



# SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

June 16, 1967

## May Proves Banner Month For Marines



### D-Day Lift Off

*D-DAY LIFT OFF—Troop-laden UH-34D helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 lift off the deck of a helicopter landing platform ship at daybreak in support of Operation Beau Charger near the demilitarized zone.*

*(Photo By: Cpl. Russ Cowen)*

## Kill 2,752 Enemy In Record Action

By: GySgt. Larry James

DA NANG—In some of the bloodiest, fiercest fighting of the Vietnam War, the III Marine Amphibious Force killed a record 2,752 North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong guerrillas during the month of May.

By the month's end the 75,000 Marines in South Vietnam's five northernmost provinces had conducted 11 operations, swept into the demilitarized zone for the first

time since the country divided in 1954, and had a new commander. LtGen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr. relieved LtGen. Lewis W. Walt, who commanded the III MAF for two years, and returned to the United States for duties in Washington, D. C.

Two of the operations, Union I conducted by the 1st Marine Division, and an unnamed action northwest of Khe Sanh near the DMZ by 3rd Marine Division units, surpassed the enemy kill figures set during Operation Hastings last summer when the Marines stopped a major invasion of the south by North Vietnamese Army units.

In Union I, conducted 30 miles south of Da Nang, the 1st Division killed 865 and detained another 173 before the operation ended May 17. More than

300 of the total were killed in two days of action: 137 on May 13, and 117 on May 10 near Hill 110.

Nine days later elements of the Fifth Marine Regiment began Union II in the same general area, killing 170 NVA and one VC on the first day, May 26. By the end of the month confirmed enemy killed in Union II was 214 as the operation continued.

In the Khe Sanh operation up north, units of the 3rd Marine Division killed 807 NVA on hills 881S, 881N and 861 in 12 days of fighting that began April 24.

Marine aviation units played a large part in the victory which stopped another "invasion" attempt by NVA units into South Vietnam. On May 1, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew 150 sorties, highest number for an operation since Starlight in August, 1965. One air strike alone accounted for 81 confirmed killed.

In addition to the heavy unit contact, base camps of the 3rd Marine Division at Con Thien, Gio Linh, Dong Ha and Camp J. J. Carroll received almost daily barrages of enemy mortar, artillery and rocket fire. More than 1,100 rounds hit the four sites south of the DMZ — nearly 700 at Con Thien alone.

Leathernecks of the division, along with Vietnamese Army units, swept into the DMZ buffer zone May 18, as Allied Forces moved into the area for the first time since the country was divided.

Units of the Third Marines

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### During 8-Hour Battle

## Kit Carson Scout Kills 31 Former Comrades

By 2ndLt. R. E. Arnold

DA NANG—A Viet Cong guerrilla who rallied to the government of South Vietnam last July, personally killed 31 of his former comrades while serving as a Kit Carson Scout with the Fifth Marine Regiment during Operation Union II in an eight-hour battle last week.

Thuong Kinh, 35, who was designated a Kit Carson Scout for the Marines only several days before, said he killed 31 during the action; Marine officials confirmed he killed 31 by

body count.

The action came after Kinh was heli-lifted June 2 into the area with "F" Co., 2nd Bn., during the first of two days of heavy contact by Marine forces and the North Vietnamese Army unit south of Da Nang in which 540 of the enemy were confirmed killed.

Speaking through an interpreter at a press conference at the Da Nang Press Center, Kinh told of how he discovered the first NVA hiding in rice paddies about 35 yards away as the Ma-

rines advanced towards a tree-line.

Kinh shot four of the six in the paddy, killing three. He then raced into the rice field to kill the other three, one of whom was an NVA officer and captured an AK47 rifle and pistol.

Later, Marine SSgt. Anthony Marengo (Ozone Park, N.Y.), platoon sergeant of the Marine unit Kinh was with, said the scout moved throughout the company area guiding Marines to safety and killing the enemy.

At one point Kinh said he destroyed an enemy machinegun position with a grenade killing seven NVA and later fought with a Marine element which encountered and killed a platoon.

During the fighting Kinh changed weapons several times, he said, picking up rifles and grenades from the dead to continue in the attack when he ran out of ammunition.

After killing one NVA, Kinh said he took the NVA's grenade and threw it about 30 yards to kill another.

Kinh usually placed with the point squad as the Marines advanced, killed three other NVA when he and a group of five Marines, including the company commander, enveloped another enemy machinegun nest. Along the route, Kinh noticed "some humps" in straw spread along the path and shot the VC hiding there.

During the day, Kinh is also credited with leading three Marines to safety after the NVA pinned down a group of the headquarters section of the company and the company commander ordered the walking-wounded out to get aid.

Following the action Kinh told the Marines he thought once of committing suicide rather than being captured and killed by his former comrades, when he ran

*(Continued on Back Page)*

## 701 Enemy Killed During 10-Day Union II Operation

DA NANG — The third paragraph of a morning situation report issued June 6 began simply, "Operation Union II, a U.S. Marine search and destroy operation about 27 miles south of Da Nang terminated at 1800 yesterday evening."

It reported in three more sentences that 701 enemy were killed during the 10-day action which began May 26, and listed 12 enemy crew-served weapons and 19 individual weapons captured by 1st Marine Division units.

Casualties for the Fifth Marine Regiment which conducted the operation were given as 110 dead and 241 wounded.

It followed by nine days Union

I in the same general area, during which Marines set a record for enemy kills (865) for one operation.

First report of Marine encounter with the enemy came at 3:30 p.m., May 26, when "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marines saw 15 North Vietnamese Army troops running towards a tree-line. The Marines almost immediately received heavy small arms fire, and called in artillery and air strikes to register the first enemy kill (five NVA).

An hour and three-quarters later, "M" and "I" Co., received mortar and small arms fire from an unknown-size enemy force, and countered

*(Continued on Back Page)*

## MajGen. Norman J. Anderson Assumes Command of Wing

DA NANG—MajGen. Norman J. Anderson accepted the colors of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing from MajGen. Louis B. Robertshaw during change of command ceremonies at Wing Headquarters June 1.

MajGen. Anderson had commanded the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, N.C., since May 1966.

MajGen. Robertshaw, who commanded the 1st MAF since May 1966, is scheduled to become Headquarters Marine Corps Liaison Officer with the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

During WW II, MajGen. Anderson took part in combat with

Marine Aircraft Group-25 in the Solomons. Later, he flew more than 100 bombing missions as commander of VMB-423 in the Bismarck and Philippines areas, earning three Distinguished Flying Crosses and seven Air Medals.

Upon the outset of hostilities in Korea, he was ordered to the Western Pacific as Deputy Commander, MAG-33. Based aboard the USS Badoeng Strait, he flew 57 missions and earned the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in aerial combat in the Pusan perimeter fighting. He also earned a fourth Distinguished Flying Cross and his eighth through tenth Air Medals.



# SEA TIGER

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Chapel Foundation, Inc. is offering to mail religious booklets and magazines to any serviceman in Viet Nam.

The booklets are free of charge and in accord with the chosen religious preference of the serviceman.

The organization is supported by St. Louis area businessmen and the mailing is done by disabled veterans who see the value of getting decent literature into the hands of servicemen through mail call.

Any individual interested in receiving this free literature is invited to send their name and address to:  
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**EDITORS NOTES:** Due to space limitations it is impossible to print all the names received for the Pen Pal section of the Sea Tiger. However, the Sea Tiger will endeavor to print as many names as possible on a first come, first print basis.

Personnel should be aware of the possibilities of being exploited or unwittingly contributing to hostile intelligence gathering efforts when engaged in Pen Pal correspondence.

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## Former DI Killed in Vietnam Honored

PARRIS ISLAND — Sergeant Robert F. Starbuck, a former Second Recruit Training Battalion drill instructor, killed in action on Feb. 4, 1967 in Viet Nam, was honored here today at a commemorative recruit drill competition.

Starbuck served almost two years as a DI prior to being transferred to the 3rd Marine Division in Viet Nam. During his PI tour, he was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant for his outstanding performance of duty on the drill field.

Present for the ceremonies were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney H. Starbuck, of 174 Tradd St., Charleston, S.C., and his sister, Mrs. Starbuck Still, of Washington, D.C.

The event began with the 256 series' four platoons performing various precision close order drill movements.

