies littered the small yard surrounding the team house.

Parker described the scene as a "complete inferno. They were all around us," he said.

Two enemy rockets hit the heavy sandbags of the bunker hurling Parker, Jamison and the radio

(Continued on Back Page)



Disaster at Air Base

Fuel and acetylene explode aboard an Air Force C-141 Starlifter minutes after a ground collision with an ordnance-laden Intruder jet in the early morning hours of Mar. 23 at the Da Nang Air Base. The two man crew of the jet escaped before one of its 500 lb. bombs exploded. One of the Air Force crew of six survived the accident.

(Photo by Sgt. W. F. Shrider)



New stars

Major General Hugh M. Elwood, Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force, was promoted to his present rank during March. He retains his present position.



SEA TIGER

Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Major General Hugh M. Elwood
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force
Major General H. Nickerson, Jr.
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Major General Louis B. Robertshaw
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Major General B. A. Hochmuth
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
Commanding General, Force Logistic Command

Force ISO Col. D. G. Derryberry
Editor GySgt. Lee Witconis
Asst. Editor Sgt. Jerry Simmons
Published each Tuesday by the III Marine Amphibious Force. The SEA TIGER complies with Marine Corps Order P5600.31 and MCO P5720.44 and is printed with appropriated funds, by The Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. The SEA TIGER subscribes to and receives material from the Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB) whose material herein may be reprinted provided credit and no other copyrights are involved. All photographs are official U.S. Marine Corps Photos unless otherwise credited. Photographs submitted from other sources outside the Marine Corps for publication in The SEA TIGER become the property of The SEA TIGER. Material submitted for publication in The SEA TIGER must reach the Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force, FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602, on Tuesday of the preceding publication week. Statements, views and opinion expressed in The SEA TIGER are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps and should not be interpreted as directive in nature.
Circulation This Issue 38,000 Copies

USAFI-25 years

Education often can be compared to the weather. That is, "everyone talks about it, but no one does anything about it."

There is, however, one organization that has done a great deal for servicemen's education.

The United States Armed Forces Institute, more commonly referred to as USAFI, has enrolled more than six million students during its 25 years of educational service to the Armed Forces.

Beginning as the Army Institute on April 1, 1942, there were 64 correspondence courses in technical and academic subjects and a few hundred university and high school courses from the extension division of participating colleges and universities available to Army personnel.

Since then, USAFI has become a world-wide, all



25 years of educational service

service, comprehensive educational effort.

Located in Madison, Wisc., USAFI's catalogs now list more than 6,000 available courses from 47 participating colleges and universities. USAFI itself has developed 222 courses.

In addition, thousands of service personnel have earned high school diplomas and college credits through the USAFI General Educational Development tests.

Continuing application of research and innovation in the USAFI program, such as the General Examinations of the College Level Examination Program, seek to improve the learning process of service personnel.

The USAFI contribution to the military community is immeasurable and has earned the respect, appreciation and admiration of all the Armed Forces. (AFBN)

Grand Old Opry Show

CHU LAI, Vietnam — An estimated crowd of 2,700 servicemen saw Roy Acuff and the Grand Old Show in two performances at Chu Lai March 20.

The show, featuring Roy Acuff and the Smokey Mountain Boys with June Black and Bonnie DeHoff, held a morning show for more than 600 Marines of the 2d Battalion, Seventh Marines Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, and an afternoon performance at the Chu Lai Amphitheater before approximately 2,000 country music fans.

Singing and playing in traditional country music style, the veteran entertainers kept the Marines laughing and asking for more with their jokes and antics on stage.

"We've been looking forward to making this tour for a long time," Mr. Acuff said. "The audiences have just been wonderful everywhere we've been."

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

Lorraine De Maro
64 Paula Blvd.
Selden, N. Y.

Alana Nelson
Star Route B Box 543
Vidalia, Louisiana

Susan Jarzowski (18)
2726 Lincoln Ave.
La Crosse, Wisc. 54601

Jo Ann Kupidowsky
RFD No. 1 Box 285
Gales Ferry, Conn. 06335

Marilyn Katz
American Machine & Foundry Co.
261 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10016

Linda Reynolds (15)
820 S. Danbrook Dr.
Anaheim, Calif. 92804

Kathy Montag
6699 Red Bird Road
Loveland, Ohio 45140

Sandra McMillen
210 E. Jefferson
Dallas, Texas 75203

Eileen Harayda
2001 Park Avenue
Erie, Penna. 16510

Mrs. Velda Marks
20 N. W. 16th
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103

Joyce M. Kadri
c/o Roger & McCay Inc.
19 W. 44th Street
New York, N. Y. 10036
Susan Geiselman (17)

276 Reynolds Mill Rd.
York, Penna. 17403

Jackie Kiefer
6923 S., Jay Road
W. Milton, Ohio 45383

Elizabeth Lowe (13)
21 Tyrell Avenue
Trenton, N. J.

Sharon Kephart
Louisburg, Kans. 66053

Joe Ann Holden (13)
P. O. Box 397
Oroville, Wash. 98844

Toby Isidor (14)
3923 Gibraltar Ave., Apt 4
Los Angeles, Calif. 90008

Marilyn Esposito (17)
3333 Toledo No. 19
Lubbock, Texas 79410

Barbara Elliott
625 So. 6th Street
Las Vegas, Nev. 89101

Debbie Palmer (17)
RD No. 2 Barton Rd.
Waterford, Penna. 16441

Patricia Ritze
8770 Wicklow Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Robin Black
5841 Bowcroft St. No. 1
Los Angeles, Calif. 90016

Mobile telephone office

CHU LAI—The largest central telephone office operated by the Marine Corps in Vietnam has been installed at the Chu Lai Combat Base.

The new mobile unit is operated by the Communication Co., 7th Communication Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. With its nine operator positions, the new central is capable of serving 600 local subscribers and 60 trunk calls, at one time.

According to Major Daniel G. Bishop, commanding officer of Communications Company, the self-contained central will initially serve Headquarters, Task Force X-Ray. It will then be expanded to include several large activities

located in the area surrounding the headquarters.

"With the increased demand for telephone service here, the unit is just what we needed. Service to our subscribers will be enormously improved," said Bishop.

Warrant Officer Paul Wemyss, is the wire officer in charge of the switchboard, the first such installation in the Fleet Marine Force.

The equipment, housed in two air-conditioned semi-trailers, was provided by the U.S. Army 37th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. The Army unit aided the battalion with the installation of the equipment and helps the Marines maintain it.

Recreation area near Phu Bai

PHU BAI—The small, red and yellow sign says simply, "Route 328. Co Bi Thanh Tan Recreation Area."

Far from being a rest area, this five-acre tract of low scrubland nestling at the foot of the mountains 25 miles northwest of Phu Bai has been the nerve-center of Operations Chinook I and Chinook II since the Marines established a base camp.

From a few temporary tents, the command post has blossomed into a bustling military township housing the 2nd Bn., Ninth Marine Regiment, the Fourth Marine Regiment headquarters group, and supporting units.

Using the command post as a springboard, patrols and company-size operations search and clear the area. Ambush operations are launched into the surrounding coastal plains, Co Bi Thanh Tan Valley, and the foothills.

Backing up the infantryman at the command post is a flexible military force of tanks, ontos, 155 mm and 105mm howitzers, quad-50 cal. machinegun units and twin 40mm weapons.

The command post has the capability of fast resupply to field units through elements of 3rd Motor Transport Bn. The company includes eight Otters. Since Chinook began late last year, the Otters have hauled 120,000 tons of supplies, mainly C-rations and ammunition, to the field. The Otters have also evacuated wounded Marines when bad weather prevents helicopters from flying.

The 3rd Engineer Bn. supplies demolition experts and road builders, and its own eight-man tunnel rat team to probe Viet Cong tunnel complexes.

The compound boasts showers, a barber shop, laundry and a PX (named "Macy's of Chinook") and a medical unit.

"Thanks, Doc!"

The mutual affection, respect and camaraderie that traditionally exists between the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy Corpsman has been aptly expressed by this letter from a Marine to all Navy Hospital Corpsman in which he says simply — "Thanks Doc."

"We have watched you working long into the night, hours after the Marines under your care had completed their tasks. We have seen you too, on those long marches and pushing through the jungles. While we made the trip only once, we have watched you make the journey time and time again, helping each man in need from the front of the column to the rear, and back you came again.

When you were almost out on your feet, you still found time to care for us before you rested. It didn't matter who made the call, you were always there.

Those jibes which we seemed to hurl in your direction at every opportunity were really given with an inward smile. If we were prone to joke and razz you too much, it was only because the feelings of tough Marines are hard to put into words.

Each of us knows that the pills you are always pushing and the shots you make sure we get, are important. But still we have a hard time letting you know how we really feel.

Did you know that most of the time we forget you were a brand which reads United States Navy? You see, Doc, in that helmet and dungarees, with that five-day old beard and mud-covered face, you don't look any different from the rest of the platoon. We know more about you than you think, Doc. The times you risked your own life to help us are not recorded, but we remember. We have seen you braving rains of death-seeking lead to reach the side of our wounded. You were watched as you used your skill to stop our pain and then stood guard over us until we were safe again.

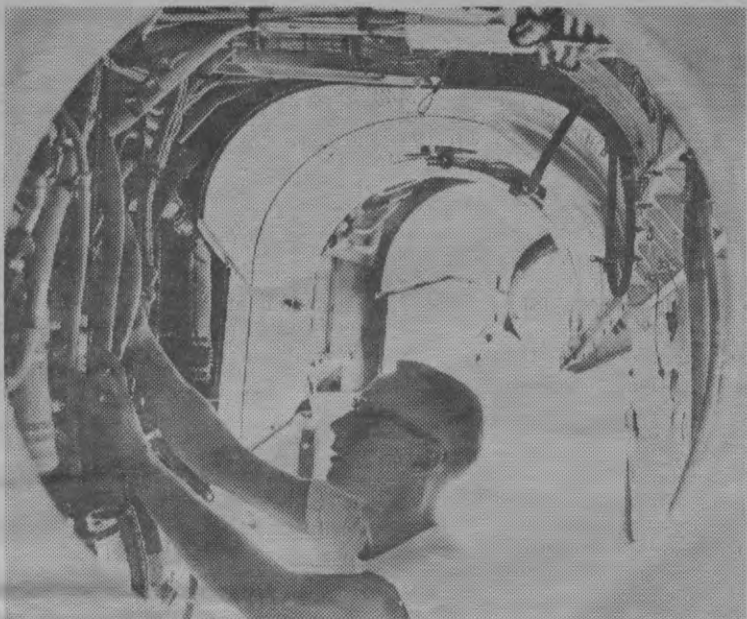
There were tears in your eyes when we fell and happiness if you discovered we were not seriously hurt.

We can't count the times, Doc, but we remember you were there on the hill, in the jungle, by your side in the foxhole and sitting with us waist deep in the water of a rice paddy.

Many times we were blind with pain, but we knew you were caring for us. We felt your hand grasping ours, and grew stronger because of your touch.

You were there yesterday, just as you are today and will be tomorrow, and though we can never seem to find the right words, there will always be a special place for you in our ranks and in our hearts.

—By: GySgt. Tom Segel



Safety first

Sgt. Cameron W. Hannon checks hydraulic lines of a Marine A-6A jet on the MAG-11 flight line. The Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron-242 mechanic tests the aircraft completely once every 17 weeks.

"007 here sir!"

By PFC Gordon Fowler

CHU LAI—The mysterious figure crept silently through the row of buildings, hardly recognizable in the heavy morning mist. He kept to the shadows until he reached a particular wooden building and he slipped quickly through the back door.

