



SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

May 12, 1967



Paddling Patrol

Combat loaded Leathernecks of the 2d Bn., First Marines, cross a river via rubber raft during an operation. 1st Division Marines killed 17 Viet Cong during the four day search and destroy mission 12 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo by LCpl. G. N. Bradford)

County Fair Fun But Not For VC

DA NANG—It was midnight, April 24, and Cam Van hamlet, Dien Ban district, 15 miles south of Da Nang, was settled down for the night.

Nearby, Marines of "A" and "C" Companies, 1st Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marine Regiment were silently blocking any possible escape routes from the hamlet for local Viet Cong.

May Day Strikes Hit VCs Hard

By WO Bob Larson

DA NANG—First Marine Aircraft Wing fighter attack pilots held a May Day celebration of their own May 1—flying a record number of sorties against Viet Cong positions.

With most of the air action centered around the Khe Sanh area, fighter attack pilots logged 333 sorties during the 24-hour period, expending 667 tons of ordnance on enemy positions. It was the second successive day of heavy air activity near Khe Sanh for Leatherneck pilots.

In that area alone 107 close air support and 36 direct air support sorties were flown by 60 A-4 Skyhawks, 38 F-4 Phantoms, 41 F-8 Crusaders and four A-6 Intruders, expending nearly 300 tons of ordnance.

Marine Aircraft Group-12 pilots, flying A-4 Skyhawk jets, (Continued on Page 3)

As dawn broke, two platoons of commandos from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, 51st Regiment, swept into the village organizing the civilians and sending them to the site of a nearby county fair being held for the people of Cam Van. It was the first such fair for these villagers.

Leathernecks of the 1st Battalion were standing by at the fair compound to welcome the villagers and treat them to a "fair" for the next three days as the Vietnamese commandos searched the hamlet for hiding Viet Cong.

While the friendly villagers were given medical treatment, having family portraits taken and attending lectures on agriculture, four Viet Cong met their death in an underground tunnel in the hamlet. Before the three-day fair ended three more Viet Cong were killed and five detained.

The detainees included the VC cadre village chief of Ky Quang, and the local tax collector. Killed were the Viet Cong cadre hamlet chief; a squad leader; the VC in charge of mine activities on Route 14; a guerrilla corpsman and three local guerrillas.

Army Unit Fires 100,000th Round

DONG HA—The U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, fired its 100,000th round April 22. The unit arrived in Vietnam last October.

The 105mm self-propelled howitzer unit, assigned to the Dong Ha area, has been supporting U.S. Marine and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) operations. The unit has supported all Prairie operations for the Marines and two ARVN operations.

Completes 920th Mission

Crew Chief Leads Charmed Life



Cpl. James I. Collum ... 920 Missions

CHU LAI—"I guess I must lead a charmed life," said Marine Corporal James I. Collum, 20, of Milwaukee, Wis., after flying his last of 920 missions. He is a crew chief and gunner on a Marine Observation Squadron-6 UH-1E Huey helicopter.

Collum has been in Vietnam for 19 months, and during this time has accumulated enough missions to be awarded 46 Air Medals and a recommendation for the Navy Commendation Medal.

One of Collum's most memorable missions occurred as he flew as gunner on a Huey gunship. His chopper arrived over a zone to find a Marine ground unit assaulting a heavily fortified Viet Cong stronghold.

The gunship made several strafing and rocket attacks on the enemy position while having to return to base to refuel and rearm.

"I thought my charm on lady luck was running out that day. There were tracer bullets flying all around us all day long. It's a wonder we didn't get hit," said Collum.

With 920 missions, Collum has never been wounded or had his helicopter shot down, or even seriously crippled by enemy gunfire.

Aggressive Marine Reaction Prevents NVA Take-Over

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—The aggressive reaction of Marine Corps units in the Khe Sanh area to the presence of a then unknown sized enemy force "undoubtedly foiled" a North Vietnamese Army attack and take-over of the Khe Sanh combat base, according to Marine Corps officials here.

Marine intelligence sources estimate that Leathernecks in the area have engaged a North Vietnamese Army regiment since the action started April 24. They further believe that an attack on Khe Sanh was to coincide with the mortar attacks of April 26 on Phu Bai, Dong Ha, and Gio Linh.

However, the enemy plans were thwarted when a reconnaissance element of the Ninth Marine Regiment made contact with the NVA units at 11 a.m., April 24, on Hill 861.

Since that time almost constant contact has been maintained with the enemy forces. During the action Marines have killed 253 enemy soldiers while 96 Leathernecks have been killed and 276 wounded.

Marines have been supported by more than 11,000 rounds of 105mm, 107mm, and 155mm artillery and more than 1,000 tons of air ordnance, including bombs up to 2,000 lbs.

Chronological highlights of the action to date are:

APRIL 24—At 11 a.m. a forward observer team from the Ninth Marine Regiment made contact with an unknown number of enemy troops. A relief force was sent in and air and artillery missions called in to support them. Contact continued until 8 a.m. that evening.

After the initial contact a Third Marine Regiment company and command group were alerted to move to Khe Sanh while another rifle company was placed on a four-hour alert. Weather did not permit the move to Khe Sanh that day.

APRIL 25—At 9:45 a.m. the Third Marine Regiment units commenced to move by helicopter to Khe Sanh. At the same time, Ninth Marine Regiment units in the area consolidated and began a sweep toward the enemy.

At 5:10 p.m., a company from the Third Marine Regiment, enroute to join a Ninth Marines company, made contact with an estimated reinforced company of NVA. The two Marine units linked up and occupied defensive positions for the night.

At the same time, another company of Ninth Marines arrived at Khe Sanh and took up positions there.

APRIL 26—At 7:00 a.m. the two companies in the field began moving against Hill 861, the focal point of the battle. Both companies received heavy mortar and small arms fire during their attack.

Shortly after noon, three more companies of the Third Marines arrived at Khe Sanh and started moving toward Hill 861 at about 3 p.m. They linked up with the other Marines at the hill at 7:30 p.m. There was no contact reported during the night.

APRIL 27—At 8:30 a.m. Ninth Marines units linked up with Third Marine Regiment units. At 11:30 a.m., one battalion of the Third Marines returned to Khe Sanh while another battalion remained in the field.

(Continued on Page 3)



S. K. Chong, a member of the Chinese Agricultural Technical Mission in South Vietnam, prepares ties for rice bundles. The bundles are held in the threshing machine (right) and the grains are beaten from the stalks. Phu Bai farmers are shown how to operate the machine and where they may acquire one. (Photo by: C. R. Holbert)

Phu Bai Farmers Watch Rice Threshing Machine

PHU BAI — The 3rd Marine Division civil affairs program is becoming an interservice — and international affair.

Marine Private First Class William Taylor is the 3rd Division civil action agricultural advisor. He recently acquired a Japanese rice thresher, designed to reduce the time and increase the efficiency rate of a rice harvest, but didn't know how to use it.

The U.S. Army's 29th Civil Affairs team at Phu Bai officer, Lieutenant Van Decker called Captain Ray Culp, another agricultural advisor working with the Chinese Agricultural Technical Mission in Hue.

The Chinese team from Taiwan said they knew how to run the thresher. Taylor and Decker loaded the thresher into a pickup truck and drove to a small village not far from 3rd Division headquarters to meet the Chinese team.

As they set up the machine in a farmer's courtyard only a few Vietnamese bothered to watch.

John Willyse, one of the Chinese advisors, acted as interpreter. He told the farmer that they wished to show him a new way to remove the rice from its stalks.

Sheng started a foot pump, which rolled a barrel inside the machine. He held a bundle of rice over the whirling barrel and in seconds there was no grain on the stalks.

The villagers were amazed. After another demonstration by Cheng the farmer asked to try. His effort was a success; he was thrilled.

Some of the children asked to try. Soon they were crowded so close that Cheng had to move. By then, 50 Vietnamese stood in the small courtyard.

Taylor and Decker worked out a plan with the village chief. They would return with the machine in two days, and the chief would have the villagers at the square with their rice crops. In a single day the Vietnamese threshed their entire season's crop, which had just been harvested.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New pen pal listing:
Linda Lee Dunmire
342 Circle Ave.
Charlotte, N.C.

Melissa Davis
2741 E. Stanford
Springfield, Missouri

Pam Bailey
8107 Hatteras Lane
Springfield, Va.

Pat Pedigo (18)
4837 45th
Lubbock, Texas 79414

Millie Cassina (16)
22 Francis St.
San Rafael, Calif.
94901

Chris Graham (17)
5925 N.W. 54
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
73122

Mrs. Harold Allen
289 Downey Street
San Francisco, Calif.
94117

Miss Marilyn Ferry (18)
36718 Olive Street
Newark, Calif.
94560

Marge Wanderski
3632 Hawthorne
Franklin Park, Ill.
60131

Penny Larrew (17)
R. R. No. 2
Eado, Colorado 81036

Shirley Douglas (16)
Post Office Box 7
Burien, Washington

Cheri Gajus
4534 Victor Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Nancy Ellis (18)
246 Birch Ave.
Owatonna, Minn.
55060

Carole Bringer
74 Oakland Ave.

Central Islip, Long Island
11722

Editor's Note: "Personnel should be aware of the possibi-

ties of being exploited or unwittingly contributing to hostile intelligence gathering efforts when engaging in "Pen pal" correspondence."

Red Cross Service Up 75 per Cent

CAMP ZAMA, Japan—The number of U.S. servicemen given American Red Cross assistance in the Pacific Command increased 75 per cent during 1966, according to the annual report issued today by the organization's Far Eastern Area Director John W. Gordon to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Adm. U.S. Grant Sharp.

Relating the unprecedented increase to the build-up resulting from the war in Vietnam, Gordon explained that American Red Cross field and hospital staff throughout PACOM gave services, including personal counseling, emergency communications with home, and financial aid to 28,500 members of the U.S. Forces during December, 1966, compared with 16,242 a year ago. In all, during the past year, 268,982 U.S. Forces members received Red Cross assistance, a 65 per cent increase over 1965.

In Vietnam alone, the number of Red Cross staff more than tripled in 1966, increasing from 80 full-time staff at the beginning of the year to 260 who are now serving at 39 separate field stations, in 10 military hospitals, and 16 center-clubmobile recreation units. American Red Cross staff throughout PACOM nearly doubled during the year from 326 to 630.

More than \$1,553,000 in emergency financial assistance was given last year by the Red Cross in the Pacific Command to help servicemen and their families, an increase of more than 40 per cent over 1965. These funds, given both in the form of interest-free loans and outright grants, are intended to help when unforeseen emergencies arise, especially when a man must return home on emergency leave.

As 1966 ended, 116 Red Cross staff were serving in 22 U.S. military hospitals in the Pacific Command, an increase of more than 75 per cent over the 66 serving a year ago in 14 hospitals.

In military hospitals, Red Cross staff provide personal counseling, financial assistance and an emergency communications link with home for patients, and Red Cross staff and volunteers also conduct a full-time recreation program to help brighten the spirits of all patients, especially those who must remain in the hospital during convalescence. Throughout 1966, some 19,355 recreational programs were presented to 158,975 patients.

In Vietnam and Korea, young, college-trained women in the Red Cross center-clubmobile program provided group recreation and a short break from duty for the troops both in recreation centers and during mobile visits to the men in the field. By December, 1966, some 87 young women were operating out of 16 separate units throughout Vietnam, providing recreation programs to 220,507 servicemen a month in centers and during 1,494 mobile visits. In Korea, 60 girls traveled a monthly average of 14,474 miles to present recreation programs to more than 36,700 servicemen each month during 1,165 clubmobile visits to military units.

Throughout PACOM, an average of 2,500 Red Cross volunteers worked each month to give a record 468,474 hours of service during 1966. In pointing out these statistics, Gordon emphasized that, "the American Red Cross is first and foremost an organization of volunteers from its top leadership down through the ranks." The work of the Red Cross volunteers last year included providing personal services and recreation to patients in military hospitals, meeting medical evacuation planes from Vietnam with refreshments and friendly conversation, teaching safety services and nursing, helping provide leadership for Red Cross Youth programs, and helping with administrative work in Red Cross offices.