At the close of competition, Mr. and Mrs. Starbuck, assisted by Lieutenant Colonel G.C. Koontz, commanding officer, 2d Bn., presented the Starbuck Memorial Trophy to Platoon 256, winning unit of the competi-

tion.

The newly founded Starbuck trophy will remain with the 2d Bn., and be awarded for drill excellence to each winning platoon of all forthcoming recruit series drill competitions.

Colonel Koontz in turn, presented the Starbuck's with a plaque from the battalion on which was affixed a bronze drill instructor's campaign hat. The inscription on the plaque read: "Sergeant Robert F. Starbuck, who gave his life to further the cause of freedom in the Republic of Viet Nam."



**STARBUCK TROPHY**—Lieutenant Colonel G. C. Koontz presents plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Starbuck from officers and men of the 2d Battalion. In foreground is the Starbuck Memorial Trophy which will be awarded to winning platoons of forthcoming drill competitions. (Photo By: PFC Gene Duncan)

## Former Force IO Wins Award

WASHINGTON—Colonel Thomas M. Fields, former Force Information Officer, III Marine Amphibious Force, has been named winner of the Glenn H. Curtiss Award for 1967.

The award is presented each year by the Aviation/Space Writers Association to a Marine Corps Information Officer, for dedication and outstanding efforts to inform the public of the activities of the Marine Corps.

Colonel Fields was also cited for his enthusiastic and meritorious assistance to civilian correspondents at the Da Nang Press Center.



# Fourth Marines End Operation 'Shawnee'; 117 Viet Cong Killed

By: SSgt. Dan Wisniewski

PHU BAI—Operation "Shawnee", a multi-battalion search and clear operation by the Fourth Marine Regiment, ended May 21 with 117 confirmed Viet Cong kills.

The operation, which began Apr. 22, also uncovered large enemy ammunition and weapon's caches.

Fought in the double-canopied jungles west of Highway #1, in a former Viet Cong staging and control center

for units operating along the highway, Shawnee began with engineers heli-lifted into the jungle to clear landing zones with power saws and machetes.

Marine battalions lifted into the area found enemy communications equipment, switchboards, and large amounts of rice. The VC bases were destroyed and the Fourth Regiment Marines forged deeper into the jungles.

At one point the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines, marched for three nights through jungles under radio silence to surprise the VC.

Resupplies were lowered by hoist or thrown from helicopters hovering 50 feet in the air because of the dense jungle canopy.

On May 9, "H" Co., Ninth Marines found a cache of enemy ammunition in a cluster of huts. The haul included more than 400 mortar rounds, eleven 75mm rounds, 200 pounds of TNT, 241 grenades and more than 5,000 rounds of small arm ammunition.

Units of the Ninth Marines found other abandoned enemy camps, and elements of the 2nd Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marines unearthed numerous punji traps and engaged in small unit contacts with the Viet Cong.

"F" Co., Ninth Marines located a well-camouflaged enemy hut which yielded the most weapons discovered during the operation: 33 rifles, six shotguns, and eight automatic weapons. More than 4,000 rounds of small arm ammunition

and 700 pounds of TNT were also captured.

On May 10, "H" Co., Ninth Marines located a recently occupied enemy site capturing four sub-machineguns, ammo, clothing, medical supplies and documents. The 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines meanwhile discovered two tons of rice and assorted documents, maps, and enemy diaries in a VC village.

"F" Co., Ninth Marines, found a VC base camp with camouflaged huts and tunnels containing clothing and cooking utensils. They also unearthed 43 mines.

On May 12, elements of 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines located another ammunition cache following a brief firefight with the VC. Their find included more than 610 pounds of block TNT, mortar and recoilless rifle rounds, primers, fuses and blasting caps.

The following day, "F" Co., 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines discovered the largest VC base camp found during the operation. The base, used within a week of its discovery was in an area 1,000 meters square in the heart of the jungles. "F" Co. found more than 500 North Vietnamese Army uniforms at the camp.

Throughout the operation, the three Marine battalions engaged the VC in small unit contacts.

Col. R.H. Thompson (Munising, Mich., Fourth Marine Regiment commander who also had command of Operation Shawnee, called the equipment and weapon finds "significant, in that they have been taken in the enemies' own backyard."



## The Ben Hai

The Ben Hai river which splits part of Vietnam's demilitarized zone can be seen from a Marine UH-1E helicopter gunship during Operation Hickory.

(Photo By: GySgt. C. V. Stallings)

## Corpsman Eludes Enemy Fire To Aid 20 Wounded Marines

By: LanceCpl. M. W. Stokey II

DA NANG — Eluding enemy mortars and weapons fire, Hospitalman David P. Taylor (Pasadena, Calif.) aided more than 20 wounded Marines and helped them to safety May 26.

With "M" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marines, Taylor arrived on a helicopter shortly after "L" Co. received heavy automatic and small arms fire.

"We were no more than 50 feet from the chopper when we were mortared," said Taylor.

Taylor, seeing a wounded Marine from "L" Co., dressed his wound under fire, then took him back to safety, 500 meters to his rear where "M" Co. was trying to set up a command post.

He made three trips to the

front lines to aid Marines and move them to the CP.

A mortar barrage had wounded 15 out of 19 Marines in the center of a rice paddy. Taylor was pinned down by intense fire.

"I wasn't thinking about the enemy," said Taylor. "The biggest fear I had was that I couldn't get to all the men as quick as they needed help."

He charged toward the wounded and moved from man to man until he ran out of bandages.

Taylor started using shirts and trousers for dressings — rifles and belts for splints.

"After the men were bandaged, other Marines started helping them back to safety,"

said Taylor, who went up to treat more wounded.

"A platoon was still moving forward toward a treeline when I reached them," he said, "so I stayed there and started treating their wounded as the rest advanced."

Mortar fire again pinned down the Marines trying to get the wounded out of the paddy. Air strikes were called in.

While the aircraft kept the enemy pinned down, Taylor and the other Marines helped the wounded to a treeline.

More close air support helped to finally silence the enemy.

The 16-hour battle accounted for 171 North Vietnamese soldiers killed.

## Special Memorial Day Service Held By 7th Engineers

DA NANG — Memorial Day, 1967 was observed by members of the 7th Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, with special memorial services for 32 members of the battalion who lost their lives in Vietnam since the battalion's arrival here in August, 1965.

Addressing members of the battalion was LtCol. Frank W. Harris (Philadelphia, Pa.), battalion commanding officer, who said that "It is men like these who gave their lives that make us proud to be members of the 7th Engineers."

After the colonel's remarks, battalion adjutant, 2ndLt. Joseph R. Manning (Wilmington, N.C.), held roll call for the 32 Marines.

Navy Lt. David J. Williams (Oneida, N.Y.), battalion chaplain, followed the roll call with a eulogy for the Marines who in his words were "not defenders, but combat engineers."

The first member of the battalion to lose his life was LCpl. James E. Love who was killed December 5, 1965 by a mine while he was on a bridge reconnaissance.

Camp Love, home of the 7th Engineers, was dedicated in July, 1966 in honor of his name.

On May 13, 1967 the battalion lost their 32nd casualty when an engineer was killed by sniper fire as he was working on a bridge crossing the Vinh Dien river near Bo Mung hamlet.



## Rough Going

Leathernecks of 3rd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment make way through waist high brush as they carry wounded comrade to medevac helicopter during an operation near Da Nang.

(Photo By: LanceCpl. W. A. Porter)

## Listening Post Marines Dodge Own—Enemy Fire

DA NANG — "Viet Cong were crawling all around us. Some couldn't have been ten feet away."

"Three of us were 50 meters in front of our lines on a listening post," said Cpl. Freddie L. Perkins (Philadelphia, Pa.), "M" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

"Everything was quiet until midnight when enemy mortars started coming down on us."

Perkins described the night in a rice paddy 30 miles south of Da Nang, Vietnam.

With instructions to return to their platoon if attacked, the Marines started back.

"We only got about five yards," said Perkins, "before the VC started opening up on our platoon. Then the Marines opened up, and although neither force could see us, we couldn't get out of the way of the fire."

Perkins radioed in, and they were told to stay there and keep

down.

"By this time the VC were crawling all around us," said Perkins. "We couldn't do a thing." We couldn't turn around and shoot some of them because the enemy fire behind us was too intense. And we couldn't fire at any of the VC in front of us, for fear of hitting the Marines."

Mortars came in again and both forces started firing automatic weapons and machineguns.