Once inside, he removed his trenchcoat and carefully laid his weapon aside, within easy reach if it were needed. He sat down at a desk and waited for a phone call; one that would change his life.

The time seemed to creep by and he sat nervously—waiting for that inevitable call. The minutes ticked by and the phone seemed to stare at him as if it knew something he did not.

Finally, a ring!

He answered quickly in a low voice.

"007 here sir."

The voice on the other end of the line identified himself and said, "I'll be darned!—007 huh? Is Lieutenant Dobbs there?"

"No sir he isn't. Would you care to leave a message?"

"No, I'll call back. Thanks 007."

Lance Corporal Paul F. Slaughter, set the receiver down and thought to himself, "This place will never be the same. Life was so easy when I was simply a clerk in the adjutant's office. Now I have to double as a secret agent. I suppose the Lieutenant will drive to work this morning in an Aston Martin DB-5 with a couple of beautiful blonds wearing gold wet suits, next."

This was the scene in the office of the Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, adjutant, Second Lieutenant Jeff A. Dobbs, the morning after he received his new phone number—007.

The new number was the result of a new switch board installation in the Chu Lai area.

"It sort of adds a little spice of life," Lance Corporal Slaughter said. "If I could only have a few of James Bond's girls, I would be all set."

Chieu Hoi gives life defending "right way"

By: SSgt. "W" Jansen

DA NANG—A Chieu Hoi is a member of the North Vietnamese Army or Viet Cong forces who voluntarily turns himself in and ceases to aid in the fight against the Vietnamese people.

Many times the Chieu Hoi volunteers for retraining and returns to the fighting with free world forces.

One such man was Tran Mui, a hard core Viet Cong for over a year.

Tran died March 16 while on a combat patrol with Marines of "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. He gave his life for what he had said was the "right way."

When he turned himself in as a Chieu Hoi nearly a year ago he asked to be allowed to fight with the Marines. He was retrained and became a scout with the 1st Marine Regiment during November and served with "G" Co., for two months.

According to Captain Charles L. Lynch, "G" Company commander, "my Marines taught

Tran to speak English, and showed him the Marine way of doing things. He slept, worked, and ate with us and even got a Marine Corps 'talking to' when it was necessary."

To Tran Mui this was just like being a real Marine. "A hard bond of friendship grew between us," said the captain, "and we treated him just like any Marine. To us he was a Marine."

Then, death struck Tran Mui. A booby trapped 105mm howitzer shell exploded and ended his fight for freedom.

The 2nd Bn., commander, Lieutenant Colonel Marvin M. Hewlitt, presented 15,000 piasters (\$127) to Ky for the family of Tran Mui. The money had been donated by the men who had served with Tran.

"I know this doesn't replace your loss, but this is just one way for us to help you and the rest of the family," said the colonel. "We are sorry to have lost this young man, he was doing a fine job for us. I just wish we had more like him."

Chu Lai's modern circuit rider provides friendly curb service

By: SSgt. Don Summerford

CHU LAI—Marines scattered across some 2,000 square miles of central Vietnam lowlands have good reason to look forward to visits from Captain Richard R. Reuschling.

For almost a year, the modern day circuit rider has provided Marines of all rank friendly "curb service" while handing out more than 17 and one-half million dollars.

The 1st Marine Division deputy disbursing officer with Task Force X-Ray has used every mode of Marine Corps travel to pay the men, wherever they live, work and fight.

Without this type of on-location pay calls, operational commitments and assignments to remote locations would cause many men to go without regular pay days.

Although Reuschling's primary duty requires him to pay thousands of leathernecks each month, he is most impressed by the individual needs rather than numbers.

Unit pay officers are often unable to pay all members of their command and return that portion of the payroll to the Task Force X-Ray disbursing office since they usually lack safe or vault facilities. It is then that Capt. Reuschling checks for names of Marines that were not paid, and starts making arrangements to reach them personally.

"This is the part that is usually most difficult," says the captain, "since getting transportation to and from some areas is often next to impossible."

"I have no idea how many miles I've traveled to pay troops over here," explains Capt. Reuschling, "since my trips have taken me the entire width and length of the 'I' Corps area—as far north as the DMZ and to Mo Duc down south."

When the captain makes his frequent trips, he is usually accompanied by one of the 1st Marine Division disbursing clerks. Gunnery Sergeant Roy G. Shaver, serving with the Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, has made several trips with the captain, including trips close to the DMZ. Two other Seventh Marine

Regiment disbursing men who have had their share of travel with Reuschling are Corporals Ronald J. Felice and Donald S. Rosenberger.

During the past year, the captain has left his office to pay Marines participating in many operations.

He explains that the routes traveled continually change as Marine units shift position. One pay call may be held at a battalion command post, the next in bunker on a remote observation post for members of a squad. One such incident was when he was flown to the well known "Rock Pile," near Dong Ha.

Since many Marines are located in or near Vietnamese hamlets, requiring them to barter mostly with their people, much of the money Capt. Reuschling pays out is in Piasters.

During his travels, Reuschling doesn't confine his work to being

a pay officer. Since joining the 1st Marine Division he has often acted as messenger, mailman, courier, counsel, and dispenser of cigars, magazines, newspapers and other luxuries he usually packs before leaving Chu Lai.

The number of "thank you" notes received by the captain from personnel in outlying units indicate his assistance is often requested and graciously received.

The eagerness to assist others may stem from Capt. Reuschling's remembrance of his younger days, when he too was a private. Or maybe it was the help he received from his seniors until he advanced in rank to staff sergeant. It was then, in 1960, that he attended the Marine Corps' initial Warrant Officer class at Quantico, Va. Whatever the reason, he continues to make new friends during each "pay run" from his office in Chu Lai.

Heat casualties coming

CHU LAI—Summer is here, bringing with it a steadily rising thermometer.

Because of the high incidence of heat casualties in Vietnam, all Marines in the field should have a basic knowledge of the prevention, symptoms and treatment for heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Although water is not always readily available, a Marine should always carry a minimum of two canteens in the field.

To avoid running out of water when he needs and to avoid nausea, he should never drink after his thirst has been quenched. Doctors also recommend two salt tablets be taken with each canteen of water.

If a heat casualty occurs and a medical facility is not immediately available, the first thing another Marine should try to determine is whether the victim has heat stroke or heat exhaustion, since the symptoms are almost opposite.

Heat stroke, the more serious of the two, is usually caused by the direct rays of the sun. Among its symptoms are high body temperature, hot, dry skin, dizziness, desire to urinate and impaired vision.

To treat heat stroke, one should try to place the victim in a cool place, remove his clothing, and douse him with cold water.

Heat exhaustion or heat cramps is caused generally by loss of body liquids and salt, because of excessive heat, moisture and perspiration.

To treat heat exhaustion, place the victim in a cool place, keep him lying down with his feet elevated, give him warm water, preferably with salt, and, if possible, immerse or soak his body in warm water.

The victim, of course, should be brought to the attention of a qualified corpsman or medical facility as soon as possible.

New FAG CO

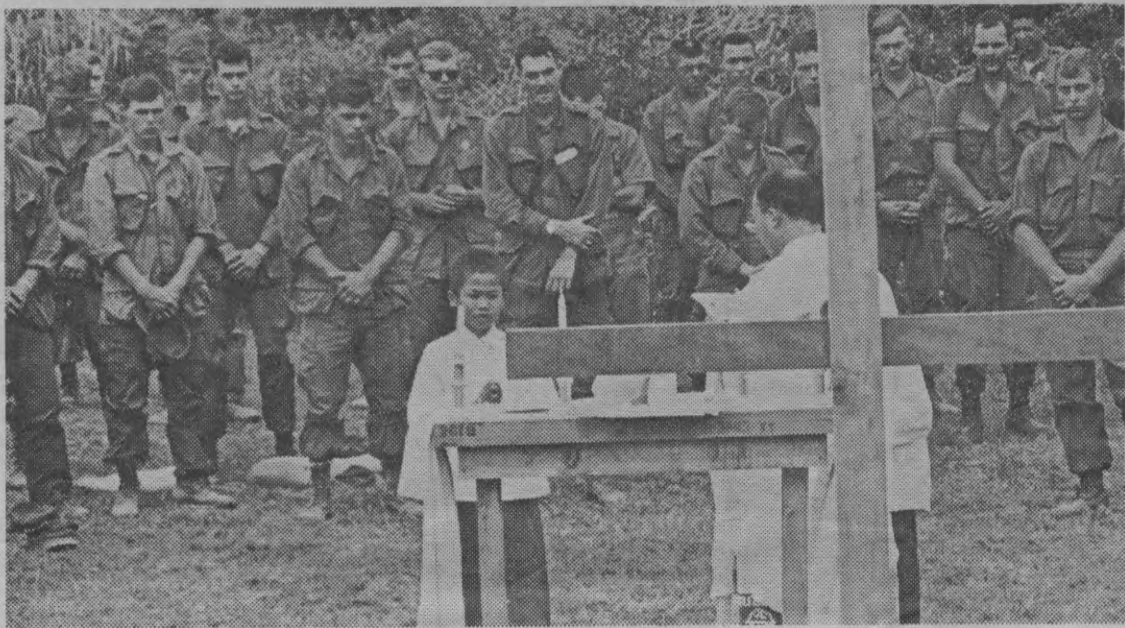
CHU LAI—Lieutenant Colonel William Plaskett, Jr., assumed command of the 1st Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division in a formal ceremony at the 1st FAG headquarters.

He relieved Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Stribling who has completed his tour of duty in Vietnam and will return to the United States for assignment with Landing Force Training Command, Coronado, Calif.



Reassurance

Marine Cpl. James B. Edwards, 1st MAW security guard, reassures two Vietnamese girls that their visit with the doctor will be pleasant. Edwards is escorting the children from the gate to the Wing dispensary where they will be examined and treated by Navy hospital corpsmen and doctors. Sick call is held for villagers six days a week. Nearly 600 Vietnamese children are seen by Wing medical personnel monthly. (Photo by SSgt. W. F. Schrider)



Time out for worship

Marines of "M" Co., 3d Bn., Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, take time out from Operation De Soto to attend Mass in the field. The Mass was conducted by a priest from nearby Du Pho. The altar boy is a young Vietnamese from the Duc Pho orphanage. (Photo by Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

Select group

Civil affairs team works the 'Street without joy'

By: LCpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI—A select group of Marines and Corpsmen are spearheading half of a two-pronged thrust against a Viet Cong stronghold along the "Street Without Joy" 25 miles northwest of here.

As Leathernecks from the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines, battle Viet Cong in the field, the Fourth Marine Regiment Civil Affairs team and corpsmen attached to the regiment have launched an intensive campaign as the first step towards pacification.

The backbone of the program are regular Medcap (Medical Civic Action Program) visits to the nearby village of Phong Dien, surrounding hamlets and refugee villages.

Backing up these efforts are the projects of the civil affairs team led by Second Lieutenant Harold D. Morts. These include helping to relocate a refugee village and building a gravel road for the villages. Future programs will be renovating a Buddhist temple and local school.

When the Viet Cong burned down a village this month the civil affairs unit hauled tents to the site to house the villagers.

"By these programs we hope to establish a firm base on which to build a true peace offensive," Dr. Ted Gross, regimental surgeon said.

Three times a week Dr. Gross heads a medcap team which visits area villages to treat the inhabitants. During an average day Dr. Gross and his corpsmen will see 120 villagers.