Also throughout PACOM last year, 15,683 persons were given safety and nursing training, and 18,499 students were enrolled in the Red Cross Youth programs in military dependent schools.

Last year, Gordon said, was the costliest year for the American Red Cross since World War II. Total expenditures for services throughout the United States and around the world were \$120,819,624, he said, which is the most spent since 1946, and an increase of \$12,700,000 over the year before.

The greatly increased expenditures resulted from assistance to victims of disasters in the United States and for expanded Red Cross service to the U.S. Forces, resulting from the build-up in Vietnam.

Hoboken Marines Sought

DA NANG — Attention residents of Hoboken, New Jersey, who are now serving with the Armed services in Vietnam.

The Hoboken Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Association is honoring all servicemen and women who have served or are serving in Vietnam. Each serviceman or woman and a Vietnam Veteran will receive a twenty-five dollar savings bond. It is their way of saying "Thank You for a job well done." As of March 15, 20 servicemen have received their bonds.

Each bond is presented whenever possible at one of their fund raising affairs. The next awards will be presented at their Memorial Day Dance to be held on May 20, 1967.

The association needs the servicemember's name, address in Hoboken, home telephone number and approximate date of return to the United States.

Hoboken Servicemen and women may contact the association by addressing their letters to: SP5 George W. Stienwehr, Hoboken Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Association, Post Office Box 322, Hoboken, New Jersey 07030.



SEA TIGER

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Drummer Boy

Marine LCpl. William Miller brings up a Viet Cong signal drum discovered while searching a tunnel during an operation southwest of Quang Tri April 22, as a comrade stands guard. The Marines are with F Co., 2nd Bn., Third Marines.

(Photo by Cpl. A. C. Ferreira)

Flexible Military Muscle: 3rd Bn., Third Marines

By: Cpl. Ray Wilkinson

CAMP CARROLL—The 3rd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, is providing the Marine Corps with an ever-present flexible, military muscle in the mountainous region between Camp Carroll and Khe Sanh.

Using a heavily bunkered base camp, reinforced by Army and Marine artillery, located near the Rockpile and Razorback, the 3rd Battalion now controls several important routes, including paved Highway 9 running east-west, and is spreading its influence into the surrounding hills.

Marines first moved into the area in force last fall during fierce fighting for the Rockpile, Razorback and Mutter Ridge.

The 3rd Battalion established a permanent Marine facility in the area last November.

"We have several reasons for being up here, but I must emphasize that this is a flexible combat base," Lieutenant Colonel Gary Wilder, battalion commander said.

"Our main purpose is not to protect this base. We are a mobile striking force ready to move out, if necessary, and engage the enemy."

By setting up shop near the Rockpile, the battalion made almost certain it would make contact with the enemy.

"We sit astride three main supply routes used by the enemy here," the commanding officer continued. "We know that before and during Operation Hastings we had major sightings of hundreds of people."

"By being here we have been able to deny these infiltration routes to the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong."

Denial of the three main supply arteries was the first step in a campaign to spread Marine influence throughout the area.

To further this aim, daylight patrols and night-time ambushes are sent out each day.

As Marine influence in the area grows, however, the scope of the patrols is widening.

"We are going to extend the area of our patrolling several thousand yards by dropping Marines in by helicopter and having them walk out," Colonel Wilder said.

He added, "Of course, we are very much interested in early detection of the enemy's movements. We know there are many North Vietnamese in the area. It is only a matter of a short walk to get a sizeable force within striking distance of one of our main installations. We certainly don't want to be sitting around and find them right on top of us."

The mere presence of Marines

in the area has also loosened the guerrillas grip on the local populace.

"Many Montagnards who have been living under Viet Cong Control for upwards of five years have now turned to the Marines for resettlement," Wilder said. "In the last month alone more than 100 have come to us."

Before the Marines established themselves in the area, east-west Route Nine had been under enemy control and remained closed. Now, with the 3rd Battalion CP sitting astride the road it is open all the way from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh. The first truck convoy between those two points successfully completed a run in March.



Big Band Sound

The III Marine Amphibious Force Drum and Bugle Corps plays for the villagers of Ninh Binh hamlet during a recent county fair conducted by the 2nd Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st MarDiv., 37 miles southwest of Da Nang. The Vietnamese had never seen a band before and were amazed that the Marines would bring such entertainment to their hamlet.

(Photo by: LCpl. M. J. Smedly)

Aggressive Reaction Prevents Take Over

(Continued From Page 1)

There was no significant contact reported by ground units during the day, but Marine aircraft were used extensively against enemy bunkers and trench lines.

The enemy was using many heavy automatic weapons, mortars and recoilless rifles as they put up a stubborn defense.

APRIL 28—The "plan of the day" called for a battalion of the Third Marines to move out on two axes of advance from the south and southwest of Hill 861 and capture the hill.

The battalion moved out on schedule at 2:30 p.m. as air support and artillery fire pounded the objective. Enemy forces pulled back without making contact and the hill was secured at 4:30 p.m. by the Leatherneck battalion.

During the day, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing pilots were credited with killing 44 enemy soldiers on and around Hill 861.

APRIL 29—While one battalion made a thorough search of Hill 861, another battalion of the Third Marines moved out toward an objective northwest of the hill.

Sporadic contact was reported throughout most of the day with the heaviest action taking place at noon when a company of the Ninth Marine Regiment came under heavy automatic weapons fire. They called in air strikes and returned fire with 60mm mortars and their organic weapons, silencing the enemy positions.

In the action, which took place 7.5 kilometers northwest of Khe Sanh, two Marines were killed and 10 wounded.

The night was quiet and no significant contact reported.

APRIL 30 — Plans for the day call for a battalion of the Third Marines to conduct a search and destroy mission of company size in the vicinity of Hill 861. Their remaining companies were to seize Hill 881 N.

At the same time, the other battalions of Third Marines

Grenade Wounds 7 Of Eight-Man Patrol

KHE SANH—An eight-man Marine reconnaissance patrol killed at least five members of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) before a grenade airburst wounded seven patrol members.

Two CH-46 helicopters were able to evacuate the patrol from the attacking NVA force in the action seven miles northwest of here.

"We'd set up an observation post overlooking a valley when we heard movement all around us," explained Lance Corporal Wayne M. Hurst, the radio operator of the patrol from 3rd Recon Battalion.

"We opened up on four or five NVA dressed in green utilities. They returned our fire with automatic weapons and grenades. The fire fight lasted about 10 or 15 minutes."

The Marines had pulled into a tight perimeter before the grenade blast inflicted shrapnel wounds on the seven.

The patrol broke contact and moved the wounded to a landing zone for the evac.

Corporal Robin L. Walker was patrol leader as the unit netted five NVA confirmed kills.

were to attack in the direction of Hill 881 S., and be prepared to attack along the ridgeline southwest of the hill.

Action started quickly and by noon elements of both battalions were engaged with enemy forces. Units from one battalion had reached their objective but were meeting stiff resistance from enemy forces fighting from bunkers with automatic weapons, mortars and small arms. A company from the Ninth Marines joined them to aid in the battle.

Meanwhile, on 881 N., the other battalion also reached its objective and encountered heavy resistance from well dug-in enemy forces.

Both objectives were honeycombed with a network of bunkers and fighting holes, including bomb shelters.

By the end of the day, the positions remained about the same, both objectives had been reached, but not secured. Once again there was no significant contact during the night.

MAY 1 — Both Marine units continued the fight to secure the hills from a stubborn, well-disciplined enemy force. Heavy air strikes were called in and by 3 p.m. a battalion reported that enemy troops could be seen running off Hill 881 S. The battalion worked them over with their mortars and machine guns as the air strikes continued.

However, by the end of the day the relative positions of the Marine and NVA forces remained unchanged.

Marines dug in for the night and the following morning (May 2) continued the assault on the enemy positions.

New CO

DA NANG — Major Warren H. Barker has assumed the duties as commanding officer of 3rd 155 Gun Battery, 1st Field Artillery Group, 1st Marine Division from Captain Sidney C. Adkins, during change of command ceremonies held recently. Capt. Adkins was presented the Army Commendation Medal for service while serving with the Army.

May Day

(Continued From Page 1)

led the heavy assault on the enemy by flying 135 sorties for 185 hours and expending close to 300 tons of ordnance.

Marine Aircraft Group-11 pilots added 103 sorties and another 95 were flown by pilots of Marine Aircraft Group-13.

Though in many instances accurate bomb damage assessments could not be made due to terrain features or lack of visibility, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing pilots were still credited with 18 enemy killed; 27 bunkers destroyed, eight damaged; six foxholes destroyed, one bridge destroyed, two bridges damaged; eight gun positions destroyed; seven roads cut; six secondary explosions and five secondary fires.

The record number of sorties flown in a single day by Marine fighter attack pilots came just a week after Marine helicopter pilots had established a new mark of 2,063 helo sorties in a single day.



Mine Probe

Marine GySgt. Howard R. Van Winkle, 2nd Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marines, 1st Marine Division, probes for mines in a punji-stake infested area during Operation Canyon. The Operation, a five-day search and destroy mission 14 miles southwest of Da Nang netted 116 Viet Cong killed. (Photo by: LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Marines Use Enemy Bunkers To Escape Mortar Barrage

DONG HA — "B" Company, Ninth Regiment Marines recently utilized enemy-dug-bunkers in the mountains near Khe Sanh to escape 140 North Vietnamese 82mm mortar rounds which raked the abandoned NVA camp the Marines occupied.

The platoon escaped unscratched from the barrages, but struck back viciously with 105mm artillery fired by "I" Battery, Twelfth Marines, from the Khe Sanh base camp.

"We'd run the NVA off from their own base camp just minutes before," said First Lieutenant G.J. Howell. "It was a perfect position for a camp — down in a ravine with a stream running through it—completely hidden from the air by jungle canopy, and well-fortified with bunkers and tunnel complexes."

Twenty to 30 large, spacious bunkers doubled as fighting positions and living areas. Rice was found cooking in pots, evidence the NVA troops had

fled in haste.

"Suddenly, we heard them dropping mortar rounds down the mortar tubes. There must have been at least four guns, because we heard 20 rounds go into the air before the first one landed," said Howell. "By that time we had all jumped into the enemy bunkers."

Eighty rounds were in the first barrage. But the Marines had shot a compass azimuth in the direction of the sounds and called for the artillery from Khe Sanh.

"After our first three barrages, they started firing the mortars again. But this time we heard only two guns, and they'd moved their position," Howell said.

After 60 more rounds, the barrage lifted.

"I'm sure they stopped because they felt they'd inflicted casualties on us, and were just waiting for our med-evac heli-

copters to come in so they could resume the barrage," Howell said.

But the NVA mortarmen figured wrong.

An OE-1 spotter plane and fixed wing jets appeared on station overhead. Guided by the "bird dog", the jets bombed the enemy force.

"Later we were told to move out of the area as fast as possible—high-level bombers were called to blast the zone," Howell said. "But we destroyed all the bunkers and tunnels before leaving," he added.

Fleet Footed Corporal Gets Aid For Convoy

By MSgt. Phil Kronenberg

DONG HA — A 3rd Division truck convoy relied on fleet feet for rescue following a Viet Cong ambush which inflicted 15 casualties, including three killed, to a unit of the 11th Engineer Battalion.

Lance Corporal Erich DiMartino ran 1½ miles to bring a rescue force to the ambushed convoy.

The unit was in a personnel carrier truck and a dump truck, with a twin-forty tank for support. It was followed by a cargo truck carrying a Montagnard work party.

As they neared the work site, three miles west of Ca Lu, the ambush was sprung on the second truck in the line. The VC attacked with hand grenades and wounded the driver. He lost control and ran off the road. The attackers then opened up

with machineguns and small arms fire.

Another VC group attacked the tank with a home made bomb and put it out of action. The crew had been able to fire only three shots.