When the enemy finally retreated, the Leathernecks started running to their lines shouting, "Marines coming in."

"We didn't know if we would get shot ourselves," said Perkins, "because all through the battle the VC had kept running toward the lines shouting the same thing."

All three made it safely without a scratch.



# 164 NVA Killed During Two Day Battle

By Sgt. W.L. Christofferson  
DA NANG—When the history of the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, in Vietnam is written, May 13, 1967, is assured of prominent mention.

As Sgt. Robert F. Johnson (Clearwater, Fla.) remembers it, the action started at 4 p.m. on May 12, when a company of 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, was ambushed by an estimated two battalions of North Vietnamese soldiers.

Johnson was acting as a platoon commander in "Kilo" Co., which went to the aid of the embattled unit. The company arrived at its destination after dark, set up a hasty defensive perimeter, and helped evacuate

casualties from "D" Co.

The next morning, "K" Co. was called on to aid "L" Company, which had run into the same NVA force.

The relief force came under sporadic fire that gradually increased, then exploded into mortar, automatic weapons, and rifle grenade fire.

The NVA were well dug-in, manning a trench line 75 meters to "K" Co's front. The enemy had been waiting for 12 days, captured documents showed later, for a Marine company to approach their fortified positions.

The North Vietnamese had a wood line for cover. "K" Co. Leathernecks were in the open,

with scarcely more than blades of grass or a few scrubby bushes to protect them from the intense fire.

Two squads of Marines were trapped between the friendly and enemy forces, pinned down throughout the day as fire raged overhead from both directions.

The entire company was compressed into a 60-meter front. Calls for a corpsman became more and more frequent.

The wounded on the front lines could not know that all but one of the company's corpsmen had been killed or wounded.

Johnson knew, and began to answer the pleas for treatment himself.

"I had done all I could militarily," he explains, "and it was just a matter of holding our own. People kept calling for corpsmen, so I did what I could to help."

## Busy Seabees Build Defenses On Hill 881 S.

KHE SANH — Third Division Marines took Hill 881 South from the NVA. Now, it is up to a detachment of Seabees from Mobile Construction Battalion-4 to insure the Marines have defensive positions and a supply zone.

Under the guidance of Lt. Brent Mandry, USN (Ferguson, Mo.), the Seabees built a helicopter landing zone on Hill 881 and 861.

"That was the first thing we did after the hill was taken," Mandry said. "We also helped build defensive bunkers and artillery positions on the hill."

Their work is not yet completed. They are building ammo pits and clearing trails on the hills for better mobility for the Marine units.

At the present time they are working on revetments for helicopters and planes that stay at the Khe Sanh airstrip overnight.

"We've building them so that if the area ever comes under a mortar attack, they will be protected as much as possible," said Mandry.

Picking up a "unit one" medical kit from a wounded Navy corpsman, Johnson raced to the lines, treating fragmentation and gunshot wounds, broken legs, abdominal and chest wounds, administering morphine, applying bandages.

Having exhausted one kit, he returned to the rear for more bandages and morphine, until there was no more of either to be had.

"Then we began to improvise," Johnson said, "using T-shirts, pieces of dungarees, and anything we could to help the wounded."

In all, Johnson treated some 20 to 30 men before two other companies arrived on the scene, bringing corpsmen and supplies with them.

The battle raged throughout, and acts of heroism and selflessness were so common they almost escaped notice.

The heat was almost unbearable. Yet Johnson recalls one machine gun squad remaining on the front line for seven hours without water, after using the last precious drops in their canteens to cool the barrels of their guns.

"We had lots of new troops with us," Johnson said, "but they became veterans in a hurry, and really did the job. Men with practically no combat experience became squad leaders, and did an amazing job."

Marine helicopters braved mortar fire in the landing zone to bring vital resupplies of ammunition and water and evacuate the wounded.

Johnson, his medical assistance no longer needed, hauled mortar and machine gun am-

munition to the front lines, where heavy contact continued throughout the day.

When his company commander was wounded, Johnson assisted in calling in air and artillery strikes, and helped direct distribution of critical resupplies.

"The day went unbelievably fast," Johnson said. "When reinforcements arrived and helped us end the battle, we stopped to make coffee. The battle had started about 9 a.m., and I couldn't believe it when someone said it was 4 p.m."

The battalion fought throughout the night, as the NVA attacked in waves and again poured mortar fire on the Marines' defensive positions.

The enemy finally broke contact the morning of May 14, when a battalion of the First Marines began to sweep through the area.

Behind them, the North Vietnamese left 164 dead, not including those killed by air and artillery.

It could scarcely have seemed worth the 12-day wait.



## Run for Your Life

A Marine from "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division dashes across open area during fire-fight with Viet Cong on an operation south of Da Nang.

## Marines Beat Back VC in Night Attack

DA NANG—Eight enemy mortar rounds broke the silence at midnight, followed by a fanatical three-hour Viet Cong attack against the Leathernecks of 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Set in for the night during Operation Union, 25 miles south of Da Nang, the Leathernecks were well prepared.

"We were expecting a mortar attack and were well dug in," said LCpl. Leonard E. Giles (Summerville, Ala.), a machine gunner with "M" Co.

An illumination round went up and the Marines returned fire as another barrage of mortars fell.

Although most of the VC hit the deck, Giles saw one stooping and killed him.

Another Marine with an M-79

grenade launcher saw another one kneeling and hit him point blank with a grenade.

"The VC were fanatical," said Giles. "Every time an illumination round went off, we dropped five or six of them. Then another one would go off and we could see the wounded patching themselves up with bandages so they could attack again."

Giles spotted two enemy machine gun positions, no more than 30 meters apart, and silenced both.

The VC finally retreated, leaving most of their weapons while carrying away their dead and wounded.

During a search next morning, Marines captured a wounded Viet Cong officer and numerous weapons and grenades.

The Leathernecks accounted for 50 VC dead.



## Viet Cong Bunker Destroyed

A Seabee bulldozer crunches through a Vietnamese building sheltering a Viet Cong bunker and cave complex five miles south of Da Nang. Eight Viet Cong guerrillas were captured during the two-day search and destroy operation.

(Photo By: LCpl. L. Preston Brown)



# Decorations And Awards

## Silver Star

CLARK

DA NANG — Marine Captain Read M. Clark (485 Brookridge Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C.) received the Silver Star May 29.

The captain was awarded the Silver Star for his "exceptional leadership and selfless devotion to duty" while serving as commanding officer "I" Co., 3rd Bn., Seventh Marines.

The action for which Clark was cited occurred on January 30, 1967 when his company was on a search and clear operation at Hai Mon hamlet in Quang Ngai Province.

While crossing a series of open rice paddies, near the village, the lead element came under intense rifle and automatic weapons fire from a VC force.

The enemy was located in heavily fortified positions and almost immediately two platoons were pinned down. The platoons were unable to move without incurring heavy casualties.

Utilizing the cover of supporting arms, Clark maneuvered his remaining platoon in an attempt to flank the enemy and relieve the pressure on his pinned down platoons.

After eight hours of continual fighting, with ammunition dangerously low and many weapons inoperative from battle damage, Clark skillfully withdrew his company under the cover of darkness.

Once withdrawn to a secure area, Clark began supervising the evacuation of the wounded. Suddenly it was discovered that one Marine was missing.

Clark immediately organized a six man rescue team and returned to the enemy infested area. The rescue team located the missing Marine and returned safely to the company's defensive perimeter.

His citation also said, "Not only did the captain's selfless and heroic actions inspire all who served with him, but also were instrumental in the accomplishment of his unit's mission."

## Bronze Star

REDWINE

DA NANG — Navy Hospitalman Third Class James R. Redwine (Amarillo, Texas) was presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" by LtCol. George A. Babe, 9th Engineer Bn. commander, May 28.

On February 11, while serving as a corpsman with Marines assigned to clear an uncharted mine field near Hill 54, a Marine tripped an M-14 plastic mine. The explosion severed the feet of the Marine and caused facial injuries to another Marine nearby.

Redwine immediately tried to go forward to aid the wounded. "They wouldn't let me rush in there," said Redwine. "The grass was tall, and it was almost impossible to detect a mine."

A Marine sergeant volunteered to clear a path for the corpsman. Probing by hand for mines, the two inched their way to the wounded Marine engineers. Redwine was able to stem the flow of blood and reduce the pain in a matter of minutes.