Twice a week the team travels to Phong Dien where they help a Vietnamese medical practitioner with his more difficult cases and coordinate medical efforts.

"We hope to expand our medical program soon by teaching sanitary practices to the local people," Dr. Gross said.

The medcap visits, a regular feature of U.S. efforts in Vietnam, are the highlight each week for the area villages.

Within minutes of Dr. Gross' convoy arrival, the area is swarming with hordes of children, mothers and the older men.

"Our visits prompt what almost turns into a gala occasion for the whole village," he said.

Everyone lays aside what they were doing to gaze wonderingly and intently as the doctor listens to their complaints and examines them.

Short Rounds

Hitchin' post

PHU BAI — It's enough to make Wyatt Earp turn in his grave but the old-style Western hitching post is making a comeback . . . in Vietnam.

A familiar sight alongside any Western main street 100 years ago, where cowboys tethered their horses, the hitching post is again coming into its own at the command post of Operation Chinook II, 25 miles northwest of here.

Any mess hall that is wary of its reputation now boasts its own hitching post in front of the mess tables with the slogan, "Take a load off your back. Come eat with us."

Although there are no horses in Vietnam, the posts fulfill a much needed role.

Previously, meals often turned into a battle of flak jackets, rifles and cartridge belts as Marines loaded down with field gear became entangled with each other in the crowded mess halls.

Now, they just hoist their equipment over the hitching post rail and enjoy meals minus their heavy field dress.

New deal

SAIGON — Servicemen may now withdraw their savings from the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program when going on special 30-day leave. Such withdrawals will not, however, include accrued interest which remains on deposit.

Applications for withdrawals will be forwarded through local finance channels. Checks will be mailed only to addresses within the U.S. or its possessions.

The high interest rate program pays 10 per cent compounded quarterly. Personnel completing tours in Vietnam may apply for withdrawal of their money immediately upon return to the States, or they may continue to earn interest up to 90 days after their return.

The recent change enables servicemen to receive high interest while saving for their tour-extension leaves.

Front or rear

CHU LAI—As many Marines have found out, the point squad of a unit in column is not always in the most dangerous position.

A Marine sergeant, moving with the battalion command group at the rear of the column, during Operation Desoto/Deckhouse VI in Quang Ngai Province, won a meritorious promotion to his present rank for his quick and effective action when the group was hit.

Sergeant Francisco Reyna was a fire team leader of H&S Company 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, on March 13, when his team was assigned to provide rear security for the command group.

Hit by a barrage of sniper fire, Reyna's team advanced through the fire toward a small hamlet, where an extensive system of tunnels, shelters and other defensive fortifications were found.

Reyna made a thorough search of the complex and took six detainees.

He was presented the combat promotion March 19 by Brigadier General William A. Stiles, commanding general of Task Force X-Ray.

Combination

CHU LAI—How can a chief clerk at a company headquarters receive a meritorious promotion for "consistently outstanding performance during combat operations"?

Answer: become a combination

casualty reporter, messenger and bodyguard for the company commander.

Sergeant Frank R. Butler made nearly all the operations in that capacity for "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

While the unit was moving through a rice paddy during Operation De Soto in Quang Ngai Province, a Viet Cong suddenly appeared within 20 yards of the company commander, Captain John Carty. Butler killed the VC and possibly saved the commander's life.

Commendation

DONG HA — Master Sergeant William D. Abbott has received a certificate of commendation from the Commandant of the Marine Corps lauding his "outstanding shooting performance" during the 6th Annual Interservice International Shooting competitions at Fort Benning, Ga., held Oct. 24-30, 1966.

He was cited for his performance as a firing member of the Marine Corps team in the two-man clay pigeon event and for placing second in the individual clay pigeon event.

The letter reads, "only through long hours of practice and training could he have achieved such results against keen competition. He is a distinct credit to himself and to the Marine Corps."

Abbott is head of the Third Marines sniper team at the Camp Carroll artillery plateau.

Howitzers

PHU BAI — Formed two months ago, the First Provisional 155mm Howitzer Btry., 4th Battalion, Twelfth Marines is supporting Operation Chinook II, 25 miles north of Phu Bai.

Captain William Dowd is the commanding officer.

"When the regiment became armed with self-propelled howitzers, it was decided to form an additional 155 battery," Dowd said.

The unit, formed at Phu Bai Jan. 6, received five missions almost immediately after coming into existence.

The battery moved to the Chinook area of operations early this month.

Amtracs

CHU LAI—The noise on the tank deck of the LST Kemper County was deafening as the drivers of the six tanks and two amphibious tractors (AmTracs) started their engines.

Drivers and crewmen made last minute preparations before rumbling ashore 60 miles south of Chu Lai in support of Operation De Soto, currently being conducted by the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment.

Minutes after landing, the tanks, escorted by a company of Marines began their first patrol.

"The terrain was pretty solid for about 2,000 meters," said Gunnery Sergeant Marshall A. Bohannon, commander of the 3rd Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Tank Battalion. "When we started across the rice paddies the tanks bogged down and had to be towed by AmTracs. These tanks just aren't made for these soft paddies," he said.

The patrol received sniper fire as they crossed a large paddy but the snipers were silenced by the 90mm guns of the M48 gun tanks and the patrol continued on to its base camp on Nui Dau hill.

"Our primary mission is to accompany infantry units on patrols and destroy bunkers," Bohannon said, "and we can also provide fire support from our position on the hill."



Two-gun York

Sgt. Hillous York recently promoted meritoriously to his present rank, races toward the head of the column as his unit, 3d platoon of "C" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, receives sniper fire from a village northwest of Chu Lai. (Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)



CAC NEWS



A Sea Tiger Monthly Supplement of News About Combined Action Companies

Vol. 1, No. 3

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

April 5, 1967



Hidden round

Cpl. Philip Sylvester, examines an 81mm mortar shell that was found under a pile of lumber during a recent patrol by members of CAC E-2, FLC. CAC-2 uses scout dogs in many of their patrols. A scout dog found this round.

(Photo by GySgt. Ron Harwood)

Only two survivors

16 man CAC patrol ambushed by VC

By: Sgt. Jerry Simmons

DA NANG—A 16-man patrol from a Combined Action Company at Van Tuong was virtually wiped out when they were ambushed by an estimated 100 heavily-armed Viet Cong guerrillas about 12 miles south of the Marine Base at Chu Lai early Sunday.

Fourteen men from the patrol were killed and the other two were wounded.

The action started about 9:30 a.m. Easter, when the patrol — made up of nine Marines, six PF's and a Navy Corpsman — was fired on while moving across an open rice paddy near Phuoc Thuan.

The Viet Cong concealed in hedge-rows, caught the patrol in a deadly cross-fire of machine guns and automatic weapons.

The outnumbered returned automatic weapon and M-79 grenade fire into the enemy positions and called for artillery support.

However, radio contact was lost during the artillery fire mission.

Two Marine squads operating to the north and west of the ambush site were sent as a relief

force.

A spotter plane reported seeing three groups of 25 VC moving away from the vicinity, and called in artillery on the groups.

Eight VC confirmed were killed in the action, and the spotter pilot reported seeing 20 bodies being carried away on litters.

One of the survivors of the patrol was a Marine. He had been shot in the back and apparently left for dead by the Viet Cong.

The other survivor was a PF who managed to escape after he was wounded.

A CAC unit ranges in size from 50-60 men, and are responsible for security and civic action within their area.

LtCol. W.R. Corson new CAC Director

By MGySgt Garry Cameron

DA NANG—"By the end of this year it is anticipated we will have 114 separate Combined Action Platoons throughout I Corps", said Lieutenant W. R. Corson, while reviewing the reorganization of the CAC program and describing his new assignment as director.

Now a member of the Commanding General's staff, Third Marine Amphibious Force, LtCol. Corson formerly was commanding officer of the 3rd Tank Battalion.

At the hamlet of Phong Bac, within the 3rd Tanks area of responsibility, Col. Cor-

son introduced a unique program of civic action and economic development over the past six months which provided him a well-rounded background for his present assignment.

Working with the local popular troops, 3rd Tanks Marines were able to achieve an excellent record in rooting out the Viet Cong and weakening the communistic infra-structure in the village.

The program officer is convinced that the CACs will play a major role in bringing the Vietnamese war to a successful conclusion. In his present capacity, Corson will conduct frequent visits to CAC and CAP units within I Corps, and keep the commanding general continually informed on all matters relating to the combined action program.

Born in Chicago, Ill. on September, 1925, Col. Corson graduated from high school then spent his early college years at the University of Chicago. He entered the Marine Corps in February 1943.

Participating in numerous campaigns in the Pacific during WW II he was discharged at the con-

clusion of hostilities, and completed his college education at the American University.

He obtained a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts degree in Economics and Finance from American. Presently the colonel is studying for his Doctorate and expects to complete the requirements shortly after being rotated from Vietnam this fall.

While attending college he was a member of the Marine Corps Organized Reserves. He returned to active duty in 1949 and was a 1st Sergeant of an aviation unit when he received his commission as a second lieutenant.

During the Korean conflict the colonel was in combat at a tank commander. Subsequently he was assigned to Naval Intelligence and formally studied the Chinese language, as well as intelligence techniques, at the Navy Language Training Center.

On various occasions Col. Corson was given special assignments and has worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, Office of Naval Intelligence and the State Department. Work in this

specialized field has taken him to Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Eighteen months ago the first CAC was formed in a small hamlet near Phu Bai. Then it was an idea, born of necessity, with a hope for success. The "idea" has proven a workable concept to successfully pursue one phase of the conflict in South Vietnam. And the "hope" evolved into a recorded history of achievement on the part of a few hard-working and dedicated Marines.

They saw a need—did a job and believed in what they were accomplishing. These CAC "pioneers", who did so well in putting this program into being, can look back with satisfaction and know their efforts won't go unrecognized.

The previous confusion, which occasionally existed from a standpoint of command and logistical support, is being rapidly alleviated under Lt. Col. Corson's reorganization policy.

Each CAP unit, that will be located in 114 separate locations

(Continued on Page 4)



CAC talk

LtGen. Victor H. Krulak, Commanding General, FMFPac, talks with Sgt. D. E. Brown, platoon commander, CAC-A-3 in Phu Bai. Gen. Krulak was on his quarterly visit of Vietnam.

(Photo by LCpl. H. L. Romine III)

Walking doctor

Navy Doc real "country doc"

By: LCpl. R.R. Keene

CHU LAI—Navy Hospitalman Second Class Robert D. Burns is the nearest thing to a doctor available to the villagers of An Tan and Long Bien.

He has been interested in medicine since he was 12, when he washed ambulances in his home town. Later he joined the local rescue squad. When he enlisted in the Navy in 1962 he became a medical corpsman, and now he's on duty with Marine Aircraft Group-12.

As a walking "country doctor" in Vietnam, Burns is getting all the medicine he bargained for. He roves through the village streets, treating the sick where he finds them and he finds plenty.

"Doc" Burns' day starts when he walks past the last sentry post guarding the Chu Lai airfield. His only protection is his kit of medical supplies and the metal red cross he wears on his uniform cap.

"I don't force myself on these people. I just let them know I'm here with a friendly greeting and by showing them my bag. The main thing is to get their trust. That's the hardest part," Burns said.

Some of his patients have been waiting for him since dawn.

Most of the problems are minor aches and pains. He believes if he treats the minor cases effectively, the villagers will trust him when more seriously ill. It seems to work.

He has learned not to tell a Vietnamese that he's not really sick in front of others. That patient would lose face and Burns would lose business.