The personnel carrier truck passed through the ambush before exploding a mine. Seven of the nine men on the truck were wounded.

The unit leader, Sergeant Lawrence W. Barnett, moved his men into a sheltered position.

"If the VC had kept coming I think they would have got us all," he explained. "I tried to out run a machinegun, I really did. The bullets started coming across the ground towards me and I ran for cover. This one hit me as I dove behind a bush."

Barnett was wounded in the left foot during the 20-minute action.



RESUPPLY MISSION—UH-34 helicopters of Marine Aircraft Group 16 drop into landing zone Pilsner during Operation Shawnee about 20 miles west of Hue. More than 13,000 lbs. of supplies were flown out of Pilsner during the early hours of the operation.

(Photo by 2d Lt. Bob Carpenter)

World of Sports

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	17	7	.708	—
Pittsburgh	12	6	.667	2
St. Louis	12	8	.600	3
Atlanta	11	9	.550	4
Chicago	9	9	.500	5
Philadelphia	10	10	.500	5
San Francisco	9	12	.429	6½
New York	8	13	.381	7½
Los Angeles	7	13	.350	8
Houston	7	15	.313	9

Friday Night

New York 3	Houston 2
Philadelphia 3	Los Angeles 1
Pittsburgh 7	San Francisco 2
Cincinnati 14	Atlanta 7

Saturday

Pittsburgh 6	San Francisco 5
St. Louis 5	Chicago 2
Cincinnati 4	Atlanta 3
Los Angeles at Philadelphia (rain).	
Cincinnati (Nolan 2-1) at Atlanta	
(Jarvis 2-0). (2nd game of day-night doubleheader).	

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Detroit	12	7	.632	—
Chicago	11	7	.611	½
New York	9	8	.529	2
Washington	10	9	.526	2
California	10	11	.476	3
Boston	9	10	.474	3
Minnesota	9	10	.474	3
Baltimore	9	11	.450	3½
Cleveland	8	10	.444	3½
Kansas City	7	11	.389	4½

Friday Night

Washington 4	California 1
Minnesota 5	Boston 2
Detroit 4	Baltimore 0
Chicago 3	Cleveland 2
(New York at Kansas City (rain)).	

Saturday

Detroit 4	Baltimore 1
Minnesota 4	Boston 2
New York at Kansas City (rain).	
Washington (Moore 2-0) at California (Clark 2-0). (night).	
Chicago (Horien 2-0) at Cleveland (Bell 1-1). (night).	

The Leaders

(Through Friday's Games)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING

(Based on 40 At-Bats)

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Clemente, Pgh.	17	71	14	27	.380
Williams, Chi.	17	63	9	23	.365
Wills, Pgh.	17	74	12	26	.351
Kranepool, NY	15	43	2	15	.349
Brock, StL	19	89	13	31	.348
Alley, Pgh.	17	64	5	22	.344
Alou, Atl.	19	77	13	26	.338
Carty, Atl.	19	63	7	21	.333
Flood, StL	19	78	13	26	.333
Pinson, Cin.	22	94	11	31	.330

HOME RUNS

Johnson, Cincinnati, 7; Brock, St. Louis, 6; Aaron, Atlanta, 5; McCovey, San Francisco, 5; Torre, Atlanta, 4; Allen, Philadelphia, 4.

RUNS BATTED IN

Johnson, Cincinnati, 20; Brock, St. Louis, 20; Clemente, Pittsburgh, 14; Cepeda, St. Louis, 14; Torre, Atlanta, 13; Aaron, Atlanta, 13.

PITCHING

(3 Decisions)

Queen, Cincinnati, 4-0, 1.000; Veale, Pittsburgh, 4-0, 1.000; Gibson, St. Louis, 4-1, .800; Seaver, New York, 3-1, .750; Pizarro, Pittsburgh, 3-1, .750; Jenkins, Chicago, 3-1, .750; Osteen, Los Angeles, 3-1, .750.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING

(Based on 40-At-Bats)

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Kalane, Det.	18	68	14	26	.382
Vers'les, Min.	18	70	7	25	.357
Casanova, Was.	14	51	6	17	.333
F. Rob'son, Bal.	19	69	14	23	.333
Cater, KC	18	74	9	24	.324
Petroc'li, Bos.	18	69	9	22	.319
Freehan, Det.	18	54	7	17	.315
Berry, Chi.	18	67	9	21	.313
Conig'aro, Bos.	15	62	6	19	.306
Reich'dt, Cal.	20	73	11	22	.301

HOME RUNS

Blefary, Baltimore, 5; F. Robinson, Baltimore, 5; Mincher, California, 5; Kalane, Detroit, 5; Freehan, Detroit, 4; Allison, Minnesota, 4; Howard, Washington, 4.
--

RUNS BATTED IN

Blefary, Baltimore, 14; F. Robinson, Baltimore, 14; Freehan, Detroit, 14; Kalane, Detroit, 14; McMullen, Washington, 13; Howard, Washington, 13.
--

PITCHING

(3 Decisions)

Lolich, Detroit, 3-1, .750; Hunter, Kansas City, 3-1, .750; Chance, Minnesota, 3-1, .750; 10 tied with .667.
--

In San Francisco:

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

• Large family suites-laundrette-baby sitters

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• Club exchange

• Library

• 10% discount to active duty Marines and their dependents

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

Tiny Landing Zone Vital To Operation

DA NANG—To most Americans in Vietnam, Pilsner is a cool, foaming, pleasant thing to contemplate. To the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing helicopter crews flying in support of Operation Shawnee, Pilsner is considerably less pleasant.

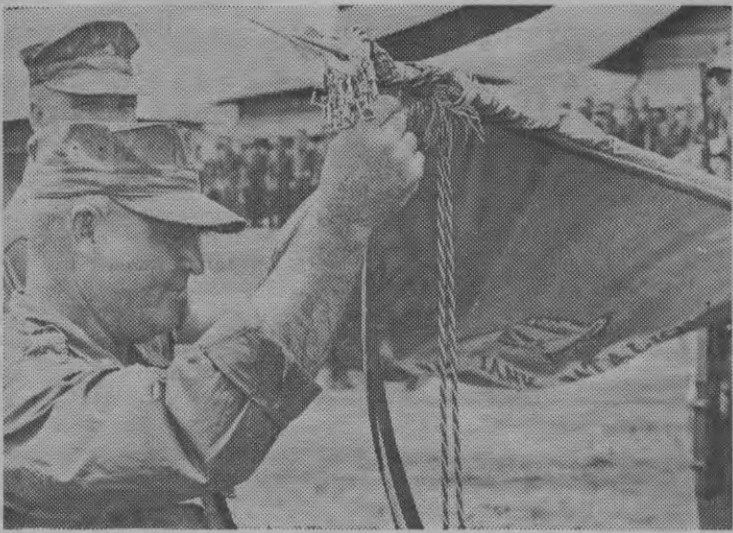
But to Operation Shawnee, Pilsner is vital.

Officially called a "landing supply area," Pilsner is a small helicopter landing zone set atop a low hill about 15 miles northwest of Hue.

On the first day of the operation, more than 13,000 lbs. of equipment passed through Pilsner, every ounce manhandled by 30 sweating Marines. The troops are part of the 3d Marine Division's Shore Party Bn.

A continuous covey of Marine Aircraft Group-16 helicopters whirred overhead waiting their turn to land and load more cargo destined for the three landing zones overlooking the operation area west of Hue.

As fast as the aircraft touched down, the Pilsner-people filled them. Each chopper averaged less than two minutes being loaded.



First Battle Streamer

The National Defense Service streamer is pinned on the colors of the 1st Anti-Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division in ceremonies near Da Nang. The Streamer, the unit's first, was placed on the colors during ceremonies marking the battalion's 10th anniversary April 23. LtCol. R. M. Taylor, commanding officer of a complementary unit, the 1st Tank Bn., did the honors. (Photo by: Cpl. O. M. Benson)

1st Anti-Tank Bn. Celebrates Birthday

By: Sgt. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The 1st Anti-tank Battalion marked the 10th anniversary of its birth Apr. 23 with appropriate ceremonies at the unit's command post near Da Nang.

Although the smallest combat unit, personnel-wise, in the division, the battalion packs plenty of firepower.

Its weapon is the ontos ("the thing" in Greek), an ugly, squat tracked vehicle that carries six 106mm recoilless rifles.

Formed in April 1957 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., the battalion is assigned a dual role. It provides the 1st Marine Division's anti-tank capability, and provides direct fire support to the infantry.

The unit marked its birthday with a battalion awards formation, a steak dinner and athletic activities.

Lieutenant R. M. Taylor, commanding officer of 1st Tank Battalion, demonstrated his unit's esteem for the anti-tankers by pinning the unit's first battle streamer, the National Defense Service Ribbon, on the battalion colors.

First Lieutenant Lewis C. Beard, received a Navy Commendation Medal from Lieutenant J.J. Keefe, 1st Anti-tank Bn. commander, during the ceremonies.

Lt. Beard won the decoration for his action as a platoon lead-

er with the battalion near Chu Lai in December.

When a patrol base of the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines was hit by an early morning Viet Cong attack, the lieutenant volunteered to provide support for a relief column sent to aid the besieged outpost.

He successfully led the column of tracked vehicles through enemy territory in the dark. Upon arriving at the outpost, Beard exposed himself to intense enemy fire to position the ontos in his section.

He aided in organizing the defense of the position, then assisted in treating the wounded.

LtCol. Keefe, speaking at the ceremony, urged the men under his command to "reflect on your fallen comrades and draw from their sacrifices the strength to perform your duty in a better way for our unit, our corps and our country."

MAG-12 Awarded NUC

DA NANG—Marine Aircraft Group-12 has been awarded the Navy Unit Commendation by the Secretary of the Navy for "exceptionally meritorious service from 7 May 1965 to 15 April 1966 while serving in Vietnam."

The Secretary of the Navy has authorized the Commendation and the Navy Unit Commendation Bar to all personnel attached to and serving with MAG-12 during the designated period.

The following units of the group have been named to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon: Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-12; Marine Air Base Squadron-12; Marine Attack Squadron-211; Marine Attack Squadron-214 (Except for the period 18-22 August, 1965); Marine Attack Squadron-223; Marine Attack Squadron-224; Marine Attack Squadron-225 (Except for the period 18-22 August, 1965); and Marine Attack Squadron-311.

All personnel attached to and serving with any of these units at any time during the designat-

ed period or any part thereof, are entitled to the Commendation and authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon Bar with appropriate star by those who have a prior award, or without star by those entitled to the initial award.

Commanding officers will authorize eligible personnel under their command to purchase and wear the ribbon bar, and also furnish the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL) with a list of such personnel, in order that facsimiles of the citation can be forwarded when available.

Decorations And Awards

CHU LAI—A Marine lieutenant and former platoon commander with "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines, was awarded the Silver Star Medal and a gold star in lieu of a second award recently.

First Lieutenant Michael D. Carey was presented the medal at Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

His citation for the first award read in part:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on July 22 during Operation Hastings. While his platoon acted as point for "I" Co., one squad was taken under fire by a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire, killing four men instantly and pinning the remainder of the squad down with rifle fire and grenades. Noting the seriousness of the situation, Carey courageously rushed forward, killing two enemy soldiers nearest him. Without hesitation he analyzed the situation and skillfully directed the remaining squads to the respective flanks in order to gain fire superiority and rout the enemy. Seeing two of his men who were seriously wounded, Carey returned to the ambush site and maneuvered the remainder of the platoon, enabling them to gain fire superiority and rout the enemy.

"His valiant leadership was a significant factor in saving many Marine lives. Carey's exceptional fortitude in the face of enemy fire, keen professional ability and unfaltering dedication to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The second citation read in part:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on July 24 during Operation Hastings. During the attack and subsequent defense of Hill 362, Carey continually exposed himself to hostile fire to inspire and direct his platoon against enemy forces.