"Another corpsman who was moving out to assist me tripped another mine," said Redwine. "Fortunately he wasn't hurt too bad, but he still needed my aid. I got a stretcher for the Marine

who stepped on the mine. The other was able to make it on his own. A Marine with a radio had already called for an emergency helicopter."

Redwine again risked his life by moving through the uncharted mine field to aid his fellow corpsman and move him to safety.

"It all happened so fast, I don't even remember how long it took or much about it. I do know that those men needed my help and I was going to give it to them."

## WOLFORD

DA NANG — The Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" was presented to GySgt. Howard D. Wolford (527 Mynah Place, Vista, Calif.) during ceremonies, May 26, at Headquarters, 7th Communications Bn., 1st Marine Division, Chu Lai.

Wolford was cited for his actions while supervising the installation of telephone cable on a bridge over the Cau Do river.

Wolford, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Tracey, (3515 Orchard Rd., Baltimore, Md.), discovered the bridge had been mined. He immediately organized a group of swimmers and accompanied them under the bridge to remove the mines, then supervised the defusing of the mines.

Wolford is a member of Radio Relay and Construction Co., of the communications battalion.

The medal was presented by LtCol. W. M. Clelland, commanding officer of 7th Communications Bn.

## HEBERT

PHU BAI — Kenneth J. Hebert (Abbeville, La.) a platoon commander with "H" Co., 2nd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment, was presented the Bronze Star Medal for aiding a Marine endangered by a Viet Cong booby-trap.

During a sweep and clear operation in the Quan Dai Loc area, Hebert's point man had become entangled in a trip wire.

"I went forward to reassure the man and told him not to move," said Hebert. "Then I cleared the area of the rest of my men."

Hebert saw that the booby-trap was a pressure-type grenade camouflaged in the underbrush.

"I positioned myself between the man and the grenade, and told him to jump for cover when I cut the wire," said Hebert.

Everything went smoothly. The Marine was freed and the boobytrap was disarmed successfully.

## DFC BLANCHARD

CHU LAI — Marine Maj. Ronald E. Blanchard was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross by LtGen. Lewis W. Walt, commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force, at Chu Lai.

The 34-year-old Pine City, Minn., resident received the DFC for helping destroy a surface-to-air missile site Nov. 24.

North Vietnamese forces had erected the SAM site about 30 miles north of the demilitarized zone, approximately 10 miles from Dong Hoi.

Blanchard and wingman, Capt. John Flournoy (Columbus, Ga.), both members of Marine Attack Squadron-211, Marine Aircraft Group-12, based at Chu Lai, were assigned to destroy the missile complex.

"As I approached the complex, composed of two vans with missiles set up around them, I banked and had a look. Then I told Flournoy who was following me, to make his run immediately," Blanchard said.

Flournoy made the run dropping 500-lb. bombs at 30 ft. intervals. Blanchard then dropped his 500-lb. bombs the same way. Both runs were on target.

"As soon as we pulled out of the run we flew toward the ocean. It takes only seconds for one of those missiles to lock on to your plane," Blanchard said.

On the flight home, the Air Force spotter in the area reported all bombs had struck the site.

## THREE DFC'S

DA NANG, — Three Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361 pilots received the Distinguished Flying Cross for airlifting Korean Marines from an enemy area near Quang Ngai during heavy rains and darkness last November.

Capt. Wayne R. Hyatt, (Hanceville, Ala.) and Robert D. McGinn, (Ann Arbor, Mich.) and 1stLt. Marshall M. Calef, III, (Oskaloosa, Iowa) were presented the medals by BGen. R.P. Keller, 1st Marine Aircraft assistant wing commander at Marble Mountain Air Facility.

Hyatt received a gold star in lieu of a second award. It was the first DFC's for the others.

The Koreans had been separated from friendly forces by a large enemy unit.

The three HMM-361 pilots left Khe Ha to provide an emergency lift.

The rains and darkness forced the pilots to use the navigation lights, exposing the aircraft to enemy fire, before landing on a rocky hilltop zone.

Hyatt, leading the flight, went into the zone three times to pick up the stranded troops.

## GILLON

DA NANG — Maj. Robert A. Gillon (Orange, Calif.), a jet pilot with Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron-232 was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross for air strikes 18 miles south of Chu Lai on January 30.

Gillon took part in a two aircraft mission to aid the evacuation of a reconnaissance team which had been surrounded by the Viet Cong.

Despite adverse weather conditions, he skillfully led the flight in delivering rockets and cannon fire within 100 meters of the Marine force.

Major M.H. Sautter, VMF (AW)-232 commanding officer, presented the medal. It was the first presented to a squadron member in Vietnam.

## TWO MEMBERS

DA NANG — Capt. Robert L. Oetting and CWO Douglas Wilson became the first members of Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron-242 to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross during ceremonies at Marine Aircraft Group-11 headquarters.

Oetting, a pilot from Wood River, Ill., and Wilson of Santa Ana, Calif., bombardier-navigator of an A-6A Intruder jet, were cited for actions last November assisting a Marine reconnaissance team. The Intruder had been diverted from a routine bombing mission to hit an estimated force of 100 Viet Cong which had the team surrounded.

Pinpoint bombing enabled the unit to be evacuated without any casualties.

SEA TIGER 5

## Navy Commendation Medal

Cpl. John Leon Jenkins of Florence, Ala., gunner with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361, receives the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" from MajGen. Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The 20-year-old Leatherneck was presented the medal for actions against the Viet Cong while on an emergency evacuation mission Oct. 12, 1966.

(Photo By: LCpl. Vincent Rodriguez)

## Four Marines Earn Bronze Star Medal

DA NANG — Four Marine riflemen who played key roles in driving off a North Vietnamese battalion which attacked their outpost on the night of January 15 were presented Bronze Star Medals.

The enemy had launched a three-pronged human wave assault against a position manned by a platoon of "K" Co., 3rd Bn., First Marine Regiment and succeeded in penetrating a portion of the defensive perimeter.

LCpl. David E. Schaughency (Pittsburgh, Pa.), was acting as point man on a security patrol before dawn. As the patrol was searching a small hamlet near his platoon's position, he spotted enemy movement and opened fire.

Shortly thereafter, the patrol received an intense volume of enemy fire and hand grenades which severely wounded two of the four patrol members.

As the firing increased it soon became evident that his alert actions had prematurely triggered the attack of the enemy battalion.

He was isolated from the platoon's defensive perimeter and exposed to both friendly and enemy fire. However, he was able to move the two wounded Marines to safety and then joined with the fourth member

to establish a defensive position.

As the enemy pushed its attack against the Marine position he delivered rifle fire into their flanks and rear area.

After the battle, six North Vietnamese soldiers were found in front of his position and others are known to have been dragged away.

Sgt. James M. Bullard (East Orange, N.J.), had been awakened by the sounds of the fire-fight.

Seeing that one of his squad's bunkers had been destroyed, Bullard rallied the remaining squad members through a hail of enemy fire to a more advantageous position.

He fired his M79 grenade launcher with deadly accuracy into groups of VC.

He then led the men back to their original positions in order to reestablish the defensive perimeter.

LCpl. Curtis L. Bennett (Baton Rouge, La.), seeing that an enemy satchel charge had destroyed most of the weapons in his position, moved through the intense fire to obtain other weapons and ammunition.

Upon discovering that a wounded man was lying in the open, exposed to hostile fire, Bennett ran to the man and pulled him to a safer position.

He returned to the position with needed weapons and ammunition and rejoined the fire-fight.

Star-spangled way to send a son to college



U.S. SAVINGS BONDS





## Morning Colors

MajGen. P. A. Hochmuth, commanding general, 3rd Marine Division, stands at attention after the American and Republic of Vietnam flags were raised at Marine Combat Base, Dong Ha. The American flag was given to Gen. Hochmuth by Congressman Dominic V. Daniels of New Jersey, to be flown over South Vietnam. The flag will be returned to the United States.

(Photo By: GySgt. B. L. Owens)

## Hickory Marines Spot Gun Positions in DMZ

By: Sgt. Bob Pitner

DONG HA—North Vietnamese artillerymen and rocketmen operating from within the demilitarized zone received a rude awakening during the early days of Operation Hickory.

Until Marines and Republic of Vietnam forces moved into the zone on May 18, enemy gunners had been operating with relative impunity from camouflaged positions on both sides of the Ben Hai River which separates North from South Vietnam. Then things changed.