The line of patients continues through the day — a shot for fever; something to soothe an aching stomach; cough medicine; ointment for a rash; bandages for a cut.

"The ones who don't trust me at first, but then come to me, they are the ones who give me the feeling of making progress," Burns said.

When he encounters a serious problem he brings a Navy medical officer to examine the patient. If surgery is necessary, the Vietnamese are lifted by helicopter to the hospital ship Repose.

By afternoon on an average day

he has treated more than 70 villagers. It's the hardest part of his day — "closing up shop in front of a line of people who need your help. There just aren't enough hours in the day to treat everyone," he said.

Arrow strikes Marine guard

By CPL. G. E. CORNWELL

DA NANG—Private First Class Frederick A. Douglas never really knew what hit him but he thinks it was an arrow.

A member of combined action company (CAC) in Dai Loc, the 1st Division Marine was standing guard at one of their bunkers when he heard a "light whistling" sound.

Something splashed across his wrist.

Douglas doesn't remember much about the rest of the night because the incoming missile was poisoned.

"The first thing I remember was throwing something at one of our popular soldiers, I think it was my sleeve, cut off by the corpsman to tend the wound."

His comrades, not actually sure what had happened, calmed Douglas down while they called for an emergency medical evacuation helicopter.

Within minutes the helicopter was there and at the hospital the doctors diagnosed the wound as caused by a "poison arrow."

Back in the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment area, Douglas is still trying to convince doubters that it was really an arrow that hit him.

In the darkness of the night it was never found.



River crossing

Marine and Popular Forces soldiers of CAC D-4 are ferried across a river located at their command post, by a local Vietnamese fisherman. The Marines and PFs were returning from a combat patrol. (Photo by: Cpl. A. C. Ferreira)

Ft. Page—second in a series

Something of significance

Night Skirmishes—Part II

The village was a two mile long complex of six hamlets, bordered to the south by a wide river and to the north by a large expanse of sand dunes. At night the VC from main force units moved in and out freely, either crossing the river or infiltrating in across the dunes to collect taxes, take out rice, or just to visit their families. Over a platoon of guerrillas never left the local area. The enemy groups varied in size from two to 200. Sullivan set out to stalk them.

His technique was simple and relied upon total integration. Using only his own men and the PFs at the fort, he would send out three, and sometimes four patrols and ambushes at night. The company was willing to send him more Marines any time he wanted, but he never asked. He wanted to show the PFs that his men needed and relied on them.

The patrols were small, generally not more than three Marines and three or four PFs. They were extremely well armed. Each Marine carried an M-14 modified with bipods, four to six grenades, three or four hundred rounds with a liberal mix of tracers, and one or two LAAWs. The patrols never knew whether they would hit a VC courier or a company.

At first, the PFs were badly frightened at the idea of hunting the VC in the dark, but the Marines taught and trained them by example, taking the point, setting the pace, demanding night discipline and throwing out sharp full volumes of fire when engaged. The enemy, not used to encountering such tactics, was thrown off balance. The PFs on the other hand were showing improvement. Their attitude and spirit of cooperation were improving. Confidence, like fear, is infectious, especially when it derives from success, and the PFs were beginning to succeed.

Determined to check this new, aggressive unit, the enemy gathered a sizeable force. They struck at the fort in strength in early July, only to be ambushed from behind as they crossed a paddy. In the ensuing fight, the Marines lost their first KIA,

for whom the fort was subsequently named. The VC however, were routed and lost face. The PFs became more confident.

In mid-July, the VC tried again, determination reflecting the effectiveness of the CAC units. This time they attacked a force of five Marines and three PFs who were lying in ambush along the northern bank of the Song Tra Bong River. The VC attempted to hit the force from the rear, crawling close in along the paddy dikes which stretched for 200 meters to the rear of the ambush party. A PF posted on the rear lookout saw the enemy and alerted Sullivan who was patrol leader that night. Sullivan had his force wriggle about to face the enemy. They then held fire until the VC were within 50 meters. When he did give the order to cut loose the effect was devastating. The VC were trapped with nowhere to go. By using bipods, the friendly fire was delivered in grazing arcs which not only cut down the enemy on the dikes but also raked clean the treeline on the far side of the paddies. At the edge of the treeline the VC leaders had clustered to watch and direct the attack. The sudden concentrated fire of the Marines and PFs caught them standing erect and the final tally of the action, (which lasted less than eight minutes), stood at 31 enemy dead, including a Company Commander and a platoon commander. The Marines and PFs took no casualties.

The villagers were dumbfounded and the PFs could hardly believe it themselves. The enemy force had passed through the hamlets of My Hu (1) and (3) before the attack. They said they would destroy the Marines and PFs. The bodies brought back to the various hamlets and moved across the river for burial did not include one PF.

The fight was, of course, exceptional because of its size. Throughout the summer, however, fire-fights in the dark were the rule. The fort averaged 11 kills a week. If a night went by without a contact, Sullivan and his PF counterpart, Mr. Phuc, would kid their troops for taking it easy.

Next—The Battle for Binh Nghia



HM2 Robert D. Burns, known as "Doc" to the villagers of An Tan and Long Bien, is taken to the home of a sick woman by her son. The woman has waited for Burns' arrival since dawn. The Doc is a member of MAG-12.

Marine big brother to 10-year-old Viet

CHU LAI — Ten-year-old Bui Hung has a new brother — a U.S. Marine.

And he'll always have a "big" brother as long as the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, maintains a Combined Action Company in the village of Ky Khong.

Bui Hung's mother left five years ago to live with a friend in Da Nang. His father died two years ago. Since then he has been living with an older brother who has three children of his own.

Times were hard and Bui was asked to either find work or

leave. He tried. But no one would listen to a ten-year-old boy, especially one who was obviously sick.

Civil authorities brought Bui Hung to the Marine-sponsored Vietnamese hospital at Ky Khong, where the 3rd Battalion's CAC headquarters is located. He was examined by Navy Hospitalman Corpsman Philip D. Laby.

"When I first saw Hung he was thin, dirty and weak," said Laby. "He was suffering from anemia, malnutrition and a skin condition," he added.

"There was only one thing I

could do," Laby said, "put him on vitamins and feed him a square meal three times a day."

In the meantime Hung stayed at the hospital where he was "adopted" by Private First Class Earl C. Weatherman. When Hung arrived at the hospital, located four miles west of Chu Lai, he wore old levis, shower shoes and a black pajama top.

Now he wears one of Weatherman's cut down utilities. In addition, when Hung meets a "financial crisis" — like needing money for candy or cake — Weatherman is there to bail him out.



Fishing net

LCpl. James Ellison gives a woman of Ha Chau village a hand with the family fishing net. Ellison is a member of CAC-8. (Photo by: CPL. C. R. Holbert)

Thuy Phuong village protected by CAC-6

By: Sgt. Dave Sturgeon

PHU BAI—Protection of Thuy Phuong village, nine miles north of Phu Bai, is the responsibility of the Marine contingent and Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) troops of Combined Action Company (CAC)-6.

Sgt. George E. Nance, squad leader of the Marine unit of Alpha CAC-6, located in the village on Highway 1, said "our job is a simple, but important one—to help the people themselves.

"I'm pleased with the civil affairs program," he continued. "The CAC's are doing a great job helping the people. It's too bad the good results can't be speeded up, but it takes time."

The Viet Cong have threatened the Marines and villagers on numerous occasions. The threats are sometimes carried out.

On a recent evening patrol while searching for a suspected Viet Cong unit in the area, a CAC-6 patrol engaged about 120 Viet Cong in a heavy fire fight. There were no friendly casualties.

"I believe it was a diversionary attack," said Nance. "The next day I found that an elderly man in the village had been assassinated by the VC. The man's hands were tied and he was shot in the body. He had worked for the village chief."

For the most part the people in the village have a good relationship with the Marines. Some are reluctant at times in their dealing with the Marine troops — Thuy Phuong isn't completely pacified.

Some of the villagers have relatives in the Viet Cong or sympathize with them. This makes it harder for the Marines to do their job.

"Our biggest problem is the language barrier," Nance said. "I only wish I could speak Vietnamese better. This would be of great benefit to me."

There are two Navy corpsmen attached to CAC-6. They hold sick call daily and treat a large number of patients. The Marines also give medical assistance to the small Vietnamese hospital located in the village.

On March 16, the village school house was opened again. The

Viet Cong had bombed the school last December. The Marines and PF's provided some of the necessary materials and helped rebuild the school.

The Marines also work hand in hand with the Revolutionary Development (RD) group in the village. The RD group, comprised of about 25 Vietnamese citizens, gives advice to the villagers on how to better their living conditions, grow better crops, and explains the purpose of the Vietnamese government programs.

They are truly helping the people to help themselves.

Momma-san

Everyone who has been to the Far East knows what "mamma-san" means. She is the maid, the older woman who works in the barracks or the club. She is the farmer's wife working near the road.

But "momma-san" is a Japanese word and the Vietnamese who are old enough to remember the Japanese occupation don't always like to be addressed in Japanese.

As a guest in Vietnam, wouldn't it be better to use a Vietnamese word? Next time you want to get the attention of a woman in a village or a maid at a barracks try saying co oi! (That is pronounced: co as in cold, oi as in boy.)

See if you don't get a wider grin in return. It was great of you to learn the Japanese word. Let's save "mamma-san" for Japanese or Okinawan women. Remember, in Vietnam it's: co oi.

Fishing village

Phouc Thien village back up from ashes

By: Pfc. John B. Donovan

CHU LAI—The sign near the hamlet gate is the first thing to strike the attention of the visitor to the hamlet of Phouc Thien: "We welcome the presence of the Marines for the protection of our people."

The second thing to hit the visitor's eye is the section of newly-thatched houses, known as "long houses", arranged in rows, with solid wooden frames and tin roofs. The hamlet market place, bustling with the chatter of fish and vegetable vendors, is situated at one end of this section.

Phouc Thien, located on a peninsula 10 miles south of Chu Lai, is a well-laid-out hamlet, protected by a massive system of defense fortifications, and beginning to show the signs of a prosperous economy. Most of the men are fishermen and members of the Popular Forces, while the women are engaged in the cultivation and sale of garden produce.

Four months ago, disaster hit the hamlet. A company-size VC force, in an effort to overrun the Marine Combined Action Company next to the hamlet, swept out across the peninsula. When they reached the end of the peninsula, they caught the PF's and the CAC unit in a murderous crossfire between the peninsula and the hills behind it.

Casualties, both Marine and Vietnamese, were heavy. Only artillery and air strikes were able to destroy the VC, and the action took a heavy toll of the lives and properties of the people.

The people of Phouc Thien were determined that the VC would never get another chance like that one.

The leaders of the hamlet, united by the catastrophe, wanted help, and fast. They did not want to become refugees, nor did they want to become controlled by the Viet Cong, who had attacked them. They appealed to the Marine unit in the area for help and, in turn, pledged their cooperation.

The Marine unit answering the appeal was the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. The Civil Affairs Section of the battalion, headed by Captain

Dan F. Rankin, supplied the people with the materials they needed to rebuild their houses.

The Marine CAC unit first asked some of the villagers to move their houses so that better fields of fire could be made for the perimeter. Then the men, women and children all pitched in to dig a trench, both wide and deep, and fill it with punji sticks and cactus, to seal the hamlet off from the VC. To reinforce this, they erected concertinas of barbed wire, dug tunnels and built bunkers.