"Moving his squads forward, Carey, without thought for personal safety, assaulted the advancing enemy unit single-handedly with hand grenades.

"In so doing he was able to disorganize the enemy in such a fashion that his men could move through the thick underbrush to launch an attack in force.

"Although his position was under heavy mortar and small arms fire, Carey, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, continued to move about to inspire his men to hold their positions and maintain fire discipline. The conduct and leadership of Carey had a great effect on the outcome of the battle for Hill 362."

SSGT. BROWN

DA NANG—Shortly after debarking from their helicopters, the 2nd Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines came under a concentrated enemy rifle and automatic small arms fire and mortar barrage.

Staff Sergeant Calvin F. Brown took command of the platoon. Brown continuously exposed himself to the Viet Cong fire in moving from position to position to direct return fire on the enemy.

When his platoon gained fire superiority over the guerrillas, Brown led a successful assault through the VC position.

For his actions, in disregard for his own safety, Brown was presented the Silver Star Medal recently, by Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division.

LT. NEAL

PHU BAI — First Lieutenant Richard I. Neal was presented the Silver Star medal for heroic actions during Operation Prairie III.

"I" Company, Ninth Marines, had set in for the night, just north of Cam Lo, five miles

south of the DMZ. Shortly before dark the NVA attacked with intense 82mm and 60mm mortar fire.

Neal, a forward artillery observer, took command when the company's commander and executive officer were killed in the first few seconds of the attack.

When enemy infantry assaulted their position, Neal organized his remaining forces to repulse the attack.

Seemingly everywhere at once during the fire fight, Neal called in accurate artillery fire which forced the enemy to break contact.

As soon as the NVA fell back, Neal reorganized the Marine defenses and secured a landing zone for the immediate evacuation of casualties.

Major General Bruno A. Hochmuth, 3rd Marine Division commander, made the presentation.

BRONZE STAR

DA NANG — The helicopter landing zone came under Viet Cong sniper, machinegun and mortar fire.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant Thomas E. Thompson, acting as first sergeant of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines on the heliborne raid into a Viet Cong stronghold south of Da Nang, hastily set up a perimeter defense.

When the attack on the Marines came, Thompson continuously exposed himself to the bullets and shrapnel to locate the enemy firing positions.

Thompson gave fire directions

to his mortar section which silenced the enemy. His quick action and disregard for his personal safety is credited with saving the lives of many Marines.

In recognition of his actions, Thompson was presented the Bronze Star Medal recently by Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division.

CHAVEZ

DA NANG—Paying no heed to the enemy fire, nor the blood running from his own head wound, Navy Hospitalman Richard P. Chavez treated the two wounded Marines lying beside him.

Just a few minutes before, Chavez had debarked from a helicopter with the Marines of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines on a raid on a Viet Cong stronghold south of Da Nang.

As they neared the positions of an estimated company of VC, the enemy opened up with automatic small arms fire and a mortar barrage.

In complete disregard for his own safety, Chavez began administering first aid to the fallen Marines while under Viet Cong fire.

He refused treatment of his own wound and evacuation until the more seriously wounded Marines were tended to.

For his actions in aiding and evacuating wounded Marines, Chavez was presented the Bronze Star Medal.



Army Commendation

SSgt. Ellsworth W. Young displays his U.S. Army Commendation Medal following a ceremony at the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn. (Photo by: Sgt. Gary Thomas)

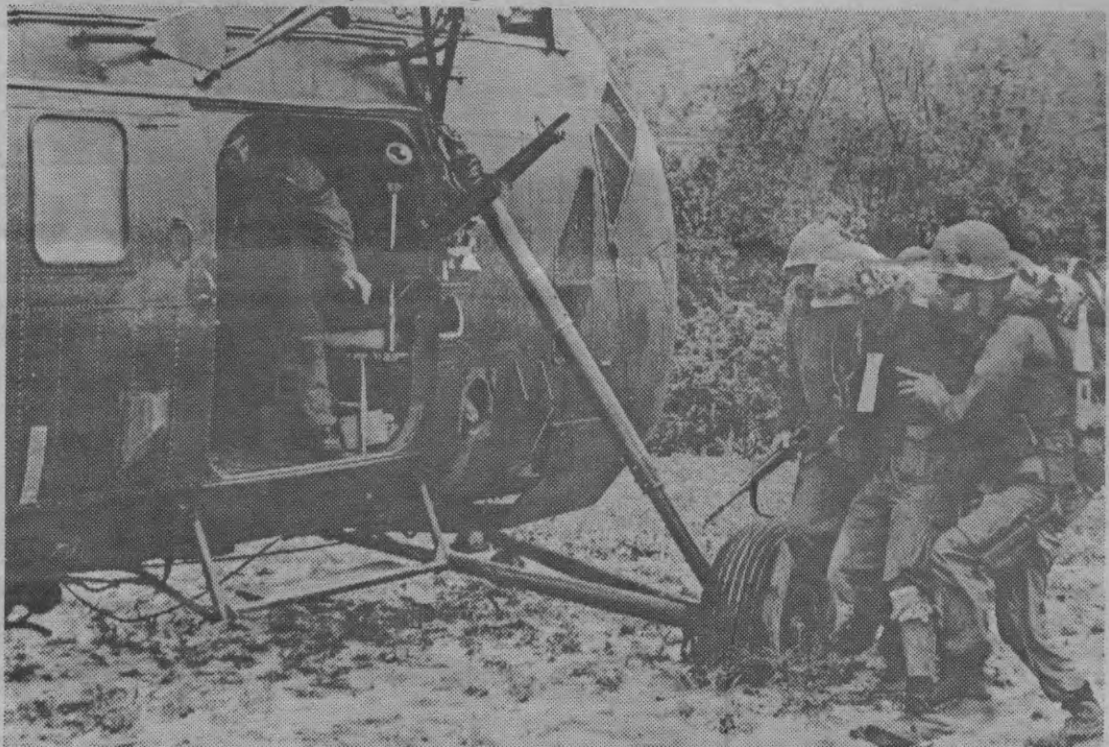


1ST MARINE A

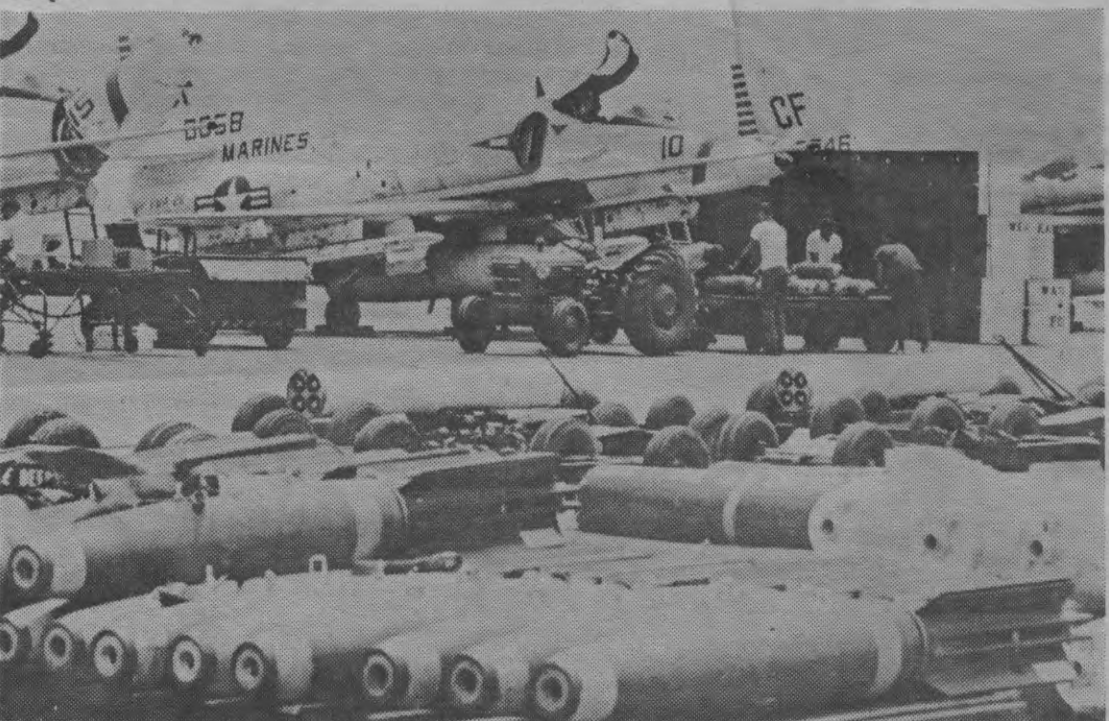
Two Years



STRIKE—An F-4B Phantom jet drops 500 lb. bombs on a Viet Cong trenchline concealed in a treeline south of Da Nang.



MEDEVAC—A Marine, wounded during Operation Deckhouse VI, is assisted to a helicopter which will evacuate him from the landing zone in the southernmost portion of I Corps.



MUSCLE—Ordnancemen load bombs aboard A-4E Skyhawk jets at Chu Lai. The first contingent of MAG-12 jets landed at Chu Lai June 1, 1965.

By: LCpl. Woody Price
DA NANG—On May 11, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing marked the end of two years service in South Vietnam . . . two years of sweat and hard work, filled with accomplishments and acts of heroism by aviation Marines of all ranks and job specialties.

Though Marine aviation units had been serving here for more than three years, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing colors were not actually located in Vietnam until Major General Paul J. Fontana and his staff arrived in Da Nang on May 11, 1965.

Elements of Marine

naissance Squadron-1 arrived and began flying aerial photographic and reconnaissance missions.

Once the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Advanced Headquarters) was established at Da Nang, more Phantom jets arrived and the Wing's role in Vietnam grew.

Almost simultaneously Marine forces stormed ashore at Chu Lai in one of the largest amphibious operations to take place since World War II. The beachhead was secured and construction of aluminum matting runways for an expeditionary airfield began immediately.

Twenty-three days later A-4 Skyhawk jets of Marine Aircraft Group-12 landed at Chu Lai, and began flying daily combat sorties.

The A-4 Skyhawks of MAG-12 flew their first night bombing missions on July 5, 1965, providing close air support for an ARVN outpost near Ba Gia, 20 miles south of Chu Lai. The night missions were successful, for with the coming of dawn the outpost was secure and enemy activity had been silenced.

Further evidence of the importance of Marine air support was produced during the initial phase of Operation Starlight, Aug. 18, 1965, when ground forces sought to enlarge their tactical area of responsibility in the Chu Lai sector.

Marine jets were called on to blast landing areas with tons of ordnance, followed by the helicopter air lift of hundreds of combat troops. This was the first time Marines clashed with a large enemy force, and it was a huge success, with the enemy sustaining heavy casualties.

The first tactical use of an airborne Direct Air Support Center, occurred during Operation Piranha south of Chu Lai, Sept. 7, 1965.

A KC-130F of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron-152, with special communications equipment, operated over the battle field, remaining aloft for more than nine hours the first day of operation.

By this time the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was well established in Vietnam with more units yet to arrive.

In September, 1965, construction of a helicopter landing pad at Ky Ha, near Chu Lai, had progressed sufficiently for the operational commitment of Marine Aircraft Group-36. AL



MGen. L. B. Robertshaw
Commanding General,
1st MAF

Medium Helicopter Squadron-362, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Archie J. Clapp, were the first Wing units to see duty in Vietnam. They arrived in April, 1962 and operated from Soc Trang, 95 miles southwest of Saigon. They provided training assistance for Vietnamese pilots, and flew support missions for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

When the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade landed at Da Nang in March, 1965, 1st MAF helicopters airlifted men and supplies, as Marine infantrymen established a firm foothold on Vietnamese soil.

Previously, Marine fixed-wing aircraft in Vietnam had consisted of three O1-B observation planes and several transient KC-130 transport planes used to ferry supplies.

On April 11, 1965, F4 Phantom jets of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-531 arrived at Da Nang, becoming the first Marine jet squadron in Vietnam. Six days later aircraft of Marine Composite Recon-

AIRCRAFT WING

In Vietnam



so completed at that time was the Marble Mountain Air Facility near Da Nang.