On the second day of Operation Hickory, "I" Co., 3rd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment was sweeping an area just below the river when they spotted muzzle blasts from communist guns approximately 2,000 meters northeast of their position. The enemy fired 20 rounds during the four minutes it took the Marines to plot their location and call for their own artillery.

Then, in what Capt. H. H. Hawkins (Vista, Calif.), "I" Co. commander, termed, "the fastest artillery response I have ever seen," American batteries at

Con Tien sent 40 rounds into the North Vietnamese emplacements. An aerial observer flying overhead reported the barrage on target and the enemy weapons were silenced.

Two days later, while patrolling near the southern edge of the DMZ, "I" Co. again caught the enemy by surprise. As they watched from 1,500 meters away, enemy rocketeers launched volleys of nine and then seven rockets toward Marine positions further south.

Not until the shells began exploding around them did the North Vietnamese realize that their sanctuary was destroyed. Again, an aerial observer reported the friendly artillery on target and the rocketeers were out of business.

# Marines, ARVNs Clear Out VC From Marble Mountain Complex

By: G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—The last of a known Viet Cong guerrilla unit operating just south of the Marble Mountain military complex was eliminated May 26 when a combined U.S. Marine-Army of the Republic of Vietnam force swept through the hamlets of Hai An and captured eight members of the cadre.

In previous raids, six others had been captured and two killed. Moving out at 4 a.m., the Marines captured the first guerrilla as he attempted

## ARVN Units Kill 243 Near Quang Tri City

DA NANG—Army of the Republic of Vietnam airborne, infantry and armored cavalry forces killed 243 Viet Cong near Quang Tri city the first week of June during Operation Lam Son 63.

Another 28 VC were killed in northern Quang Tin province during phase II of Operation Lien Ket 106, bringing cumulative totals for the operation to 179 enemy killed (104 by air), 32 VC detained, and 11 individual and four crew-served weapons along with 13,000 kilos of rice captured.

In both operations during the week ARVN forces also detained 16 VC, captured 10,500 kilos of rice, and six individual and one crew-served weapon.

Heaviest action of Lam Son 63 occurred June 3, when 85 of the Viet Cong were killed by airborne and armored cavalry units.

Other ARVN activity included:

Twenty-five VC killed, eight detained and 10,500 kilos of rice captured on May 31 as ARVN forces swept through dug-in NVA positions on Lien Ket 106's phase II.

East of Hue June 1, eight VC were detained and six individual and one crew-served weapon captured in phase III of Lam Son 142.

Two days later a 1st Regt. search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai city killed six VC.

### ARRESTED

CHU LAI—Pilots at Marine Aircraft Group-12 have been arrested 20,000 times since June 1, 1965.

When the hook of Maj. Ronald E. Blanchard's (Pine City, Minn.) A-4E Skyhawk caught the steel cable stretched across the runway May 26, the Marine Attack Squadron-223 pilot recorded the 20,000th arrested landing.

This mobile arresting equipment operates much the same as the aircraft arresting equipment aboard a Navy aircraft carrier.

## \$300 Given to Orphanage

CHU LAI — Marine Aircraft Group-13 presented \$300 to the Binh Son orphanage May 13.

The money was collected by Cpl. James M. Starns, Detroit, who started an aid-the-orphanage campaign in Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-323.

This campaign netted \$225 and the remaining \$75 came from donors in the U.S.

It costs approximately \$10 per month to care for two of the 30 orphans at the year-old orphanage.



## Marine Gets Helping Hand

A Marine from Co. "K", 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, lends a helping hand to a fellow Marine during Operation Union II south of Da Nang.

(Photo By: LCpl. M. J. Smedley)





## Marines Sweep Through the DMZ

Marine infantrymen and tanks of 2nd Bn., Twenty-sixth Marine Regiment advance through flatlands in the DMZ during Operation Hickory. (Photo By: Sgt. J. L. Blick)

## Ninth Marines' COC Keeping Tab On Hickory from Hole in Ground

By Sgt. Bob Pitner

DONG HA—Three days prior to the beginning of Operation Hickory, a small group of radio operators began setting up shop in a trench, two miles north of Cam Lo.

When the operation began these men transmitted orders that sent six battalions of Marines, with supporting arms, into action.

They were the first to arrive from the Ninth Marine Regi-

ment's Command Operations Center (COC) which had moved into the field and began operations in less than 24 hours. By the time the operation kicked off, the control of approximately 7,000 men had been transplanted from a set of offices at Dong Ha to a 15-yard-long hole in the ground.

A COC is composed of four main sections: operations, fire support control center, intelligence and communications. Once a regiment has been assigned a mission, these sections combine in planning, controlling and supervising the actions of the units.

The regimental operations officer has overall control of COC and transmits the orders of the commanding officer to his battalion.

His section receives spot reports of action in the field throughout the day which are compiled into situation reports and sent to division headquarters every six hours.

The fire support control center (FSCC) coordinates artillery, air strikes and naval gunfire when extra fire is needed. All requests for fire support are cleared by FSCC to be sure there are no friendly troops in the target area and that aircraft will not be firing in the vicinity of artillery or naval gunfire. In-

cluded in the FSCC is an air liaison officer who is a pilot and a Navy gunnery officer.

The intelligence section has the job of assimilating and distributing information concerning the enemy. They keep the battalion commanders informed on enemy activity in their locale and pass on to division headquarters information gathered by smaller units.

Backbone of the COC is the communications section. Its radios and telephones transmit the orders and messages which keep the other sections in operation. When the regimental headquarters moves they are the first to set up in the new location and the last to move.

With control of six battalions at the beginning of Operation Hickory, the responsibility of the Ninth Marines' COC was doubled.

"We could have set up in an afternoon if we had to. We have encountered no problems professionally. It has just been a little more uncomfortable Maj.

"We could have set up in an afternoon if we had to. We have encountered no problems professionally. It has just been a little more uncomfortable", Maj. P. D. Ratcliff (Columbia, Miss.), the operations officer, said.

## LtGen. Chapman Assistant CMC

WASHINGTON — Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Chief of Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps since January 1964, will become the new Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps when LtGen. Richard C. Mangrum retires from that position at the end of this fiscal year.

General Mangrum, currently the "Gray Eagle" of Naval Aviation (earliest designated aviator now on active duty within the Naval Establishment) has been Assistant Commandant since July 1, 1965.

## Anti-Air Defense

## Assault Fire Unit 55: Ready if Needed

DA NANG — Assault Fire Unit 55 has been in operation for nine months and is ready to fulfill its anti-air defense mission if ever needed.

The Marines of AFU-55 share

### Command Change

DA NANG—Maj. Pat S. Galligan (29 Palms, Calif.), assumed command of the 1st Anti-Tank Bn. June 5.

He accepted the battalion colors from LtCol. John J. Keefe (Portland, Ore.) at the unit's command post, three miles southwest of Da Nang.

Hill 55 with the Seventh Marine Regiment which is searching out the enemy in a large area south of Da Nang.

Unit 55 provides a 24-hour anti-air defense for the southern sector of the Da Nang complex.

When the unit first moved to Hill 55 in August, 1966, the men lived in tents and fighting holes, setting up their equipment as best they could under the conditions.

The anti-aircraft defense unit now has a working area complete with radar pads, an operations center, maintenance areas

and a small recreation area built by the men.

Constant radar vigilance, continual maintenance to keep the equipment at peak performance, and manning a guard bunker on the defensive perimeter is the daily routine.

Camp construction, which is centered around the latest piece of equipment at the site, a long-range surveillance radar, accounts for much of their time.

Unit personnel maintain their shooting eye by periodically firing live missiles at drone aircraft targets.

# Recon Patrol Battles Large Enemy Force

By: LCpl. Jim Barclay

PHU BAI—"We could smell fish the Viet Cong were cooking for dinner; then they walked right up to our position, about 50 of them," said LCpl. Michael J. Rogers (Gheens, La.).

He was a radioman with an eight-man 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. night patrol and took charge after the squad leader and assistant were wounded.

"All we could do was wait where we were, in open terrain," said Rogers.

About 20 passed the position and the remaining VC walked right into the patrol's position.

"They were about 15 meters away when we opened up. During the initial exchange, the assistant patrol leader was hit," he said.

The firefight lasted for 20 minutes before Rogers then called in the Huey gunships.

"The VC pulled out when the Hueys began strafing their position," Rogers said. "We decided to get out of there and requested a helicopter to pick us up."