Meanwhile, Marine CAC unit T-4 increased the training program for the local Popular Forces, and ran regular patrols throughout the surrounding area. Because of the personal rapport the unit had gained with the RF's, their cooperation was enthusiastic.

The Battalion Civil Affairs Section was then able to conduct its activities in the hamlet, and the "Medcap" program was expanded to include more frequent visits by the Battalion Medical Officer, Lieutenant Kevin R. Wheaton.

Lt. Wheaton found that bronchitis and skin disease were the most pressing problems of the hamlet. During the average month, the doctor supervises more than 6,000 treatments, and helps the people work toward better sanitary conditions. The Civil Affairs Section contributes soap toward this effort.

The section also makes solatium payments, that is, payments to those who have suffered property losses because of military actions in the area. After the

large-scale strike by the VC, those payments were of tremendous help in the rebuilding of the houses and the reestablishment of businesses and fishing activities.

"With our help toward getting some of these people back on their feet," said Capt. Rankin, "we have received complete cooperation in all our efforts, from the hamlet official right down to the poorest fisherman. Phouc Thien should be an encouragement to civil affairs projects everywhere in Vietnam."

In the near future, Phouc Thien will officially acquire the status of a "new life hamlet", a place where refugees from areas destroyed by the VC can go to build a new future for themselves.

The new status will qualify the hamlet for the additional help of one of the Revolutionary Development Cadres. These are specially trained para-military groups, consisting of 59 members each, dedicated to the improvement of the economic and educational standards of the residents and refugees.

Each individual in an RDC not only has a military background, but has been trained in the more advanced techniques of at least one civilian occupation. By living and working with the people for a period of about two years, the cadres expect to motivate and educate the people toward a greater rate of development.

This will relieve much of the burden of the Civil Affairs Section, but the section will continue to aid the people with materials and medical care as much as

(Continued on Page 4)



School time

LCpl. Michael G. Lacy shows the PF soldiers of CAC D-6 some of the arms that they will be using while serving with the Marines. CAC D-6 is a new unit located about 15 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo by: Cpl. A. C. Ferreira)



Routine radio check

Marine radioman David F. Shymansky and two Popular Forces soldiers coordinate their patrol's movement during a routine check of the surrounding area of Ha Chu village. (Photo by Cpl. C. R. Holbert)

LtCol. Corson new director

(Continued From Page 1)

within the I Corps TAOR by the end of 1967, will consist of 14 Marines, one Navy Corpsman and from 30-35 popular force soldiers.

"This will provide a defensive unit of between 50-55 persons", remarked the colonel, "and this means only one-third of the number of conventional forces normally assigned to provide security of a given area will be required. Consequently our combat forces are free to expand the TAOR of I Corps."

During the evolution of a solid CAC organization it has been realized that CAP has the potential to perform a wide variety of programs other than their main mission of security. The role will be expanded to include civic action and economic development through the entire spectrum of pacification.

Marines in the program are volunteers and it is preferred that they have at least two months in country with an infantry unit, and a minimum of six months remaining on their current tour. They must be mature, highly motivated and also recommended by their commanding officer.

"There is no doubt, added the colonel, "that for a program this size—one that will run to 1800 Marines and 6,000 popular forces by the years end—we have been extremely fortunate in that we have had very few who haven't met the requirements."

"In the beginning, no one really knew what characteristics were necessary to be a CAC. It is considerably different, when you realize Americans have not been required to live 24 hours a day along side indigenous personnel."

"Common sense, coupled with the good judgement of marine commanders has established a criteria on the type person required to integrate in the CAC program."

Studying and evaluating the characteristics desirable in a Marine assigned to CAC is a continuing process. It is hoped to have these characteristics defined to the extent they will be of invaluable assistance should a similar type be required elsewhere. Eventually it may be possible to reach a peak of evaluation whereby the type individual

necessary could be identified prior to assignment to Vietnam.

And what of the popular forces—the tough Vietnamese fighter who works, trains and patrols with his Marine counterpart? His support and cooperation are vital. Paid less than other members of the Army of South Vietnam the PF must augment his income by working part time in or near the village where he lives.

Lt. Col. Corson aware of the need to increase the prestige and status of the PF said that his staff is presently studying the possibility of a distinctive patch or piece of headgear which will give the CAC member singular identification.

Answering the obvious question about when the CAC could be removed, Col. Corson had this to say:

"Presently we have security situations that vary from fighting for your life nightly to where it

is under manageable proportions. Actually it is difficult to define what civic action and pacification really mean.

"However, I have an absolute criteria of knowing when pacification is complete and when CAC can pull out.

"It is in the form of a question, 'have the people begin to demand something from their government rather than the other way around?'

"Pacification is complete when the people in a given community say of the government—'Give me a post office, a police system, a judge — government, protect me'."

Lt. Col. Corson will not venture a time table for the removal of the CAC, but he firmly believes they will continue to expand and eventually history will record the major role they played by the Action Company in the Vietnamese war.

Marines help refugee

By Cpl. Ira Taylor

CHU LAI—The young Vietnamese refugee could smile again.

He had a new home for his family where they would no longer be faced with Viet Cong taxation and terrorism, near his newly found friends—Marines of the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

His home was built with funds donated by the staff non-commissioned officers of the battalion and is located in Dien Pho hamlet.

Two months ago, the young refugee had walked from his home 20 miles northwest of Chu Lai to the Ly Tin District Headquarters and asked for help in rescuing his family from VC control.

The district office promised to help. "A" Co., 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, were sent in to do the job.

A week later the refugee and his family, with most of their belongings, were escorted safely into the battalion area. Later, they asked to be relocated in the hamlet near the Marine unit.

"We knew they needed a home and since they asked to live here, we thought we could help build one by donating the money for the material," said battalion Sergeant Major Sidney H. Hilliard.

In addition to the bamboo and

tin roofing; six beds, two tables and four chairs were purchased with donations.

"It seemed like a good way to prove our sincerity," Hilliard said, "and judging from his smile, I think we succeeded."

Lt. Duc cited

PHU BAI — 2ndLt. Tong Phuoc Duc, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) was presented a Certificate of Meritorious Service by MajGen. W. B. Kyle, Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division, at division headquarters here March 1.

Lt. Duc, who is the ARVN liaison officer to the 3rd Marine Division, received his award for exceptional initiative and enthusiasm, which greatly enhanced the functioning of combat missions of the 3rd Division.

Assigned to the Ninth Marine Regiment from December 1965 until June 1966, he helped form six Combined Action units in the Da Nang area. As the assistant liaison officer to the 3rd Marine Division, he worked diligently to establish good relations between Marines and Vietnamese citizens.

His citation stated in part: "Lt. Duc's professional competence and services reflect highly upon himself and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam."

Mr. Flynn Sergeant wins trust of Viets

By: Cpl. G.E. Cornwell

DA NANG — Sergeant Michael F. Flynn, entered the Marine Corps in 1964. His only duty station since recruit training has been South Vietnam.

Flynn left for Vietnam in November 1964. He served with the 2nd Battalion, Third Marines, 3rd Marine Division for about 21 months.

During this time he used his constant contact with the Vietnamese people to learn their language fluently.

Because of his language proficiency, he worked as the civil affairs officer for that battalion. He was instrumental in the effort that made Le My the first pacified village in Vietnam.

Flynn enjoyed his work with the people but missed the action of the line companies.

He requested reassignment and was sent to "F" Co.

It was then that a combined action company (CAC) was organized at An Me, a small hamlet near Dai Loc, 20 miles south of Da Nang.

A different squad was sent to the CAC each week from "F" Co. Flynn's turn came and he stayed.

He was so useful to the CAC program that he was assigned to the An Me post for as long as his battalion remained in the area.

When his unit received orders to move Flynn requested to stay with the CAC, which had relocated to Loc An, deeper into VC territory.

His request was denied.

The people of Loc An sent a letter to his battalion commander.

It read in part:

"We are respectfully to submit this letter to you and will you please give permission Mr. Flynn Sergeant inhabit at our hamlet because in lapse of time he remain here he win all the hearts of the whole people and he can to speak Vietnamese very much."

His next request came back stamped "approved."

He was put in charge of the CAC unit.

Flynn's first move was to relocate the CAC.

And, he did. Again and again until now it is further in VC infiltrated area than any other CAC unit in the Da Nang area.

In December Flynn extended his Vietnam tour again.

In a letter to the Commandant of the Marine Corps he outlined his reasons and qualifications for staying longer than the authorized two years overseas.

By the first of January his request for extension was granted and Flynn went home on leave.

In three months Flynn will end his two and one half year tour in the war zone.

"I've become so involved with the people here, it's become a personal war for me. I've come to rely on them as much or more than they rely on me," he said.

If Sgt. Flynn doesn't extend again he will return to Texas and attend college.

"I plan to major in linguistics," he says, "and return to Vietnam to help rebuild their war-torn country."

Ashes—

(Continued From Page 3)

their resources allow.

Moreover, the battalion's chaplain, Lieutenant Lawrence R. Lowry, USN, CHC, makes regular visits to the hamlet, where Christians constitute a majority of the population.

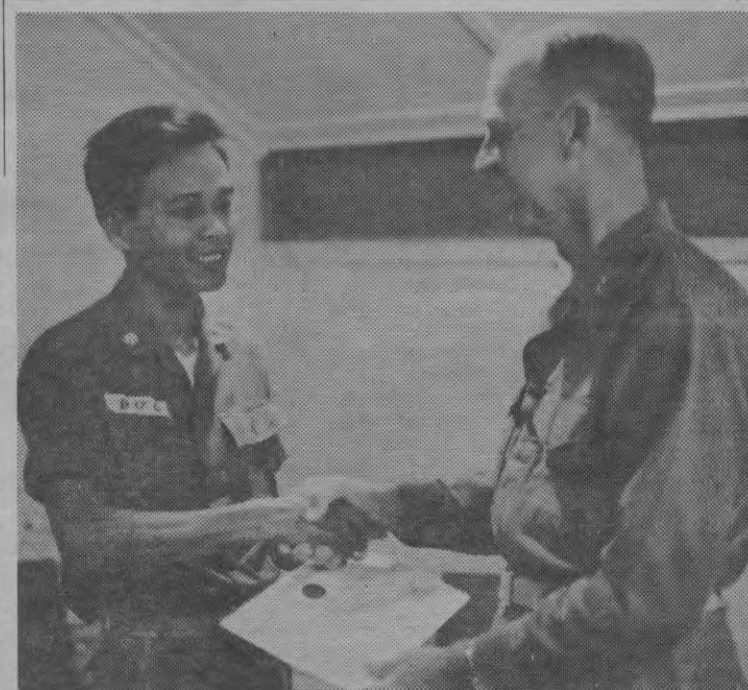
Phuoc Thien has risen from the ashes to a new life. Its population, which has grown by 500 during the past four months to its present level of 3,000 is grateful. Also, the first school in the history of the hamlet is being organized.

Whom do these people thank? Themselves? Yes!

But an American visitor to Phuoc Thien should not be surprised if he is personally thanked by one of the villagers.

CAC visit

PHU BAI — Major General W. T. Fairburn, acting director J-5, Joint Chiefs of Staff toured a Combined Action Company here recently. Gen. Fairburn is on a tour of Vietnam to observe civic action programs. He visited CAC-3 in Thuy Phu village near Phu Bai.



Letter of Commendation

Maj. Gen. Wood B. Kyle, Commanding General, 3rd MarDiv., presents a letter of Commendation to ARVN Lt. Duc, Liaison Officer assigned to 1st Bn., 9th Marines who was instrumental in forming six CAC units around the Da Nang area.