The following December saw the introduction of the F-8E Crusader jet to Vietnam, with the arrival of Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron-312 at Da Nang Air Base.

During the first five months of 1966 Marine jets continued blasting enemy positions in South Vietnam.

In May, Major General Louis B. Robertshaw assumed duties as Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The following month 1st MAW aircraft were flying bombing missions north of the 17th parallel, crippling enemy supply and infiltration routes.

In August, 1966, a new runway was added to the Da Nang Air Base, and in October a new 10,000 ft. concrete runway was completed at Chu Lai, to accommodate the F-4B Phantom jets of the newly arrived MAG-13.

The latest additions to the Marine air arm in Vietnam are Marine All-Weather Attack Squadrons-242 and 533, A6A Intruder jet squadrons. Another recent addition is a detachment from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-463, possessing the CH-53A Sea Stallion heavy transport helicopter. The CH-53 is the largest and fastest heavy transport helicopter in the free world.

In 1966 1st Marine Aircraft Wing jets flew more than 80,000 combat sorties, including 1,000 in support of Task Force 77 and 18,000 in support of the 7th Air Force.

During the first three months of 1967 the jet squadrons flew nearly 17,000 combat sorties, expending some 29,000 tons of ordnance and accumulating more than 20,000 hours in flight.

Since its arrival in Vietnam the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing has participated in more than 100 major operations, and supported numerous amphibious operations and small unit actions.

On July 15, 1966, the first day of Operation Hastings, Marine jets flew 1,301 sorties, including 479 bombing missions during which 672 tons of ordnance was dropped on enemy targets. MAG-16 helicopters airlifted 3,600 combat troops, while flying 9,864 missions.

As of last March, Marine aircraft in Vietnam had accounted for nearly 2,500 confirmed enemy kills.

During the period May 11, 1965 to March 24, 1967,

aviation Marines were recommended for more than 2,200 U.S. decorations for heroism, including six Navy Crosses, 66 Silver Star Medals and 550 Distinguished Flying Crosses. More than 500 Purple Heart Medals were awarded to 1st MAW Marines along with various allied nations' decorations.

In numerous instances aviation Marines have found themselves side-by-side with ground forces, or isolated in insecure areas with downed aircraft.

One such instance occurred on the night of Aug. 8, 1966, when Major Vincil W. Hazelbaker, a UH-1E



BGen. Robert P. Keller
Asst. Wing Commander

helicopter pilot with Marine Observation Squadron-2, found himself commanding a small Marine ground unit near Dong Ha.

While airlifting ammunition to the unit, Hazelbaker's helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire and forced down. On the ground, the major found he was the only officer present who was physically able to command the unit, so he took charge and reorganized defenses.

Throughout the remainder of the night the unit beat back enemy attacks and with the coming of daylight was airlifted from the area by Marine helicopters. Maj. Hazelbaker subsequently received the Navy Cross for his actions that night.

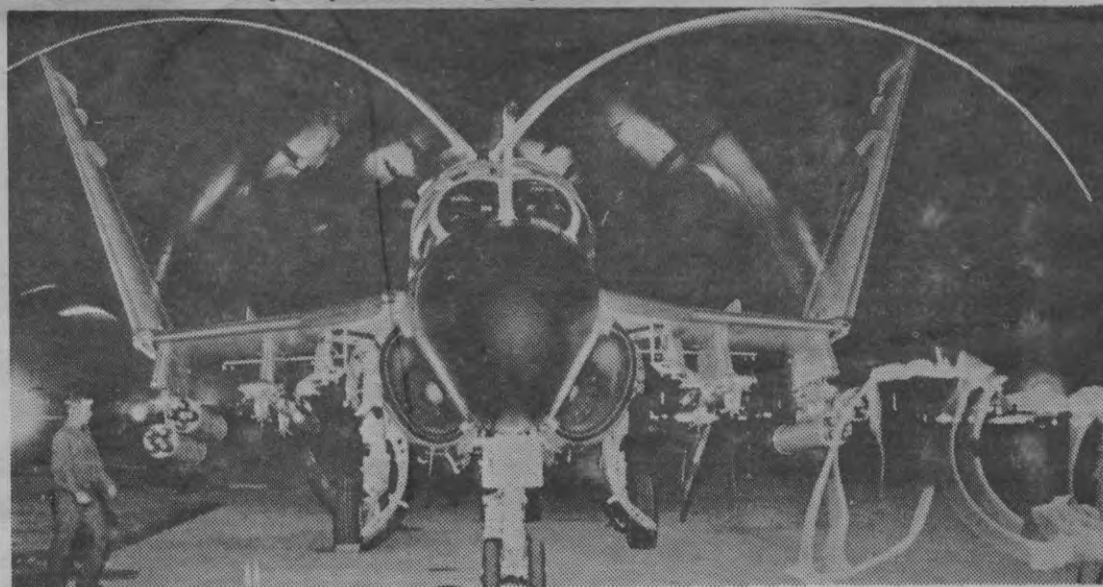
1st Marine Aircraft Wing units are now operating from Chu Lai, Ky Ha, Marble Mountain, Phu Bai, Dong Ha, and the Da Nang Air Base. The Wing men and planes are constantly alert, ready to fulfill their mission as part of the Marine air/ground team.



SUPPORT—An A-4E Skyhawk jet, on a mission in support of U.S. Forces, makes a bomb run on a fortified enemy position.



WET—Combat-laden Marines rush from a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter which has its wheels buried in rice paddy mud during Operation Dover.



HOME—An A-6A Intruder jet returns from a night bombing mission in North Vietnam.



FIRE—A Marine CH-46 Sea Knight crew chief watches a Huey gunship as it rolls in over enemy positions in the Rockpile area, west of Dong Ha.



THEY JUST KEEP ROLLIN'—Part of an armored Marine convoy makes its way through Hai Van Pass north of Da Nang en route to Phu Bai. In the past year, Leathernecks have made Highway 1 passable from Chu Lai to Dong Ha, some 150 miles overland. (Photo by Cpl. O. M. Benson)

From Chu Lai To Phu Bai Marine Convoys Roll Along

By: Sgt. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—There are any number of ways to measure Marine Corps progress in Vietnam.

Count Viet Cong guerrillas killed or captured. Check the number of civilians living in pacified areas, or the number of villages pacified.

Consider that land travel is now possible over 150 miles of National Highway 1 in the I Corps area, from Chu Lai to Dong Ha.

A year ago, no one would have made the overland trek on a bet.

It still isn't made nonstop. Normal procedure is to split the trip into three legs: Chu Lai to Da Nang, Da Nang to Phu Bai, and Phu Bai to Dong Ha. Each takes the best part of a day.

Even now, a 60-mile convoy run is no picnic.

"But I figure it's just about as safe as driving on the freeways at home," quipped one driver from the 1st Motor Transport Battalion on a recent run from Da Nang to Phu Bai.

If that is true, it is not the Viet Cong's fault.

Rather, it is because a Marine convoy is loaded for bear and ready for nearly anything. The makeup of the convoy is a classic example of inter-unit teamwork.

A pair of heavy dump trucks, loaded with dirt, run inter-

ence, watching for — and sometimes exploding — mines in the road.

The dirt serves to stop fragments in the event a mine is triggered, and is also used to fill holes in the road caused by exploding mines.

Marine combat engineers accompany the convoy to sweep the most dangerous stretches of the highway for mines.

Members of a bridge company also ride along, ready to throw up a span should a bridge be blown along the route. Drivers of the 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn. are behind the wheels of the bridge trucks, since their trucks have extended

beds capable of hauling the bridge sections.

Marine infantrymen accompany the convoy as security, manning rifles and machine guns to discourage Charlie from springing an ambush.

Along the routes are literally dozens of desolate spots tailor-made for ambush sites.

Perhaps the knowledge that aerial observers buzz overhead in spotter planes, ready to bring air strikes on any would-be attackers, have something to do with the VC's reluctance to attack.

With each run, Charlie has another rude reminder that the I Corps highways are no longer under his jurisdiction.

\$8 Bounty Offered For Marine Sniper

By: LCpl M. Stokely II

DA NANG—"There's an \$8.00 bounty given to any Viet Cong who kills a Marine sniper and captures his rifle. We're wanted!"

Corporal John T. Cutler was speaking about his responsibilities as a sniper with the 1st Regimental Sniper Platoon, 1st Marine Division.

The bounty is valid.

In the last two months, the three squads making up the sniper platoon totaled 53 Viet Cong kills.

Each sniper is assigned to a two-man team, three of which are sent out whenever needed to "saturate specific areas."

"Snipers have a two-fold mission," Cutler said. "Our first and foremost mission is killing and harassing the enemy. Our second responsibility is to forward intelligence reports on large troop movements."

One sniper in each team is

equipped with a field radio for this purpose.

Cutler, an expert rifleman, is equipped with a Remington model 700 and variable power Redfield scope.

Although Cutler still uses the 7.62mm round, the bullet is 173 grain instead of the regular 156. The round attains a speed close to 3,100 feet per second.

"The effect is devastating," said Cutler. "I once shot a VC at 700 meters and the round broke his back."

Speaking of Viet Cong snipers Cutler says the majority are not good shots. Most VC snipers can't see accurately over yards, he said.

"In the field," Cutler said, "I take only my rifle, my maps, my ammunition and rifle cleaning gear. I take as little chow as possible. I clean my rifle three or four times a day and don't worry about anything but killing VC."

Engineers Build Asphalt Plant

DONG HA—Marine engineers in Vietnam have just completed construction of an asphalt plant.

The plant, now in operation near this Marine combat base, is the work of Gunnery Sergeant Donald E. Gioffi, a member of the 11th Engineer Bn., 3rd Marine Division.

He also built a similar plant in 1956, in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Keeping the roads in the division area in operation is one of the largest tasks of the engineers. The heavy traffic, constant rains and continual use cause Vietnam Highways 1 and 9 to break down quickly. Patching was previously done with cement.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross L. Mulford, commanding officer of the engineer battalion, gave the job of constructing an asphalt plant to Captain James A. Honse. Captain Honse knew of the success sergeant Gioffi had with the plant in Puerto Rico and put him in charge of construction.

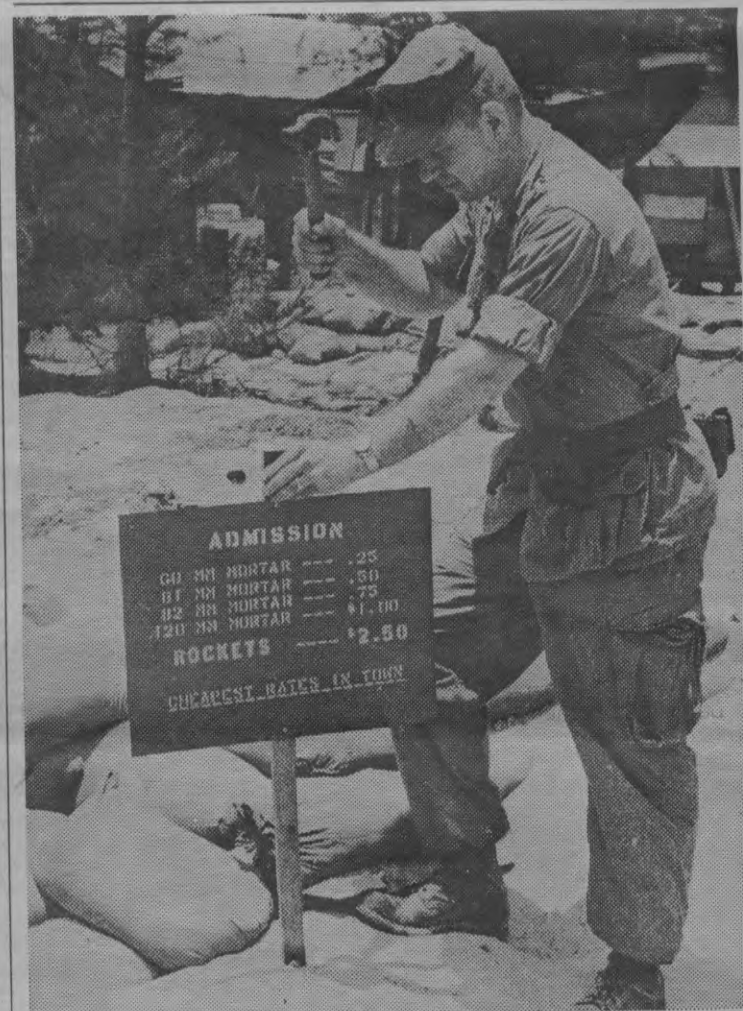
The plant had to be built with materials readily and quickly available. Girders for the framework supporting the asphalt heater boiler and the gravel heater were obtained from Bailey Bridge panels, salvaged from blown bridges on Route 1. The drum for heating the liquid asphalt was found in a dump in Da Nang. Pipes were welded into the interior of the boiler as fire tubes. Diesel fuel is mixed with compressed air and flames out of nozzles designed and built by Gioffi.