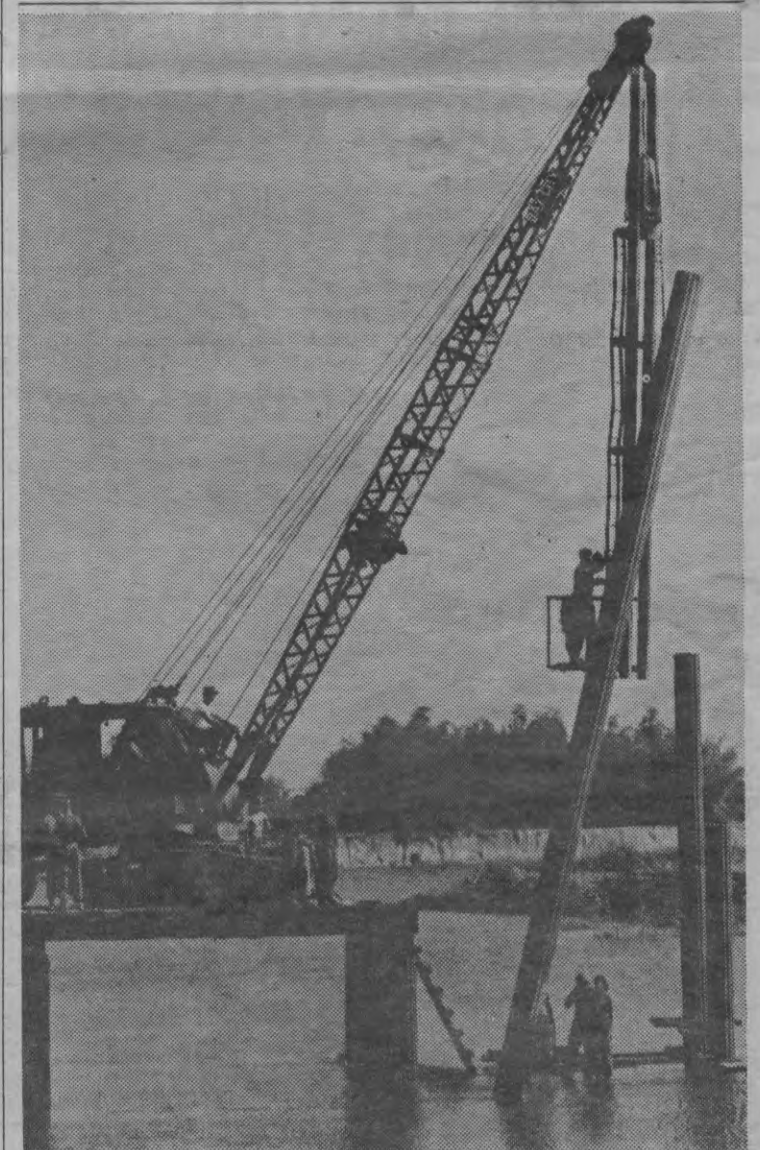
While the patrol moved towards the landing zone, the pursuing enemy hit the squad leader.

"I was still calling air strikes, managing the squad and directing the evacuation chopper to the landing zone, all at the same time," Rogers said.

Rogers told his men to start loading with the enemy still only 30 meters behind them.

Three hours had passed since the recon team had been put in position. They headed back to safety, with only two men wounded.

"We know we killed two VC, but there wasn't time to check for more," Rogers said.



## Pile Driving Men

LONGEST BRIDGE—Marine engineers of Co. "B", 7th Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, set pilings for the longest permanent bridge to be constructed by Marine engineers in Vietnam. The 280-foot structure, spanning the Vinh Dien river south of Da Nang, is supported by metal monotube pilings, a rare design in bridge construction and a new experience for Marine engineers.





## Help in The Sky

Marines of the 3rd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment, patrolling in the DMZ welcome aerial support from a Marine Corps Huey. The Marines were taking part in Operation Hickory. (Photo By: Sgt. A. J. Jodzko)

## Corporal Hit with Seven Bullets Walks Away Without a Scratch

PHU BAI, Vietnam — Seven Viet Cong sniper bullets rammed into Cpl. Raymond J. Chiapelli, (West Patterson, N. J.), yet he walked away without a scratch.

Chiapelli, a battalion scout attached to "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marines was on a two day operation 12 miles south of Phu Bai. He and a Chieu Hoi

were leading the company to a suspected VC stronghold.

Approaching a plateau on the mountain the company had been climbing, Chiapelli came face to face with a VC sniper armed with an AK-47 automatic Chinese Communist sub-machine gun.

"We both began blazing away at the same time; and we both had tracer rounds in our weapons. I could see my rounds moving at him and his rounds mingling with mine as they came right at me. We were so close that I could feel the heat from his muzzle flash. He was only about 15 feet away."

"We each went through a full clip of ammunition, then I hit

the deck. 'Charlie' made his escape although we found blood traces, so I know I wounded him."

It wasn't until later that Chiapelli discovered his 'wounds'. One of the sniper's rounds put a hole in the left side of his bush hat; another through his magazine pouch; two bored through his canteen pouches, one of which contained extra ammunition. Another bullet whizzed between his cartridge belt and utility shirt. A final count showed seven rounds went through his clothing and equipment.

"But for a little broken peace of mind. . . I'm fine," he concluded.

## Happy Anniversary 11th Motors!

DA NANG—The 11th Motor Transport Bn. observed their first anniversary, since reactivation, with cake cutting ceremonies at battalion headquarters June 1.

Under operational control of the 1st Marine Division since they arrived in Vietnam Dec. 29, 1966, the battalion has completed seven convoys along coastal Highway 1 from Chu Lai to Phu Bai, a distance of approximately 100 miles.

During the five month period from Jan. 1 to June 1, the battalion's vehicles have traveled better than 610,000 miles, hauling more than 44,800 tons of cargo, and transporting 163,174 passengers.

## Five FLSG-B Marines Live, Work With ROK Army

CHU LAI—A five-man Marine liaison team from the Force Logistic Support Group-B lives and works with the Republic of Korea Army, nine miles north of Quang Ngai.

The ROK Army unit coordinates receipt of supplies from FLSG-B at Chu Lai, for the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade.

The liaison team, commanded by Maj. Robert Cook, instructs

the Korean support unit in the fields of ordnance, food service and supply.

Instructing the ROK Army on ordnance repair is the job of GunnerySgt. Richard M. Irwin of Jackson, Miss.

GySgt. William P. Barrier of Henderson, N.C., is the food service specialist.

"We try to teach the Koreans the American way to cook a

## B-52 Crew Members Visit Ground Forces

By: SSgt. Dan Wisniewski

PHU BAI—It was an impressive view to the men who witnessed the air strike. B-52 bombers, dropping ton after ton of high explosives.

Bright red flashes ran along the hill, then large plumes of dirt and debris arose, almost hiding the target under a thick pall of dust. Moments later, the muffled explosions of the bombs could be heard.

If it was an impressive sight to the Marine onlookers, it was doubly so to the 11 U.S. Air Force observers dressed in blue flight suits.

All were B-52 crewmen, and all had participated in such bombing strikes. None had ever had the opportunity of witnessing their handiwork up close. Some, such as 1stLt. Zac L.

Gray (Uvalde, Texas), a B-52 navigator, had never even seen Vietnam, except through a radar scope.

Of the six airmen that compose a B-52 crew, only three are afforded a view of their own bombing; the pilot, co-pilot, and the gunner in the plane's tail. The radar/navigator, navigator, and electronics warfare officer seldom see the bomb flashes on their targets.

Capt. Richard D. Maurer (Maplewood, N.J.), a B-52 radar navigator, had seen the bomb flashes beneath him a few times. He released the bombs on all his 21 missions over Vietnam.

"I can sometimes see our bombs explode," said Sgt. Bob Lawson (Austin, Texas), the bomber's tail gunner, "but by the time the bombs strike the ground, we're miles away from them."

To LtCol. Don R. Nicholas (San Angelo, Texas), the strike was a stirring sight indeed. LtCol. Nicholas piloted heavy bombers (B-29's) in Korea and in Vietnam (B-52's). He had never seen a strike up close.

"It's a very impressive sight, more so than I'd thought it would ever be," said Nicholas. "It helps us to understand our own job better, and to understand the great job our ground forces are doing."

The strike highlighted a three day visit to Vietnam and forward units of the Fourth Marine Regiment.