RUINED WEAPONS—U.S. Marines and Army personnel examine the wreckage from a communist trawler (more than 80 feet long) that was forced onto the beach 20 miles south of Chu Lai, March 14. The ship contained more than 1200 weapons and numerous medical supplies and other equipment. The craft was apprehended by a U.S. Navy Destroyer escort and three Swift (PCF) boats.

(Photo by: Sgt. John B. McKinley)

Largest cache of war

Communist trawler-type vessel brought to bay by Navy ships

By: Pfc Gordon Fowler

CHU LAI—A Communist trawler-type vessel, more than 80 feet long, was brought to bay by a U.S. Navy Destroyer and three swift (PCF) boats, March 14, yielding what is believed to be one of the largest caches of enemy weapons of the Vietnam War.

The load included 1,186 "Chicom" carbines; 23 sub-machine guns; 3 light machine guns; thousands of rounds of ammunition; numerous medical supplies; canvas packs and equipment; explosives and some black pajama-type uniforms.

The iron-hulled, enemy craft was sighted by the U.S. Destroyer Escort BRISTER just before dawn, unloading supplies on the beach about 20 miles south of Chu Lai.

When challenged by the BRISTER the Viet Cong craft attempted to escape. The BRISTER fired warning rounds across the Communist boat's bow, but the craft failed to stop.

Three swift boats nearby were called to intercept the vessel which was making about 12 knots. One of the swift boats, under the command of Lieutenant (jg) Kelly McCutchen, intercepted the trawler and the Viet Cong crew opened up with small arms fire, hitting the boat 11 times.

The trawler was forced to alter its course and was run aground on the beach by the Navy craft. The BRISTER fired suppressive fire around the enemy craft in an effort to hold it on the beach, but not destroy it.

A few minutes after the Communist trawler was beached a tremendous explosion erupted, scattering the trawler over more than 1,000 yards of beach and surf.

Later in the day, Marines of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, were heli-lifted to the beach to secure the area and survey the wreckage.

"Pieces of the trawler's hull, rifles, parts of rifles and other supplies were scattered as far inland as 1,000 yards," said Second Lieutenant Joseph S. Franzia, "D" Company's commanding officer. He continued, "We established a perimeter around the

beach area and began collecting the wreckage."

The contraband was returned to the Task Force X-Ray Command Post, at Chu Lai, for cataloging and disposal.

"As much as two-thirds more supplies could still be in the ocean," said Lieutenant Colonel Jack D. Rowley, the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines.

Audio-visual teams get message across

By LCpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI—Two hundred meters from an ambush site three technicians quietly set up their loudspeakers. A tape recorder operator flipped a switch and a Vietnamese voice pierced the darkness.

The voice asked the Viet Cong to lay down their arms and begin a new life by rallying to allied forces.

On March 13, the three-man audio-visual team from a psychological warfare unit hit paydirt.

A North Vietnamese political officer heard the message and surrendered to Marine forces near Cam Lo the next morning. The enemy captain is believed to be the first such political officer to voluntarily surrender by Army Lieutenant John S. Martin, head of the team.

Martin leads one of five teams of the 244th Psychology Operations Co., with headquarters at Da Nang. The teams work throughout the I Corps area, waging psychological warfare on the enemy.

Other members of Martin's crew are Marine Sergeant Karl A. Guigas, and Lance Corporal Bryan L. Christensen.

"Our main objective is to persuade the VC and North Viet-

namese regulars to lay down their arms and come over to our side," Martin said.

To do it, the teams use a variety of methods and transportation. "We usually move into the field with an infantry unit and set up our equipment on contact to broadcast to the enemy," Martin said. "Most evenings we move out with an ambush and set up our equipment several hundred yards in front of the main ambush party to broadcast," he added.

Guigas admits, "it's kind of frightening" to be in front of an ambush. "You just have to sit there broadcasting and hoping the VC are not moving in to encircle you," he said.

In making the broadcasts, the team has also used riverboat junks and helicopters.

Sound of big guns hard to get used to

By: Sgt. Dan Wisniewski

DONG HA—"You never get used to it. You learn to live with it, but you'll never get used to it."

These words echo the sentiments of Marines at the Camp Carroll artillery plateau south of the demilitarized zone. For Camp Carroll, with its mass of heavy artillery, is in an almost constant state of noise.

Throughout the day, artillery batteries fire in support of friendly ground operations.

The camp has batteries of 105mm howitzers, 155's, and the Army's big ones — the 175mm guns.

Guns fire singly, in pairs, and by battery. Add the occasional firing of 40mm cannon and mortars and it creates a crescendo of noise, day and night.

At night, the guns fire into areas known to be frequented by the enemy. By firing there the cannons help keep the enemy off balance so he cannot mass for an attack, or safely use an avenue of approach to the base.

On a typical night there is a burst of 40mm fire from the west. A few minutes of silence, then a 105mm Marine battery speaks from the opposite end of the perimeter. Another pause, and an earth-shattering roar of a 175mm gun breaks the stillness of the night.

Newcomers to Camp Carroll awaken with a start; veterans wince, shrug it off, and continue their sleep. Old-time cannoners slumber on — to all appearances undisturbed.

Following the first couple of sleepless nights, a newcomer becomes conditioned to the explosions, but he still jumps when that extra loud round is fired over his head. He's a veteran when he learns to live (and sleep) with it.

Plain talk

CHU LAI—A Marine who had just arrived in Vietnam at the Chu Lai combat base, was anxious to visit one of the villages and talk with the people.

"How bad is the language barrier?" he asked one of his fellow Marines who had spent several months in the country.

"There is no language barrier," the second Marine assured him, "we communicate perfectly."

The new Leatherneck remembers his first visit to one of the villages with his friend. They went into one of the small-shops to look around.

The young girl who ran the shop was a friend of the other Marine.

"Allo, Joe," she greeted him. "I go Chu Lai. You gimme go, ok?"

"Sorry 'bout that no can do," said the Marine.

"Papasan have bike. He no here. You gimme go."

"No same-same," replied the Marine. "Jeep for honcho bac-si."

"No sweat," she coaxed him. "Boocoo sweat. Now you souvenir me cigarette."

"Neva happen. You numba ten boocoo dinky dow."

"I no dinky dow, I numba one Marine. Look, I deede and come back later."

"Ok, you numba one Marine. You come back, ok?"

As two Marines left the shop the new arrival asked his buddy in amazement, "Where did you learn to speak Vietnamese?"



Big bang

A Marine demolition team prepares to destroy 102mm rockets discovered north of Cam Lo.

(Photo by Sgt. D. B. McVeigh)



Time for a drink

A Marine of "K" Co., 3d Bn., Third Marines pauses to fill his canteen before crossing the Cam Lo River during an operation near the DMZ. (Photo by Sgt. H. L. Shaw)

First Navy ships dock at Cua Viet river ramp

By GySgt. Tom Donaldson

DA NANG—Two U.S. Navy LST's (Landing Ship Tank) successfully completed the first docking at the new Cua Viet River ramp, March 15.

The USS *Caroline County* (LST 525), carrying rolling stock loaded with ammunition, and the USS *Snohomish County* (LST 1126), transporting 700 tons of artillery ammunition, were the first LST's to complete the voyage.

The ramp, located at the mouth of the Cua Viet River, some 87 miles north of Da Nang and six miles south of the demilitarized zone, was constructed to provide docking facilities for ships capable of transporting large loads to the resupply point at Dong Ha.

After the ramp was completed, a Canadian sea-going dredge began clearing a channel entrance to the ramp. The ship worked for more than a week clearing the channel and carrying the sand out to sea. The dredge, using her hoppers, created a 350-foot channel, 14-foot deep.

Before construction of the ramp, LCU's (Landing Craft Utility) were carrying cargo from Da Nang to resupply points at Dong Ha. However, their size limited their cargo to 75 tons per trip, less than one-tenth of an LST's capacity.

Although the operation was successful, the river trip was far from routine. The shallow channel entrance presented a ticklish job of navigation. The *Caroline County*, first to go through the new channel, got a little too far to the right of the entrance and grounded on the beach.

With the help of small boats and her own engines, the *Caroline County* was able to move off the sand bar and proceed to the ramp. Within a few hours her cargo was unloaded and she was heading back to Da Nang.

The *Snohomish County*, loaded with 700 tons of ammo, retook channel soundings, then made her way through the channel to the

docking ramp without a hitch.

Within minutes after docking, heavy equipment handlers from the Naval Support Activity began unloading the cargo onto the waiting LCU's for the shallow river ride to Dong Ha.

The loading personnel, utilizing heavy terrain forklifts, transferred 75 tons aboard each of the LCU's on a "round the clock schedule." The entire unloading and reloading to the smaller craft took less than 24 hours.

The overall operation provided a 49-day supply of ammunition at Dong Ha. The resupply point, operated by Force Logistic Support Unit 1, an element of Force Logistic Support Group "A", services Marines in the northernmost sector of the I Corps area.

Simple device

DONG HA—A simple but effective device is being added to the Camp Carroll artillery plateau's defenses, thanks to the ingenuity of a Marine master sergeant.

The device — made from the metal covers of 175mm projectile casings—will aid troops in plotting the position of enemy activity, guns or mortars from muzzle flashes.

"It's really quite simple," said Master Sergeant William D. Abbott, head of the Third Marine Regiment's sniper team and inventor of the device.

"We've marked the round metal covers like a compass. Every ten degrees, we've punched a notch into the metal and painted it white. We also have painted numbers on the face to mark each 45 degrees of the compass," he said.

In the center of the cover is a revolving handle on which is painted an arrow.

"Once the device is compass-oriented and anchored into the ground, the operator has merely to line up the arrow with the direction of muzzle flash and take a reading in degrees from the face of the cover," Abbott said.

Decorations and Awards

DA NANG—A former British soldier of the Royal Light Highland Fusiliers and lieutenant with the Canadian Army's 48th Highlanders and now a United States Marine, was presented the Silver Star Medal Mar. 15.

A scout team leader with "C" Co., 1st Recon. Battalion, Sergeant Allastair J. Livingston, (then a corporal), was a member of a 13-man reconnaissance patrol in Quang Ngai Province, south of Chu Lai, Oct. 10, when he was cited.

As the patrol was being extracted, they came under attack by an estimated 35 to 50 North Vietnamese regulars. Livingston immediately directed his team to a defensive position and brought devastating fire against the enemy.

The 24-year-old Marine, from Yorkshire, England, disregarded his own safety as he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire, (although already wounded) to help other members of the patrol and to direct fire on the enemy.

When Livingston and his platoon leader, the last remaining members of the patrol in the landing zone, were awaiting evacuation, the pair killed an additional four Viet Cong who came into the area to "collect spoils."

"His bravery and skill throughout averted a potentially disastrous situation," reads the citation.

Livingston's wound in the action was his second in as many weeks.

In awarding the Silver Star, Major General H. Nickerson, Jr., 1st Division Commander, said, "I wish to express my sincere congratulations and appreciation for your heroic conduct and fearless devotion to duty on the field of battle."

Livingston has extended his tour in Vietnam twice and now has more than two years in country. His parents and two brothers and a sister live in England.

Silver Star

CHU LAI — A Cranston, R.I., Marine who killed six Viet Cong and then when out of ammunition, captured three more, was presented the Silver Star Medal, March 19.

Sergeant Edward K. Ratcliffe, 18, while a squad leader with the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, was moving through a rice paddy 50 miles south of Chu Lai, when the squad suddenly found themselves approaching the flank of an approximate company of Viet Cong.