Sand and gravel is stored in a huge hopper made from scrap sheet steel. It is divided in half and mixes the correct amount of each as the sand and gravel is fed into the heater drum.

This drum is made from a jet engine shipping container. The power to turn it comes from the engine of a wrecked personnel carrier truck. It rotates on tractor idler rollers and has a chain drive. One of the most difficult parts to make was the ring gear that drives the drum. It was cut from a sheet of one-inch thick sheet steel, the gear teeth marked and cut with an acetelene torch. The gear on the personnel carrier drive shaft was made the same way.

When the sand and gravel and the asphalt are heated to the right temperatures they are then fed into two reclaimed cement mixers and are thoroughly mixed and blended. The then ready asphalt paving material is emptied into trucks and hauled to the job site.

When the plant reaches full production it will be able to produce 30 truckloads of asphalt a day which can be used for paving new roads, helo-pads, walks and parking areas.



Price Is Right

"It's the most popular place in Chu Lai at times," quipped Marine Aircraft Group-12 SSgt. James E. Custer. The 30-year-old Chester, Pa. resident says at times, like the night of April 12, when the VC lobbed 1000 mortar rounds at the Chu Lai airstrip, that this bunker is just too popular. "Everyone wanted in, so I've made my rate schedule. The smaller the mortar, the less I charge," joked Custer. The sergeant has been in South Vietnam less than 60 days. During this period his unit has undergone two VC mortar attacks.

(Photo by: GySgt. E. C. Nolan)

Rain Helpful

PHU BAI—It had been raining steadily all morning in Co Bi Thanh Tan valley as tanks of "C" Company, 3rd Tank Battalion, provided added protection for the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines.

The tanks were to cross the Song Bon river and continue sweeping south, but the rain fall had raised the water level so high that the river was impassable. The tanks assumed the role of a blocking force as the battalion continued its advance.

After crossing the river, infantrymen discovered eight anti-tank mines emplaced right where the tanks were to have made their crossing. The mines were made from three 250 lb. bombs and five 155mm rounds with trip wires detonators buried in the ground.

Sergeant J. F. Bergman said, "If our tanks had gone first as planned we'd have discovered the mines the hard way. I'll never complain about the rain again."

Sea Tiger Spotlight On:

2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regt.

By: Sgt. Russell R. Hurley

DA NANG—Keep the enemy moving, dispersed, guessing, when he does mass—hit. A big mission for a battalion assigned one of the largest area of responsibilities in the Da Nang area.

The 2nd Battalion Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, having conducted seven operations since leaving the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and Operation Prairie in late 1966 has somehow accomplished just that.

Based at An Hoa, the civilian industrial complex, 26 miles southwest of Da Nang, in five months the battalion has accounted for 459 enemy dead, 50 tons of rice captured. They have given sanctuary to over 3,000 refugees.

For 51 days the battalion engaged the North Vietnamese along the DMZ from their combat base 6,000 yards south of the buffer zone.

In mid-November the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Airheart took over the defense of An Hoa and the area surrounding the combat base.

Late November through the first part of December in the midst of heavy monsoons the battalion invaded an area southeast of An Hoa nicknamed "Antenna Valley" on Operation Mississippi.

Contact was light, the Viet Cong choosing not to face the Marines, but some 2,800 Vietnamese, deciding they had suffered under communist rule long enough, asked to be moved to a new life hamlet.

Leaving their homes wasn't easy for the valley is known to be one of the most fertile rice paddy farm lands in South Vietnam.

Fifty tons of rice was captured during the operation eliminating one of the Viet Cong's largest rice caches in the area.

"Antenna Valley" was also the site of Operation Lincoln, conducted shortly after the beginning of the new year.

Again enemy contact was light but additional Vietnamese were given refuge in new life hamlets.

Although enemy contact was light on most of the operations launched by the 2nd Bn., they insured that the VC couldn't stage any large size force without being hit.

"We've missed them on several occasions," explained Maj.

VC Murder 4 Villagers

DA NANG — Viet Cong terrorists reportedly have assassinated four civilians in a midnight raid on Vinh Tho village south of Da Nang.

Reported killed were:

Le My, candidate for chief of the village in upcoming elections.

Le Tien, a member of the village's strategic youth group, an anticommunist but non-military group of young Vietnamese.

Le Than, a former regional forces soldier who was recovering from wounds suffered earlier in action.

Nguyen Cuc, Buddhist office chief of Duy Xuyen district. Cuc was one of 13 candidates for village and hamlet offices kidnapped by the Viet Cong on Apr. 2.

The VC had promised the families of those kidnapped that the candidates would be released after the election.

Villagers said the Viet Cong entered the village about 1 a.m., bringing Cuc with them, and remained for approximately one-half hour, during which time the four murders were committed. The villagers said the VC came from another village south of Vinh Tho.

Richard H. Esau Jr., battalion operations officer, "but every now and then we catch them."

The enemy was caught during Operation Tuscaloosa the latter part of January when "H" and "F" Cos. ambushed a battalion of Viet Cong, killing 79.

Evidence found at the site indicated that the Viet Cong used the area for rest and recuperation.

"They're not relaxing in that area anymore," smiled Major Esau.

Next came Operation Independence, a joint effort with elements of the First, Fourth and Ninth Marine Regiments.

This was the first operation by the battalion under Lieutenant Colonel M.C. Jackson Jr., the present commanding officer.

Enemy contact was again insignificant, but 293 Vietnamese were added to refugees liberated from the communists.

Complete reopening of "Liberty Road," the life line to the An Hoa complex, was the mission of an operation conducted just as the monsoon season was drawing to a close in late February.

Constant, torrential rains had left the road near impassable except by amphibious tractor.

Marines supported by tanks swept the vital highway detecting and destroying anti-personnel and vehicle mines prior to convoys making their first trip on the road this year.

Three days of heavy fighting during Operation New Castle left 111 enemy dead as the battalion once again found the elusive Viet Cong during the latter part of March.

Returning to the site of Operation Tuscaloosa and the de-

stroyed R&R center in an operation in mid-April, the battalion encountered a tremendous amount of booby traps but the enemy was conspicuous by his absence.

An outpost at Nong Son, 37 miles southwest of Da Nang protects the only coal mine in the Republic of Vietnam.

The Nong Son outpost, along with Marines of Combined Action Company N-1, a short distance south of the outpost, are the southernmost positions manned by U.S. Forces in the Da Nang area.

A big area, a large task but with day and night patrols and ambushes along with numerous large scale operations the enemy is kept off balance.

Mortar Pit

PHU BAI—A Marine, while digging a hole for his mortar base plate 20 miles south of Phu Bai, struck an enemy chicom anti-personnel mine embedded just below the earth's surface.

Corporal Steve G. Wassenich, attached to "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, at first thought he had hit a rock.

"Realizing what it was, all I could do was stare at it and utter a small prayer," stated Wassenich.

Afraid that if jarred again the mine might explode, Wassenich called for his platoon leader who in turn called for Marine engineers.

Examining the mine, the engineers decided it would be safe to remove it.



Jungle Trail

Leathernecks of the 3d Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st MarDiv., pick their way through heavy jungle foliage during an operation south of Da Nang.

(Photo by: LCpl. Preston Brown)

Vietnam Vignettes



In Memoriam

DONG HA — Formal memorial services in remembrance of 43 of their comrades lost in battle were conducted recently at this combat base by 1st Battalion, Ninth Regiment Marines.

Navy Chaplain H.T. Jones gave the invocation which began with the quotation, "Greater love hath no man..." Then, company first sergeants read off the names of the casualties in their respective companies.

Major Donald J. Fulham, battalion commander, then addressed members of his infantry unit, calling for a re-dedication of their efforts and intentions, and for increased efforts to succeed in the people-to-people program with the Vietnamese villager.

Chaplains Jones and Stephen E. Almsy read appropriate passages from Scriptures and the Psalms.

To conclude the ceremony, eight riflemen fired three volleys and a bugler played "Taps" while the battalion Marines saluted.

Field Meet

DA NANG—A field meet sponsored by Headquarters and Service Battalion, Force Logistic Command, April 23, netted more than \$900 for the unit's civic action training program for local nurses at the Camp Books Children's Hospital.

Companies of the battalion participated in events such as three legged races and tug-of-war. H&S Co. garnered the most points to win the meet.

Each of the four companies participating sponsored a carnival booth. One of the more popular was the softball throw, or "Dunk the Commanding Officer in the Drink" booth, sponsored by Communications Company.

"It not only gave the Marines some relaxation from their normal duties, but combined fun and games to a very worthwhile project of civic action," stated Sergeant Major R. E. Winslow, the battalion's sergeant major.

More than 1,500 Marines took part in the afternoon's events.

Journalists

CHU LAI — Marine Captain Fredrick K. Jones has turned every member of his squadron into a journalist. They write their own home town news stories.

How do you teach pilots, mechanics, machinegunners, crew chiefs and clerks to write news stories? It's simple if you follow Jones' system.

The 25-year-old captain has served as Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 technical information contact officer as an additional duty since February. He never seemed to have enough time to spend on the vital job of publicizing his squadron members in their hometown newspapers.

He passed out the standard Fleet Home Town News Center forms and hoped for the best. Sometimes the Marines would complete them—sometimes not. Jones couldn't keep too close a watch with his regular duties

of an UH-34D helicopter pilot.

While visiting the crew lounge recently, Jones came up with his gimmick. He made his own "do-it-yourself" FHTNC and placed it in the lounge. A popular spot, the lounge features hot coffee, cold drinks and piped-in stereo music.

Using a sheet of plywood, Jones built his center consisting of pegs for hanging forms and a box to collect completed ones. He also displays news clippings and photos of squadron members on the board.

Jones mimeographed the forms, tailoring them to usual happenings of members of HMM-362. An example: Joe Doe is promoted. All he need do is fill in his own hometown information on a promotion form and drop it in the box.

The center contains many different form stories—Awarding of Air Medals, air crewman wings, or even R&R trips to Japan.

Jones' idea is paying off in more hometown publicity for members of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing squadron and more free time for him. Last month his unit was one of the top producers of FHTNC releases within the wing.

Grenades

DA NANG — Two Marine corporals recently engaged a hidden Viet Cong in a grenade throwing encounter without either side suffering casualties.

Cpls. Butch Dingle and Jerry D. Bean were on night perimeter watch during an operation six miles south of Da Nang.

"We were sitting by our foxhole when a chicom (Chinese communist) grenade landed about six feet away from us and exploded," said Dingle, "but luckily neither of us were hurt."

Both jumped into the hole and tossed a few grenades of their own into the area they suspected the VC was hiding.

After sitting in the foxhole for awhile they climbed out.

A few minutes later they heard some thuds on the ground next to them and dove back into the hole just as two grenades exploded nearby.

They threw more grenades out.

The following morning the two 3rd Battalion, First Marines Leathernecks discovered footprints behind bushes 50 feet from their position and a dud grenade laying 10 feet away.