Bennett saw two wounded Marines lying in an area under heavy VC fire and dashed to them to move them to safety.

Cpl. Robert A. Demark (Albany, N.Y.), moved through the enemy fire when his bunker was destroyed by a satchel charge and established a position near an 81mm mortar emplacement.

He effectively assisted in reorganizing the defensive position and countered the enemy's attack with deadly accurate rifle fire and grenades.

## Memorial Club

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

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

## Marine Sees Bushes Run; Shoots Them

DA NANG, Vietnam, June 8 — "All I saw was a bush running, and then it ducked down behind a dike," said Pfc. Magdaleno M. Rojas, (Woodland, Calif.), about action during Operation Union II, 30 miles south of Da Nang.

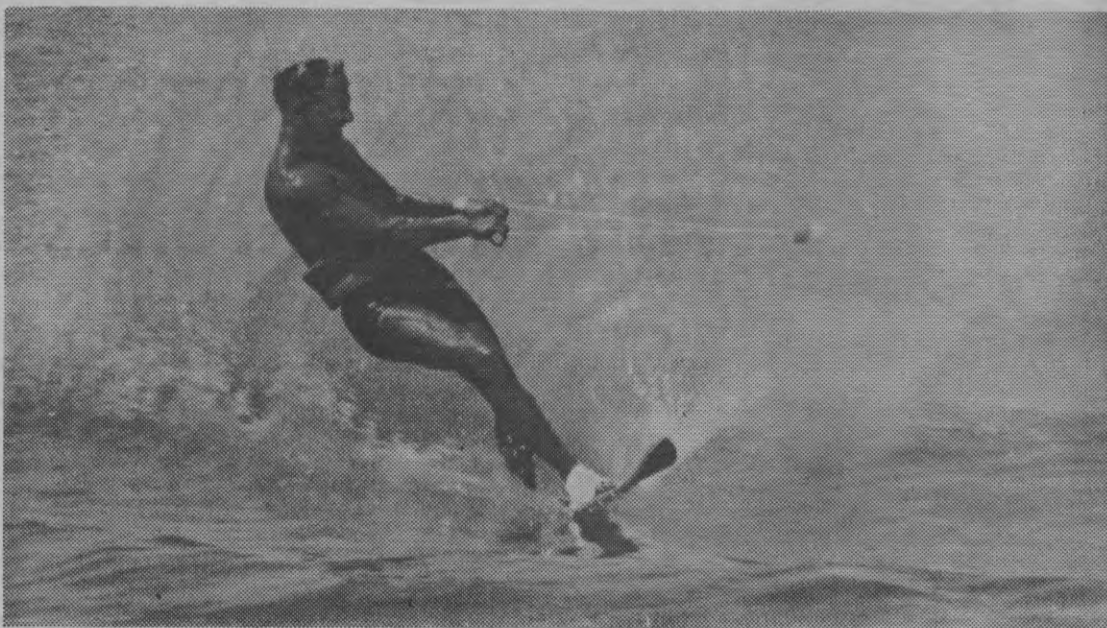
Rojas' unit, 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, along with "A" and "D" Companies, 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, were heavily engaged with a North Vietnamese regiment June 2.

"Some Marines were pinned down out there in the paddies and out of ammo," said Rojas. "The word was passed that they needed ammo, so I grabbed some rifle ammo and took it out to them."

Rojas eventually worked his way to within 100 yards of the enemy lines, where a Marine sniper and a Kit Carson Scout were running low on ammo. Rojas resupplied them and added fire power for awhile.

"The sun was in our eyes, and there were those crazy bushes. When I saw one move, I would fire at it. I think we got quite a few VC that way."





## Water Skiing Champion

Marine Cpl. Lawrence T. Schiefer demonstrates competition-winning form off the South China Sea Coast at Chu Lai. Schiefer, of Marine Aircraft Group-12, won first place in the 1965 Northern California Water and Sports Festival held in his hometown, San Francisco. The 20-year-old Marine competed in the men's slalom, which requires skiing a zig-zag course between obstacles. More than 100 MAG-12 Marines are water skiing enthusiasts. (Photo By: Cpl. T. J. Mercurio)

## The Sea Tiger Spotlight on:

# Hard Hat Operator at Tam Ky

DA NANG—A buzzer sounds, a small glass button turns white, and almost immediately a brisk, but polite, voice answers:

"Hard Hat Operator, Sir."

LCpl. Moel Juarbe (New York, N.Y.) pulls a plug from the small switchboard in front of him, punches it into another line, and gives a small hand crank a couple of vigorous turns.

Another intra-country telephone call by Marines in Vietnam is underway.

Juarbe, a communications wireman with the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, discussed his job while manning the switchboard at his unit's field command post near Tam Ky.

The conversation was interrupted about once each minute as Juarbe paused to answer: "Hard Hat Operator, Sir."

The Marine Corps has assigned each unit switchboard in Vietnam a callsign, to be used instead of the unit's name in telephone communications. "Hard Hat" is not the actual name of

Juarbe's board.

His switchboard at Tam Ky is a small one, with only 14 lines. Two of these lead to the regimental board; the others run to sections within the battalion.

Despite the comparatively small switchboard, wiremen frequently handle 40-50 calls each hour.

"But this is easy compared to when we set up in a permanent command post," Juarbe said. "There we have about 60 lines, and handle up to 200 calls per hour."

The compact field switchboard is completely portable and operates on batteries. The board and all 14 lines were set up at Tam Ky in one day.

Communications wiremen in Vietnam do more than pull switchboard duty.

At Tam Ky, in addition to standing 5½ hours of watch on the board each day, the wiremen troubleshoot the line during off-watch hours.

In a permanent command post, their work entails such tasks as digging holes, erecting poles, etc., to keep phone lines off the ground where they are more easily damaged.

Despite their efforts, there are times when placing a call to another unit seems nearly impossible. Juarbe explained why.

"The weather is our biggest problem," he said. "When it's wet, it can cause static that makes it impossible to hear over land lines. And hot weather can have a bad effect on the phone lines and other equipment."

The number of switchboards one goes through to complete a call often affects the reception too," he said.

To call from Juarbe's unit to anywhere past the Fifth Marine Regiment means going through two switchboards, for example. A call to Chu Lai involves a third board, DaNang a fourth, and so on.

"As the number of boards increase, the odds against a good connection also increase," Juarbe said. "A direct wire covering

the same distance normally would be much clearer," he explained.

Juarbe, who rotates in July, likes his job. Like most Marines, however, he occasionally wishes his duties took him to the field more often. And he resents it when others imply "that we just sit in front of the switchboard."

"We pull our share of the load," he declares.

Watching him deftly work with the tangled web of wires as he worked the switchboard, it looked unlikely that anyone would dispute that.

# World of Sports

## Major Leagues

| NATIONAL LEAGUE |    |    |      |     |
|-----------------|----|----|------|-----|
|                 | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
| Cincinnati      | 37 | 20 | .649 | —   |
| St. Louis       | 29 | 20 | .592 | 4   |
| San Francisco   | 30 | 22 | .577 | 4½  |
| Pittsburgh      | 27 | 22 | .551 | 6   |
| Chicago         | 26 | 24 | .520 | 7½  |
| Atlanta         | 26 | 26 | .500 | 8½  |
| Philadelphia    | 24 | 26 | .480 | 9½  |
| Los Angeles     | 21 | 31 | .404 | 13½ |
| Houston         | 20 | 34 | .370 | 15½ |
| New York        | 17 | 32 | .347 | 16  |

| Friday Night  |                 |  |  |  |
|---------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Pittsburgh 16 | Philadelphia 1  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta 5     | San Francisco 3 |  |  |  |
| Cincinnati 10 | Houston 7       |  |  |  |
| St. Louis 3   | Los Angeles 2   |  |  |  |

| Saturday                                |           |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| Cincinnati 9                            | Houston 4 |  |  |  |
| New York at Chicago (rain).             |           |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia (L. Jackson 3-6) at Pitts- |           |  |  |  |
| burgh (Veale 7-1) (night).              |           |  |  |  |
| San Francisco (Perry 4-5) at Atlanta    |           |  |  |  |
| (Cloninger 1-2) (night).                |           |  |  |  |
| Los Angeles (Singer 1-2) at St. Louis   |           |  |  |  |
| (Jaster 3-2) (night).                   |           |  |  |  |