While maneuvering his squad, Ratcliffe shot two of the VC. He killed four more after flushing the VC from a nearby village.

Ratcliffe's citation reads in part, "With complete disregard for his own safety, Sgt. Ratcliffe pursued the enemy into the rice paddy, exposing himself to hostile fire. . ."

He also spotted three VC breathing through straws under the paddy water. Although out of ammunition, Ratcliffe approached the three with his rifle at the ready, and captured them. Fortunately, the VC had hidden their weapons.

During the ceremonies at battalion headquarters, Ratcliffe was also meritoriously promoted to his present rank.

Two Awards

DA NANG — A Marine sergeant, who led his platoon on two separate victories over Viet Cong forces, has been awarded the Bronze Star and Navy Commendation Medals.

Sergeant William Jennings Bryan Leister, and a platoon sergeant with "D" Co., 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, was awarded the decorations during ceremonies, recently.

Leister was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his direction of an assault against a force of heavily-armed Viet Cong, Dec. 5.

Then with "C" Co., Leister was leading his platoon across a rice paddy when he spotted 20 VC moving through an open area to the front.

He immediately rushed to the head of the column and directed fire at the enemy, and a fire fight ensued.

Leister completely ignored the intense fire to move among his men, shouting words of encouragement and directing fire on the enemy. He personally killed two of the VC and as a result of his quick thinking and leadership, eight more were killed.

Leister was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his actions when his platoon was brought under heavy fire while on a sweep operation south of Da

Nang, Dec. 21.

An estimated reinforced platoon of Viet Cong inflicted light casualties on Leister's platoon. The stocky Marine set up care of the wounded while continuing the attack on the enemy.

Throughout the entire battle, Leister ignored the enemy fire to rally his men.

With a squad he continued to press the attack, routing the enemy while the remaining members of the platoon prepared a helicopter landing zone for the evacuation of the wounded.

Bronze Star

DONG HA — Marine Lance Corporal Lovett T. Richardson, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V".

With "D" Co., 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Richardson was recommended for the award while on patrol 11 miles west of Dong Ha. He led the patrol through a heavily mined area, dismantling five mines on the way.

Attacked by North Vietnamese troops shortly after the patrol had cleared the mined area, Richardson's rifle was shot from his hands by a burst of automatic weapons fire and he was knocked unconscious by an exploding grenade.

Regaining consciousness, he grabbed a wounded Marine's rifle and provided covering fire while a corpsman aided the wounded man.

Richardson then led the 3rd Marine Division patrol safely back through the booby-trapped area to a better defensive position and assisted in calling artillery fire on the enemy. The patrol was pinned down for five hours by intense small arms and mortar fire.

His citation reads in part: "Though painfully wounded he continued to fight bravely throughout the action, being an inspiration to all those who observed him."



Tank modification

Marines of "A" Co., 1st Tank Bn., install a vision ring on a tank. It is designed to increase visibility with the hatch closed. Marines working on the tank are: (left to right) LCpl. John J. Houghton; PFC Mike Stertz and LCpl. D. T. Mickey.

(Photo by LCpl. R. P. Curry)



Moving through

Marines of the 3d Bn., Fourth Marines, move through the village of Gia Do, east of Dong Ha, while searching for the enemy. (Photo by Sgt. D. E. Weimer)

VC attack Nui Dang

Jets, choppers kept busy during fierce enemy attack

By: LCpl. Larry Belcher

CHU LAI—1st Marine Aircraft Wing units in the Chu Lai area were kept busy during the early morning hours of Friday, March 24 as the Viet Cong unleashed a fierce 100-round mortar and recoilless rifle attack on allied forces at Nui Dang, 40 miles south of here.

Jets and helicopters from Marine Aircraft Groups 12, 13 and 36 were dispatched to the scene, where four enemy mortar positions were reported emplaced in nearby villages and tree lines, approximately one and one-half miles from the friendly positions.

MAG-12 A-4E Skyhawk attack jets hammered the enemy positions with 250 and 500 lb. bombs, along with 20mm cannon fire.

Helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362 braved heavy automatic weapons fire to pick up allied wounded.

Marine Observation Squadron-6 scrambled three UH1E Huey gunships to the zone, which, according to Marine observers, resembled a Fourth of July celebration, with tracer rounds and heavier ordnance saturating the area.

First Lieutenant Bobby Thatcher, a pilot with VMO-6, related that it was just after midnight when the squadron received confirmation of the enemy attack on the fuel pits at Nui Dang.

"The pits were ablaze by the time we arrived in the zone," Thatcher said.

Two VMO-6 Hueys alternated

as tactical air controller airborne during the entire mission, which lasted nearly five hours. A third repeatedly entered the zone, picking up casualties.

Despite the darkness and enemy fire, VMO-6 Marines were able to direct artillery, jet aircraft and naval gunfire on the enemy emplacements, as well as peppering the area with their own 2.75 in. rockets and M-60 machine guns.

"Each time we had to return to Quang Ngai to refuel, the VC would launch another attack," said Thatcher. "But whenever we

had to leave, artillery units and naval vessels, already having the coordinates of the enemy positions, kept them from expending as many mortar rounds as they otherwise might have," the pilot added.

Although the fuel pits were still ablaze when dawn came, most of the VC had cleared the area.

"It is difficult to assess the damage all our firepower wreaked on the enemy because of the darkness. But they quieted down considerably after the first few minutes of our combined response," Thatcher concluded.

Baker shot in leg at Bn. mess hall

By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

CHU LAI—"Is there a doctor in the house?" took a slightly different wording here March 15 as a shout went up at the mess hall of "is there a corpsman in the area?"

The cause of the call was Private First Class Richard A. Valdez, a baker with the Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division.

On a break after helping to prepare the evening meal at the battalion mess hall, he was hit through his right knee by a bullet. The shell missed the bone.

Not realizing what had happened, he started to stand, then fell to the floor of the tent in pain.

After checking to see what had

happened, a fellow baker, Private First Class C.A. Browning put out the call for a corpsman.

Several of the battalion's medical aid men were at the mess hall at the time and they immediately applied first aid. Valdez was then put on a jeep and taken to the battalion's field hospital for examination and care.

According to the Marines who were eating dinner when Valdez was hit, the round must have come quite a distance before striking him as no rifle shot was heard. There was a fire-fight going on about 6,000-feet from the area at the time, however.

"I never figured on getting hit away back here," Valdez said later from his hospital bed. "I guess it's just one of the 'once-in-a-million' deals you hear about."

World of Sports

Exhibition Ball

Compiled From Wire Services
Thursday

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Minnesota 010 010 011-4 9 2
New York (A) 000 120 000-3 8 0
Chance, Killer (7), Kline (8) and Battey, Nixon (7); Peterson, Womack (8) and Gibbs. HR—Minnesota, Killebrew.

At Cocoa, Fla.
Kansas City 011 010 000-3 9 2
Houston 000 002 000-2 5 4
Odom, Sanders (6), Duliba (8) and Roof, Lachemann (4); Giusti, Zachary (6), Raymond (8), Sembera (9) and Bateman.

At Tampa, Fla.
Los Angeles 000 100 000-1 3 1
Cincinnati 010 010 10x-3 7 0
Osteen, Singer (8) and Torborg; Pappas, Abernathy (9) and Pavletich. HR—Los Angeles, Lefebvre.

At Miami, Fla.
Boston 000 001 000-1 4 0
Baltimore 000 000 000-0 3 0
Stange, Fischer (6) and Gibson; McNally, Barber (6), Brabender (9) and Etchebarren.

At Lakeland, Fla.
Philadelphia 000 010 000-1 5 1
Detroit 000 000 002-2 7 0
Bunning, Ramos (8) and Uecker; Wilson, Lolich (7), Sherry (9) and Freehan.

At Fort Myers, Fla.
Washington 100 000 021-4 8 6
Pittsburgh 402 030 11x-11 13 1
Moore, Knowles (5), Craig (7) and Casanova, French (4); Blass, Sisk (6), Short (8), Gelmar (9) and May.

At St. Petersburg, Fla.
New York (N) 000 001 020-3 5 5
St. Louis 610 100 00x-8 10 1
Hamilton, Gardner (1) Estrada (6), D. Shaw (8) and Sullivan; Hughes, Willis (6), Granger (9) and McCarver. HR—New York, Luplow.

At Phoenix, Ariz.
California 100 003 001-5 11 2
San Francisco 060 100 00x-7 12 2
Brunet, Kelso (3), Coates (5), and Hibbs; Marichal, Gibbon (5) and Haller.

At Tucson, Ariz.
Chicago (N) 102 011 001-6 13 2
Cleveland 000 100 010-2 8 2
Holtzman, Koonce (7) and Bocabella; Hargan, Allen (6), Bailey (8) and Sims, Booker (8), Azcue (9).

Late Wednesday

At Palm Springs, Calif.

Cleveland 000 020 000-2 5 0
California 010 000 000-1 4 4
Bell, Romo (7), Radatz (9) and Azcue; M. Lopez, Clark (8) and Hibbs. HR—California, Reichardt.

Friday

Atlanta vs. Minnesota at West Palm Beach, Fla.

Cincinnati vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., night.

New York (N) vs. Chicago (A) at Sarasota, Fla.

Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore at Ponce, P.R. (night).

St. Louis vs. Kansas City at St. Petersburg, Fla.

Chicago (N) vs. Cleveland at Scottsdale, Ariz.

Houston vs. Los Angeles at Houston (night).

San Francisco vs. California at Phoenix, Ariz.

New York (A) vs. Boston at St. Thomas, V.I.

Detroit vs. Washington at Lakeland, Fla.

Hockey Standings

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

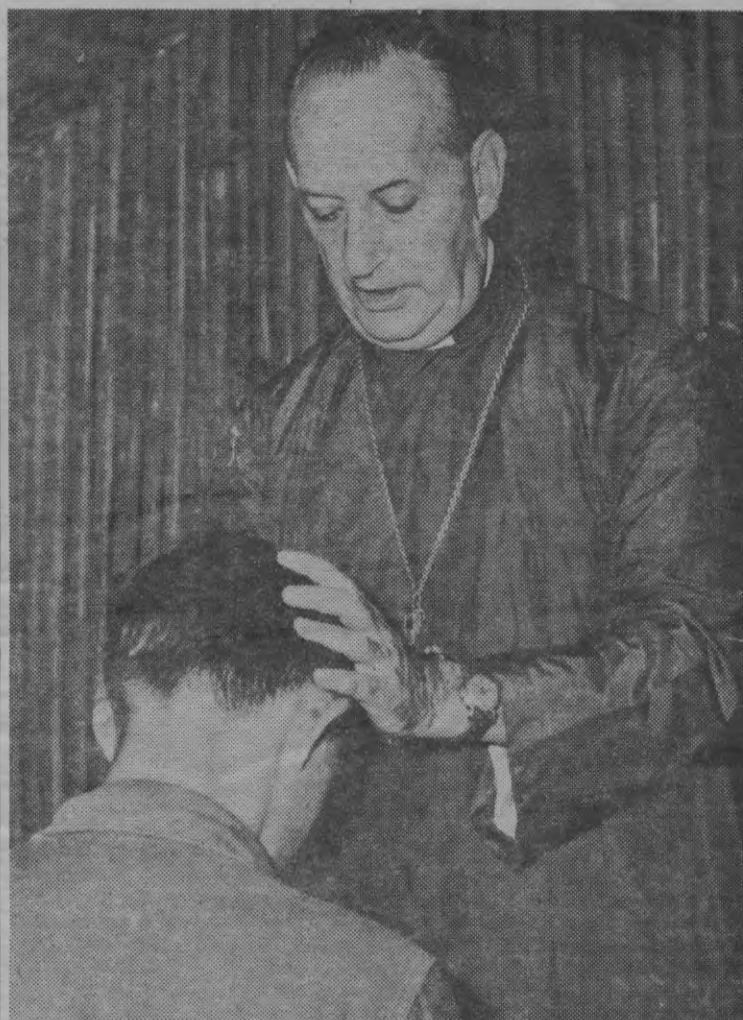
	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
*-Chicago	41	16	12	92	252	165
Montreal	30	25	13	73	193	182
New York	30	26	12	72	187	176
Toronto	30	27	11	71	194	208
Detroit	27	38	4	58	210	237
Boston	17	42	10	44	180	248

*—Won regular-season title.