Operation

DA NANG—The 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, kicked off an operation 12 miles south of Da Nang.

The operation, first for the unit since their move north from Chu Lai earlier in the month, began following a bombardment by B-52 bombers.

Once the Marines were heli-lifted into the area following the bomb runs, they moved through the mountains searching for enemy base camps and supply routes. Many Viet Cong trails were uncovered and a base camp, containing rifle racks and shelters, was found.



Understanding Is Important

Marine LCpl. Gary S. Fiedler, 1st Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Co., rechecks locations of friendly forces near Binh Son, south of Chu Lai, before calling for close air support with Korean Marine Capt. An Sang Du. Fiedler is a forward air controller assigned to coordinate air strikes for the 3rd Bn., 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade.

(Photo by: Sgt. G. G. Thomas)

Refugee Village Opened By Korean Marine Brigade

CHU LAI — Brigadier General Kim Yun San, commanding general, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, officially opened the refugee village of Dong Phuoc in Quang Ngai province, 20 miles south of Chu Lai, April 22.

The village of more than 250 buildings was constructed by Korean Marines and the people of Long Hoi hamlet for Vietnamese refugees of the war.

Construction of the village, intended to house 1,500 people, required nearly two months to complete. Materials were donated by the Korean Marines

and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Plans for the village were designed by the Vietnamese government. In addition to houses and shops, the village boasts four water wells, a number of natural springs, a newly graded main road, a nearby church and medical facilities.

Earlier in the day Kim officiated at the opening of a new Catholic school, built by the Korean Marines for the people of Long Hoi and Dong Phuoc.

Security for the village is provided by South Vietnamese Popular Forces. Allotted farm-

land will provide the villagers with a source of food and income, protected from the VC "tax collectors" by the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade located at nearby Binh Son.

After the village was officially dedicated, Korean Marines dispensed farming tools, craftsman kits, kitchen utensils, grain, food and clothing. A convoy of Korean trucks took the refugees to their new homes.

Most of the Vietnamese refugees carried only small bundles of prized possessions. Some had nothing until they received the first allowance of materials to help them build for a better life.

When Dr. Bui Hoanh, Quang Ngai province chief, asked them to support the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade's campaign against the Viet Cong, loud cheers erupted from the crowd.

them. The recon team had been scouting the Viet Cong infested mountains west-northwest of Chu Lai for four days. They were tired, wet and dirty.

Then one of the Marine helos broke through the overcast and circled overhead.

Staff Sergeant G. H. Mills the patrol leader, immediately signaled for one of his men to throw a smoke grenade to mark their position.

The smoke was spotted by Major Donald C. Heim, plane commander of the lead CH46-A. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing pilot would be making the pickup and inserting another patrol at the same time.

The major circled the plane sharply and began a fast descent. Speed was vital now.

The helicopter flew into the landing zone nose up. As the rear wheels settled, the plane lurched to the right. He had landed with one wheel in a hole so poured on the power and the plane righted itself.

Eleven Marines of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion poured from the craft and formed a hasty perimeter. They were led by First Lieutenant Rodney C. Kicklighter.

Mills and his weary patrol came out of the bushes and loaded aboard the aircraft. Then the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 craft lifted off, gaining altitude and safety in the clouds.

Language Barrier Makes Job Tough For Air Controller

By: LCpl. Woody Price

CHU LAI—Controlling close air support missions from the ground is a difficult job at best, but Lance Corporal Gary S. Fiedler probably has a tougher time than most Marines assigned to that task.

Fiedler is a forward air controller with the 3rd Battalion 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade. One of the things that makes his job tough is the language difficulty he encounters during his daily routine.

"When I first joined the brigade I had a lot of trouble understanding the Korean Marines and getting them to understand me," said Fiedler, a member of a detachment of the 1st Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Co. attached to the 2d ROKMC Brigade at Binh Son.

"Since I had a lot of difficulty with the language barrier, I decided to learn as much Korean as I could," he said.

Fiedler's Korean counterparts were more than willing to help him learn their language, often spending long hours going over spellings and pronunciations with him. During the process they learned English and American customs, while teaching him their own.

"Our detachment joined the brigade in September, 1966, shortly after the Korean Marines moved into Quang Ngai province," Fiedler said. "I served with the 2nd Bn. for awhile, then was reassigned to the 3rd Battalion."

"I get along very well with the Korean Marines and I have a lot of friends here now," said Fiedler. "I'm still learning Korean, so even though I still have a few difficulties, it's not as bad as when I first arrived," he adds.

Fiedler is responsible for controlling aircraft strikes during

close air support missions, and calls in medical evacuations and resupply missions for the battalion.

He has participated in six major operations with the 2nd ROKMC Brigade, and holds the Purple Heart Medal for wounds he received last February, during Operation Giant Dragon 20 miles southwest of Chu Lai.

"When we hit the assigned objective we received heavy enemy fire," said Fiedler. "The Viet Cong hit us with automatic weapons fire, making things pretty hot. It was a hard objective, but the Korean Marines took it. I didn't realize I was hit until the action was finished, and I found blood on my right leg," he said.

Fiedler calls the Korean Marines "a real fine outfit," and says he learned a lot working with them.

In addition to learning Korean, Fiedler has a basic knowledge of the Vietnamese language, and is learning more each day.

"I guess I just like to understand the people around me," he said.

Fiedler, who joined 1st ANG-LICO in Hawaii in February, 1965, is a graduate of the Communications and Radio Relay Schools at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He voluntarily extended his enlistment for duty in Vietnam.

Mountain Recon Patrol Returned By Helicopter

By: GySgt. E. V. Nolen

CHU LAI—The small reconnaissance team was hiding in the high grass and bushes on the mist-covered mountainside. They listened to the steady drone of the two CH46-A Sea-knight helicopters flying through the rain and clouds.

The choppers had to find

Bandsmen Pied Pipers

DONG HA—It looked like the Pied Piper of Hamelin was in town when hundreds of children followed 3d Marine Division bandsmen marching through the streets of Cam Lo.

Led by Sergeant John Halchak, the band was headed for the Cam Lo public high school to entertain 350 students.

But, more than 1,000 Vietnamese villagers were present when the band opened the concert by playing the Republic of Vietnam's National Anthem.

The highlight of the occasion, however, was the presentation of 6,930 piasters (about \$65.00) to Le Van Quang, high school principal, by Colonel J. P. Lanigan, Third Marine Regiment commander.

Marines of the Regiment donated the money to the school.



High Resupply

Marines of 3d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, unload "C" rations south of Da Nang, during a search and destroy operation. They were establishing a combat base for their battalion and uncovered many enemy supply routes on the operation.

(Photo by: LCpl. Preston Brown)

6 Day Mountain Probe Dotted By Enemy Action

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA—Enemy action dotted a six-day platoon probe into the jungled mountains surrounding Khe Sanh in mid-April, with precision artillery fire playing a major role in support of "B" Company Ninth Regiment Marines.

The artillery was provided by "F" Battery Twelfth Marines, from a position just six miles from the Laotian border.

"The first day was quiet, but on the second day the point man spotted three North Vietnamese soldiers and dropped one with one burst," said First Lieutenant G.

J. Howell, the platoon commander. "As we pursued, we spotted 20 more NVA near a river bed."

The Marines chose to call for artillery rather than risk contact with a possible NVA company in the rugged terrain. Soon, 105mm and 155mm rounds thundered again and again into the river bed.

"When the barrage ceased, it was too late in the day to search the impact area, so we set up a perimeter for the night," said Howell.

The next morning, the patrol swept the area, finding numerous blood marks and drag trails, bandages and some combat equipment.

They also uncovered three bodies from hastily-dug graves.

The third day out the patrol sighted five enemy taking a rest near a stream 500 yards away.

"Again we called for artillery, but I requested they not fire the usual 'spotter' round so the NVA wouldn't scare off," said Howell. "The first barrage was off target," he said, "but they paid no attention at all when the shells exploded some distance from them—maybe they thought it wasn't meant for them. We made an adjustment to bring the rounds on target then called for a six-round barrage. That caught 'em flat, right on target," he added.

When the smoke cleared, two bodies were seen floating in the stream.

The last night of the patrol also brought action. While setting in their ambush site, a squad heard enemy movement

nearby. A radio call brought the rest of the patrol in from positions 800 yards away. The night fight erupted with hand grenades and small arms fire on both sides.

"They didn't hit any of us, but we hope we hit at least a few of them," said Howell.

Again the Marines called for artillery fire as they set up their defenses.

"We called for precision firing then—instead of all six guns firing, only one gun fired every

20 seconds to insure pinpoint accuracy," said Howell.

Choosing to move again that night, the Marines "prepped" an area with an artillery barrage, then moved into the blasted zone. Another mission was then called in on the position the patrol had just vacated, in case the enemy had followed.

"We didn't have even a minor casualty on that six-day patrol," said Howell. "I'm sure most of the credit is due to the accuracy of the artillery battery."

'School's Out' Festival Held

DA NANG — A marching band, singing and laughing children, movies, refreshments and entertainment.

All this festivity made up the children's "end-of-school" festival sponsored by the 2nd Battalion Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, based at the An Hoa industrial complex, 26 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Although the affair was sponsored by the 2nd Battalion the children had a surprise for the Marines.

Arriving at the festival the battalion commanding officer smiled at a banner that had been erected over the speakers stand and stage. In large red letters was printed "Welcome the Lieutenant Colonel M.C. Jackson, C.O. 2/5."

"That's quite a sign," Jackson told Maj. Nguyen Ham, Duc Duc District Chief.

The III MAF Drum and Bugle Corps, led by gunnery sergeant Eugene R. Ross played two hours of marching music and special arrangements.

Each number ended with thundering applause from the 700 school children.

A break in the day came during high noon, but the festivities resumed in late afternoon with skits and songs by each school class.

A school kit and cookies were given each child.

Movies, including cartoons, were shown in the evening as the festival drew to a close.

Mobile Medical Team

PHU BAI — One of the new supporting units of the expanding Fourth Marine Regiment headquarters base camp northwest of Phu Bai is the Navy's mobile medical team equipped to handle any field emergency.

Under command of Navy Lieutenant Commander John S. Romine, the team has a staff of three doctors and 14 Navy corpsmen.

The unit is able to handle six battle cases at a time. With a helicopter landing zone 20 feet away from the operating room, the team also has a recovery tent set up nearby.

Before, battle casualties were often flown from the area 25 miles northwest of Phu Bai.



Barrel Full Of Money

Marine GySgt. Walter B. Pritchett right accepts his reenlistment bonus of \$10,688.64 from LtCol. Thomas I. Gunning, commanding officer, 2d Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn., with an assist from one of the missile leaders.

(Photo by: Sgt. H. G. McGrattan)

VC Threaten Villagers Building Hamlet School

DA NANG—The day of the one-room, little red school house is fast fading away in the United States but in Vietnam it is a beginning of knowledge and understanding for people that have never seen, much less heard of schools.

One such school house is being built in Bich Bac Hamlet, Dien Ban District, by the villagers with the help of two Marines of the civil affairs office of the 1st Battalion Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Gunnery Sergeant Frank Reneson, and Corporal Earl V. Blough, visit the site of the school house daily to confer with villagers.

The Marines met with the village elders in February to discuss a reconstruction program for their hamlet. The same night Viet Cong slipped into the village and warned the people

that it would cost 50 lives, American and Vietnamese, if the villagers helped the Marines build a school.

To prove the point the VC tried, unsuccessfully, to destroy the hamlet church.

Finding the villagers reluctant to help with the project of building a school, the Marines moved into the area to begin the construction under sporadic sniper fire.

The villagers returned to work. Two of the Marines are teaching them to lay bricks as they build. Marines, with the help of the local farmers, hope to have the school finished in June.

Corpsman Follows

Parents' Traditions

PHU BAI — Navy Hospital Corpsman Serge Mellon following his parents' traditions, is devoting 13 months of his life to fighting communist aggression.

His father was a Cossack who fought against the Bolsheviks in Russia's 1917 revolution. Serge's mother and her family were driven out of Mexico by Pancho Villa.

Carrying on the family legend, Serge is in South Vietnam, a Navy Corpsman with "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines.

"It's kind of funny my being here," he said. "I used to be a demonstrator against Vietnam before I went into the Navy. It's different now, I believe I'm right in being here and have a real purpose. These are good people. They deserve to be helped."

Serge believes that service in Vietnam builds maturity and closeness in young men. "We have two 18-year-olds in my platoon," the 21-year-old corpsman said, "and they're men—not boys. You learn quickly over here that it's not I or me, but we or us. I like that."

Fuel Company Helps Navy In Emergency

DONG HA—The 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, operating the Cau Viet pumping station at Dong Ha, accomplished the first shore-to-ship ship emergency refueling mission in the Vietnam war zone.

The U.S. hopper dredge Hyde, attached to the Jacksonville (Fla.) District of the Army Corps of Engineers, ran dangerously low of fuel while clearing a channel from the Cau Viet river into the South China Sea.

The ship's captain, R. J. Bartell, a former Navy lieutenant commander, requested aid from the bulk fuel company's officer in charge, Lt. V. W. Stanley.

Stanley had a coupling adapter made and floated a fuel line to the ship.

Within 20 minutes, the company pumped 8,900 gallons of diesel fuel to the ship. It marked the first time a bulk fuel company has ever refueled a ship at sea from the shore.

The Hyde's chief engineer, J. W. Cook said, the ship was "never refueled more efficiently or quickly. The Marine Corps really came through."

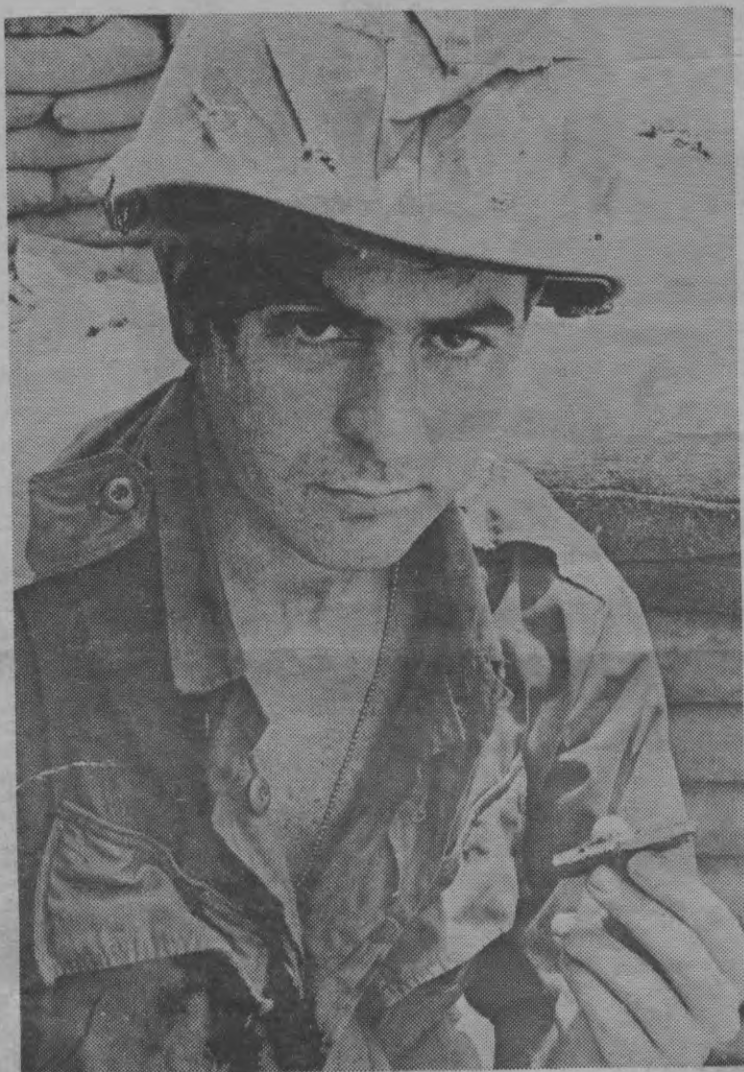
The dredge is operating in Vietnam to keep clear channels allowing supply vessels to operate in the area south of the demilitarized zone. It operates day and night, clearing as much as 18,000 cubic yards in a 24-hour period.



Battlefield Ballad

Two members of the 1st Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, provide impromptu entertainment for a group of youngsters near Da Nang. The occasion was a three-day county fair operation which ended April 27.

(Photo by: Sgt. G. D. Sullivan)



Vietnam Souvenir

Cpl. Dennis M. Checkett, squad leader for the 60mm mortar squad, A Co., 1st Bn., Ninth Marines, displays the piece of shrapnel that entered his helmet and slightly wounded him. It happened on a sweep mission up the "Street Without Joy" during Operation Big Horn.

(Photo by: Sgt. C. R. Holbert)

Hill 861 Cave Complex Shields NVA Battalion

By Sgt. Roger Ynostroza
KHE SANH—"There's probably a battalion-sized build-up in the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) cave complex and on Hill 861."

The estimate reported by Second Lieutenant Thomas G. King, a platoon commander with the Ninth Marine Regiment, followed a day-long fight in the area located five miles northwest of this airfield. During the struggle, 140 artillery rounds, nearly 200 mortar rounds and helicopter gunship supporting fire were poured into the area.

King said two platoons began to sweep the cave complex with his serving as a cover force during the operation which began early April 24. At 9:30 a.m., 81mm mortar fire was called in to blast the caves.

"About a half hour later, they called for more 81's—an estimated NVA company had been spotted," King said. "We fired about 70 rounds—all on target."

At 10:30, a five-man observation team was sent to the top of Hill 861, about 500 yards from King's position. The team nearly reached the summit before being attacked by 15 NVA.

The 105mm howitzer unit of "F" Btry., Twelfth Marine Regiment, located here, fired 140 rounds into the area.

"We'd received a re-supply of mortar ammunition by then, so we fired 60 more rounds on 861," King said.

"While the re-supply choppers were leaving, they received heavy machinegun fire. We fired 30 more 81 rounds and saw several NVA hit by the mortar-fire."

Liberty Road's Dust, Mud Paves Avenue of Freedom

By: Sgt. Russell R. Hurley

DA NANG—It is muddy and near impassable during the monsoons, and a dusty, blistering ordeal in the summer.

But, its mere existence has hurt the Viet Cong possibly more than any large search and destroy operation.

Liberty road is a 30 mile lifeline stretching south from Da Nang to the An Hoa Civilian Industrial Complex—also headquarters of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Convoys from the 1st and 11th Motor Transport Battalions make the journey carrying supplies to the Marine unit and the industrial complex.

An operation conducted by the 2nd Battalion completely reopened the road in February after monsoon rains had left it near impassable except by amphibious tractor.

"We caught a lot of sniper fire the first couple of weeks," said Lance Corporal Danny M. Brown, who drives a five-ton tractor-trailer from the 11th Motor Transport Battalion.

"The infantry has stopped most of that now and their sweep teams keep the road clear of mines," Brown said.

Teams from the 1st Engineers sweep the vital highway every morning prior to convoys making their trips.

Where the road stretches into open country both sides are being cleared of all obstacles by the 7th Engineers to reduce possible concealment for VC mine planters or ambushers.

"The Viet Cong ambushed us two times during the first couple of weeks," stated Second Lieutenant Terrence C. Burke, a convoy commander for the 11th Motor Transport Battalion. "Our security quickly put an end to both attacks," he added.

Security for convoys consist of infantry Marines with artillery, air and armored vehicles.

Vietnamese convoys use the road extensively and often join American convoys. In these instances Marines provide security for the civilian trucks in addition to their own.

Biggest bottleneck along Liberty Road is the Thu Bon river crossing. Trucks have to be ferried across the river by barges operated by Leathernecks of the 1st Bridge Company, 7th Engineers.

Marines still managed to



HEADING HOME—Dust billows from 11th Motor Transport Bn., trucks as they return to Da Nang on Liberty Road which stretches from the northern air base to the An Hoa Civilian Industrial Complex, 26 miles southwest of Da Nang.

(Photo by: Sgt. Russell R. Hurley)

transport an average of one Vietnamese and two Marine convoys per day during the month of April.

Navy Seabees are constructing a 2,000 foot bridge a short distance from the ferry site which will cut total travel time by one fourth.

Platoons of the 2nd Battalion occupying outposts along the road conduct daily patrols, sweeps and ambushes to minimize attempts by the VC to sabotage convoys.

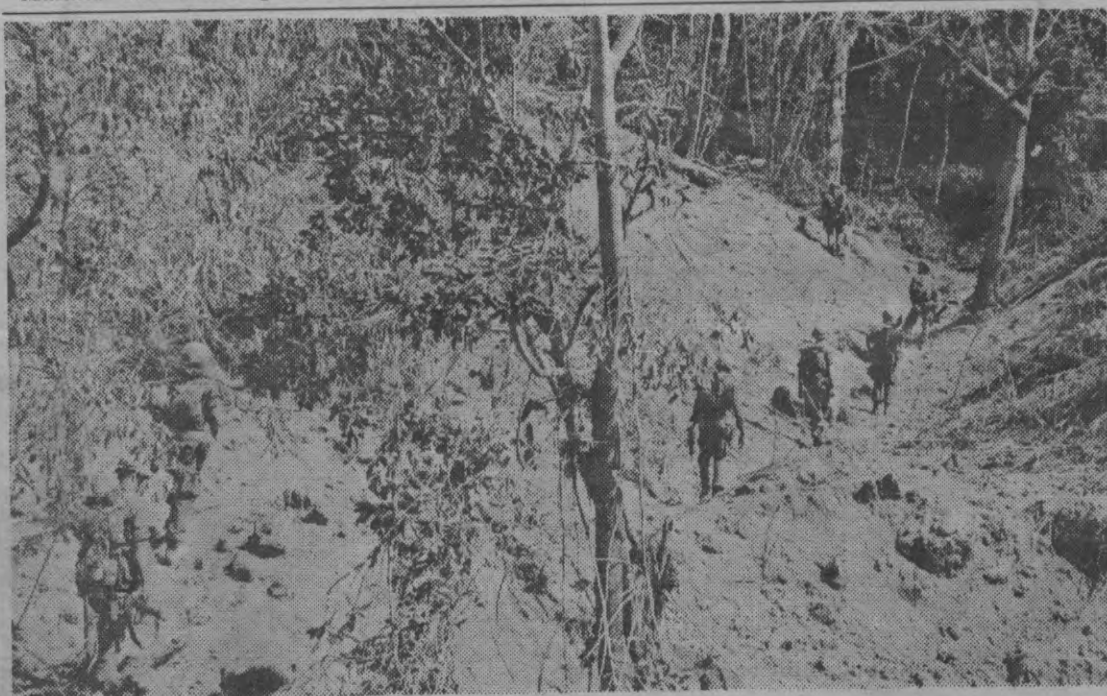
"Our drivers really appreciate what they are doing," said Burke, "in order that we can travel the road safely. They've done a great job."

A 10½ mile extension was added to Liberty Road in early March when the 2nd Battalion opened a road that had been closed by the Viet Cong for two and one half years.

The addition runs south from An Hoa through VC country to the Nong Son outpost, manned by 2nd Battalion Marines.

Nong Son is the location of the only coal mine in the Republic of South Vietnam. The road opening has enabled the mine to increase shipments of its natural resource.

The An Hoa complex, when fully operational, will be one of the largest industrial areas in South Vietnam.



Long, Hot Walk

Marines of 3d Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, move along a trail, broken only by occasional bomb craters, during an operation. The operation, the first for the battalion since their move north from Chu Lai, was conducted 12 miles south of Da Nang. Numerous enemy supply routes were uncovered and a new combat base was established by the battalion.

(Photo by: LCpl. Preston Brown)

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