Memorial Club

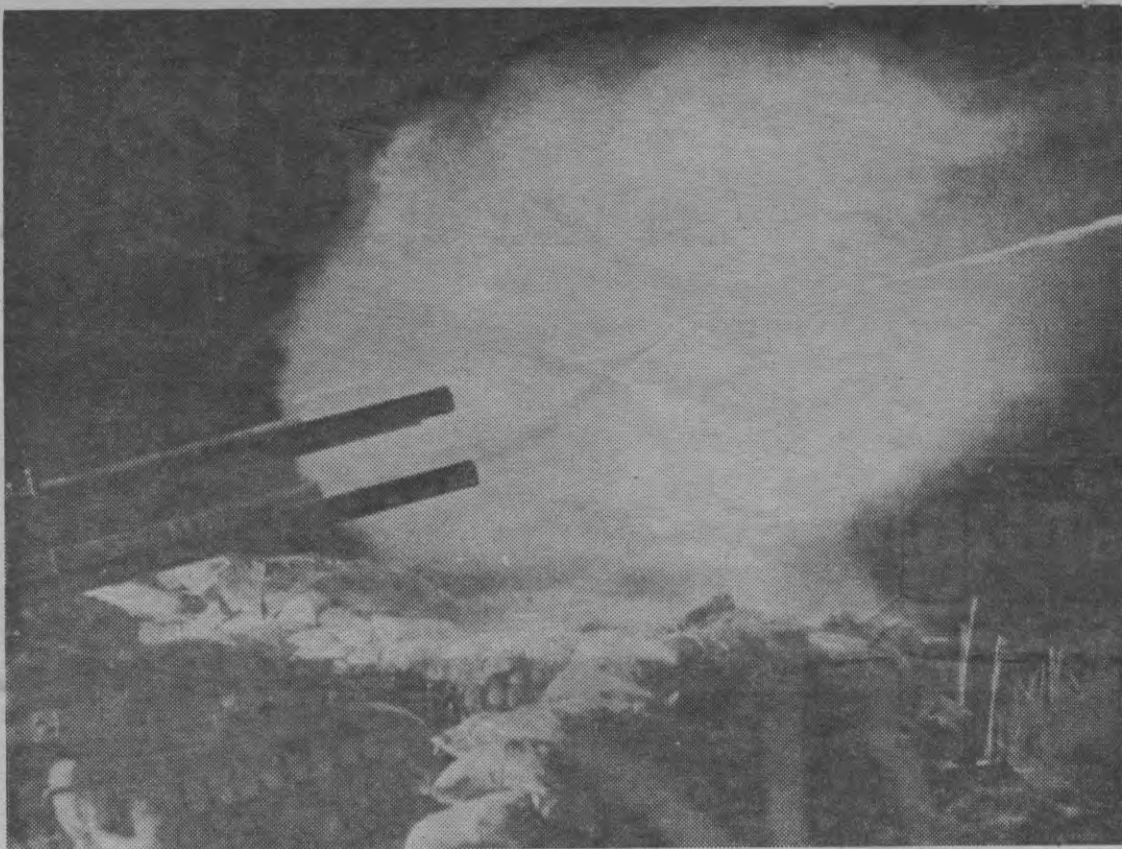
Marines returning to the U.S. from Vietnam are invited to make use of the facilities of the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco.

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



Confirmation

The Right Reverend Harry S. Kennedy, Bishop of the Honolulu Diocese of the Episcopal Church, confirms Hospital Corpsman Jack M. Fisher, Jr., at the 1st Medical Bn. The Bishop made a two-day tour of the 1stMarDiv in Da Nang. (Photo by LCpl. R. A. Lowes)



Night mission for Ontos

A Marine Corps "Ontos" of the 3d Anti-Tank Bn., 3d Marine Division, blasts away during a night firing mission near the Rockpile in support of Operation Prairie II. (Photo by Sgt. J. L. Blick)

Pre-dawn fight...

(Continued From Page 1)

"horizontally across the bunker." At the same time an enemy grenade bounced through the entrance.

Simons kicked the grenade out.

The four were running low on ammunition when Simons crawled up atop the bunker where ammunition was pre-positioned for resupply.

As the firing increased and enemy grenades and rockets continued to explode around the bunker, Simons saw the position could not be held much longer. He set up a base of fire while the others moved around the side of the house to the front bunker.

"As we ran", Lakin said, "I saw four or five VC in a trench line bordering the compound about 30 feet away. They were killed by the major's fire." Three other VC were killed in the yard directly in front of the bunker.

All four Americans made it safely to the front bunker.

In the front bunker Sauble, Reese and Wright were in a fight of their own.

Since the team house seemed to be the focal point of the attack, Simons ordered a break out through a gate and across a road.

To reach the gate, the seven planned to run about 30 meters down the barbed wire straight at the enemy in the next yard, then sprint across the road to another building outside the point of the attack.

With Simons leading the way, the seven broke out of the bunker and raced toward the gate. As Simons and Lakin reached the center of the road, automatic weapon fire hit Simons and Wright just short of the gate. Simons was wounded in the foot.

The remaining quartet reversed their field. Parker whirled, saw a VC automatic rifleman about 30 feet away and killed him. The enemy automatic fire spilt the group and the rear four scooted back to the team house.

They took up positions on either end of their porch running the length of the house. Simons and Lakin, crawling down a ditch had reached the house across the street.

The team house was in flames.

Sauble and Reese crouched on the east end of the porch while Jamison and Parker covered the other end.

Reese went into the flaming building and crawled around the wreckage looking for more ammunition. He turned the ammo over to Sauble and covered the eastern side of the house.

A grenade, thrown through the window, clattered inside.

"The captain yelled, 'look out,' and I ducked behind a partition," Reese recalled.

A few seconds later an explosion went off in the next room carrying a plywood wall and Reese with it to the porch where he tumbled against Sauble.

"In a daze, I started to get up," Reese said, "when Sauble grabbed me and forced me down. It was the second time he saved my life," he added. Enemy automatic weapons fire crossed where his head would have been.

Sauble, organizing the defense of the house, was firing rapidly and shouting encouragement to the other three when an enemy bullet wounded him. He

continued to fight until a second round struck him.

"I tried to get his flak jacket off then I saw it was no use. He was dead," Reese said.

Also wounded, Reese grabbed the captain's carbine as his own weapon was out of ammunition.

Smoke was billowing up, grenades and rockets were going off in front of the porch, and the Americans across the road, "wondered whether the ones on the porch were still alive," Simons said.

At the same time Simons saw a flash of flame from a bunker less than 30 yards from the left front of the porch. He fired into the bunker, killing the Viet Cong.

Parker at his end of the porch said he saw six or seven Viet Cong fall as he fired before a bullet knocked the weapon out of his hand. A second later an enemy grenade exploded nearby, wounding him in the face and hand.

"I dropped down behind some cement bags," he said, "I thought I had lost my jaw," (actually he had caught a few pieces of shrapnel).

Someone saw three Viet Cong running low toward Jamison and Parker and shouting a warning.

Jamison pulled the pin from a grenade, let the spoon fly off, held it in his hands for what Parker described as "hours", then threw it with less than a second to spare.

It exploded in the air directly over the heads of the VC, now less than 15 feet away and killed all three.

"It was a hell of a way to spend my 36th birthday," Jamison said.

A VC apparently directing the attack from about 100 meters away was cut down by Jamison during the action. (Intelligence later reported that a VC company commander had been killed in the battle.)

The area was lighted by artillery illumination shells and the wounded Americans were down to their last few rounds when suddenly the enemy ceased their attack.

Reese said he saw one last VC crawling away from the building and "let him have it."

It was the last the Americans saw of the enemy.

An ARVN reaction force came down the road and Parker and an interpreter, ran out into the road yelling, "we're friendly, don't fire, we're friendly."

The advisers were rushed to Hoi An for medical treatment. None were seriously wounded and all are expected back to duty shortly.

Simons, after the battle, said the enemy had initially assaulted the sector headquarters defended by the popular force troops, and that "the PFs put up a terrific battle."

Three days after the battle, long bloody trails leading to shallow graves, some of them over a mile away, attested to the accuracy of friendly marksmen.

Simons praised the artillery illumination which lighted up the area "two minutes after the attack began and allowed the defenders to see the enemy."

The one Marine, Reese, had just been assigned to the unit the day before after an R&R and a promotion to gunnery sergeant. He praised Sauble for his courage and coolness under fire.

Lakin, Parker and Jamison, credited teamwork of the group in preventing their annihilation.

"He ain't heavy, he's my brother"

By: LCpl. C.W. Giesler

DONG HA—"He ain't heavy; he's my brother," said Corporal Richard A. Rivell, 19, carrying his brother from a combat zone to a medical-evacuation helicopter.

The two brothers, serving with 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, were engaged in fierce fighting three miles north of Cam Lo.

Richard was applying first aid to two members of his unit when the platoon sergeant informed him that his brother had received shrapnel wounds in his arm.

The intense hostile fire prevented the younger Rivell from going to his brother's side. As squad leader of the Third rocket squad his first responsibility was to his squad and his present job.

He too, had received a bullet wound in the hand, but had refused evacuation. As Richard recalls, his first thought on hearing that his brother would be all right was, "Good, at least he'll be getting out of here."

Later, Richard worked his way over to the helicopter landing zone where he found his brother, Corporal Edward R. Rivell, 21, lying on the ground awaiting medical evacuation.

"What happened, Ed?" he asked.

"I'm hit all over," replied his brother as he told of being hit by shrapnel of two mortar rounds.

Richard picked Edward up and carried him to the med-evac chopper hovering over the landing zone.

After being placed in the chop-

per, Edward said, "Thanks, I'll see you around," and smiled goodbye to his brother.

Two days later, Richard learned his brother had been sent to Da Nang and later to an advanced medical facility.

The company first sergeant arranged for Richard to visit his recovering brother, but the day he arrived at the hospital he learned Edward had been sent to Yokosuka, Japan.

The brothers entered the Marine Corps together in July, 1965, and received their basic training in the same unit. They were transferred to Vietnam together last September.

Refugees...

(Continued From Page 1)

Viet Cong."

The area, 50 miles south of Chu Lai, has been ruled by the VC for at least ten years.

The colonel praised the Leathernecks for their fighting ability and also for the way they are conducting themselves with the Vietnamese.



Damage check

Sgt. Martin L. Vaughn, a metalsmith with H&MS-16, MAG-16, checks a Sea Knight helicopter after it was hit by enemy fire. Vaughn supervises other metalsmiths in assessing battle damage and flight status of aircraft. His section also performs temporary repairs on helicopters slated to be returned to Marble Mountain for extensive repair. (Photo by Cpl. Russ Cowen)

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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