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

|             | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Detroit     | 31 | 20 | .608 | —  |
| Chicago     | 29 | 20 | .592 | 1  |
| Baltimore   | 26 | 23 | .531 | 4  |
| Boston      | 26 | 25 | .510 | 5  |
| New York    | 25 | 26 | .490 | 6  |
| Cleveland   | 25 | 26 | .490 | 6  |
| Minnesota   | 25 | 26 | .490 | 6  |
| Kansas City | 25 | 28 | .472 | 7  |
| California  | 23 | 32 | .418 | 10 |
| Washington  | 22 | 31 | .415 | 10 |

| Friday Night    |                     |  |  |  |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Kansas City 2-6 | Cleveland 0-0       |  |  |  |
| Boston 8        | Washington 7        |  |  |  |
| New York 2      | Chicago 1 (10 Inn.) |  |  |  |
| Baltimore 11    | Minnesota 2         |  |  |  |
| California 4    | Detroit 0           |  |  |  |

| Saturday                                  |            |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|
| Washington 7                              | Boston 3   |  |  |  |
| Chicago 9                                 | New York 0 |  |  |  |
| Baltimore at Minnesota (day, rain).       |            |  |  |  |
| Baltimore at Minnesota (2nd game, night). |            |  |  |  |
| Cleveland (Tiant 3-1) at Kansas City      |            |  |  |  |
| (Naha 6-5) (night).                       |            |  |  |  |
| Detroit (Wilson 8-4) at California (Will- |            |  |  |  |
| hite 0-2) (night).                        |            |  |  |  |

## Minor Leagues

| PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE |    |    |      |    |
|----------------------|----|----|------|----|
| Western Division     |    |    |      |    |
|                      | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Vancouver            | 27 | 25 | .540 | —  |
| Seattle              | 28 | 24 | .538 | —  |
| Spokane              | 27 | 24 | .529 | ½  |
| Tacoma               | 29 | 26 | .527 | ½  |
| Portland             | 25 | 26 | .490 | 2½ |
| Hawaii               | 25 | 28 | .472 | 3½ |

| Eastern Division |    |    |      |    |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
|                  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Phoenix          | 28 | 26 | .519 | —  |
| Oklahoma City    | 27 | 27 | .500 | 1  |
| Indianapolis     | 23 | 24 | .489 | 1½ |
| San Diego        | 24 | 27 | .471 | 2½ |
| Tulsa            | 23 | 26 | .469 | 2½ |
| Denver           | 22 | 27 | .449 | 3½ |

| INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE |    |    |      |    |
|----------------------|----|----|------|----|
|                      | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
| Rochester            | 27 | 16 | .628 | —  |
| Toronto              | 21 | 17 | .553 | 3½ |
| Buffalo              | 21 | 18 | .538 | 4  |
| Syracuse             | 19 | 20 | .487 | 6  |
| Richmond             | 20 | 24 | .455 | 7½ |
| Jacksonville         | 20 | 24 | .455 | 7½ |
| Columbus             | 17 | 21 | .447 | 7½ |
| Toledo               | 18 | 23 | .439 | 8  |

## EASTERN LEAGUE

| Eastern Division |    |    |      |     |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
|                  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
| Waterbury        | 29 | 16 | .644 | —   |
| Binghamton       | 24 | 21 | .533 | 5   |
| Pawtucket        | 22 | 24 | .478 | 7½  |
| Pittsfield       | 15 | 25 | .375 | 11½ |

| Western Division |    |    |      |     |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
|                  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
| Reading          | 28 | 17 | .622 | —   |
| Williamsport     | 24 | 18 | .533 | 5   |
| Elmira           | 22 | 23 | .489 | 6   |
| York             | 12 | 32 | .273 | 16½ |

## TEXAS LEAGUE

|                  | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Amarillo         | 31 | 21 | .596 | —   |
| El Paso          | 30 | 22 | .577 | 1   |
| Arkansas         | 27 | 23 | .540 | 3   |
| Albuquerque      | 26 | 26 | .500 | 5   |
| Austin           | 23 | 32 | .418 | 9½  |
| Dallas-Ft. Worth | 21 | 34 | .382 | 11½ |

## SOUTHERN LEAGUE

|            | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Evansville | 31 | 15 | .674 | —   |
| Birmingham | 28 | 20 | .583 | 4   |
| Montgomery | 29 | 23 | .558 | 5   |
| Charlotte  | 23 | 26 | .469 | 9½  |
| Macon      | 18 | 32 | .360 | 15  |
| Knoxville  | 17 | 30 | .362 | 14½ |

## The Leaders

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Based on 100 at bats.

| Player      | Club | GAB | R   | H  | Pct. |
|-------------|------|-----|-----|----|------|
| Kaline      | Det  | 50  | 176 | 36 | .60  |
| F. Robinson | Bal  | 49  | 185 | 39 | .63  |
| Yastrzemski | Bsn  | 50  | 183 | 34 | .60  |
| Carew       | Min  | 50  | 190 | 23 | .62  |
| Petrocelli  | Bsn  | 48  | 172 | 25 | .54  |
| Mincher     | Cal  | 50  | 170 | 32 | .53  |
| Norhrup     | Det  | 50  | 199 | 25 | .62  |
| Freeman     | Det  | 50  | 154 | 20 | .46  |
| Berry       | Chi  | 48  | 185 | 27 | .55  |
| Tovar       | Min  | 51  | 205 | 40 | .60  |

### Home Runs

F. Robinson, Baltimore, 17; Yastrzemski, Boston, 14; Killebrew, Minnesota, 14; Mantle, New York, 12; F. Howard, Washington, 12.

### Runs Batted In

F. Robinson, Baltimore, 51; Killebrew, Minnesota, 41; Kaline, Detroit, 40; Yastrzemski, Boston, 39; F. Howard, Washington, 31.

### Pitching

#### 6 Decisions

Horlen, Chicago, 7-0, 1,000; Sparma, Detroit, 6-0, 1,000; Lonborg, Boston, 7-1, .875; McGlothlin, California, 6-1, .857; Phoebus, Baltimore, 5-1, .833.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

Based on 100 at bats.

| Player   | Club | GAB | R   | H  | Pct. |
|----------|------|-----|-----|----|------|
| Clemente | Pgh  | 47  | 185 | 39 | .70  |
| Rose     | Cin  | 53  | 215 | 41 | .75  |
| Cepeda   | StL  | 45  | 167 | 27 | .58  |
| Brock    | StL  | 49  | 226 | 39 | .77  |
| Staub    | Htn  | 41  | 144 | 12 | .49  |
| Torre    | Atl  | 51  | 186 | 34 | .63  |
| Flood    | StL  | 45  | 182 | 26 | .59  |
| T. Davis | NY   | 48  | 184 | 20 | .59  |
| Williams | Chi  | 50  | 190 | 33 | .60  |
| Gonzalez | Phi  | 44  | 137 | 22 | .43  |

### Home Runs

Aaron, Atlanta, 15; Perez, Cincinnati, 13; Brock, St. Louis, 13; Clemente, Pittsburgh, 12; Torre, Atlanta, 11; Brown, San Francisco, 11.

### Runs Batted In

Clemente, Pittsburgh, 44; Perez, Cincinnati, 39; Brock, St. Louis, 38; Torre, Atlanta, 36; Aaron, Atlanta, 35.

### Pitching

#### 6 Decisions

Veale, Pittsburgh, 7-1, .875; Queen, Cincinnati, 6-1, .857; Lemaster, Atlanta, 6-1, .857; Cuellar, Houston, 6-2, .750; 6 tied with .714.

## Engineers Build A Lumber Yard

DA NANG—It takes 142,000 cubic yards of sand, earth and rock; 20 to 30 pieces of heavy equipment; two or three dozen men; and a month of hard work to produce one big lumber storage area for the III Marine Amphibious Force's Force Logistic Command.

"A" Co., 9th Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division began the project May 2. They brought their tractors, scrapers and trucks to the 60,000 square yard construction site adjoining the FLC area west of Da Nang.

Just to get the area in shape required moving 100,000 yards of sand, spread out and graded to form a base layer. Red dirt dug out of a hillside three miles away goes on next to help seal the sand and hold it in place.

"The laterite pit supplies dirt for all of our projects," Lt. T. C. Van Landingham, 33, (Oakland, Calif.) said. "Depending on our commitments we may have as many as 20 dump trucks moving back and forth between the pit and the lumber yard site."

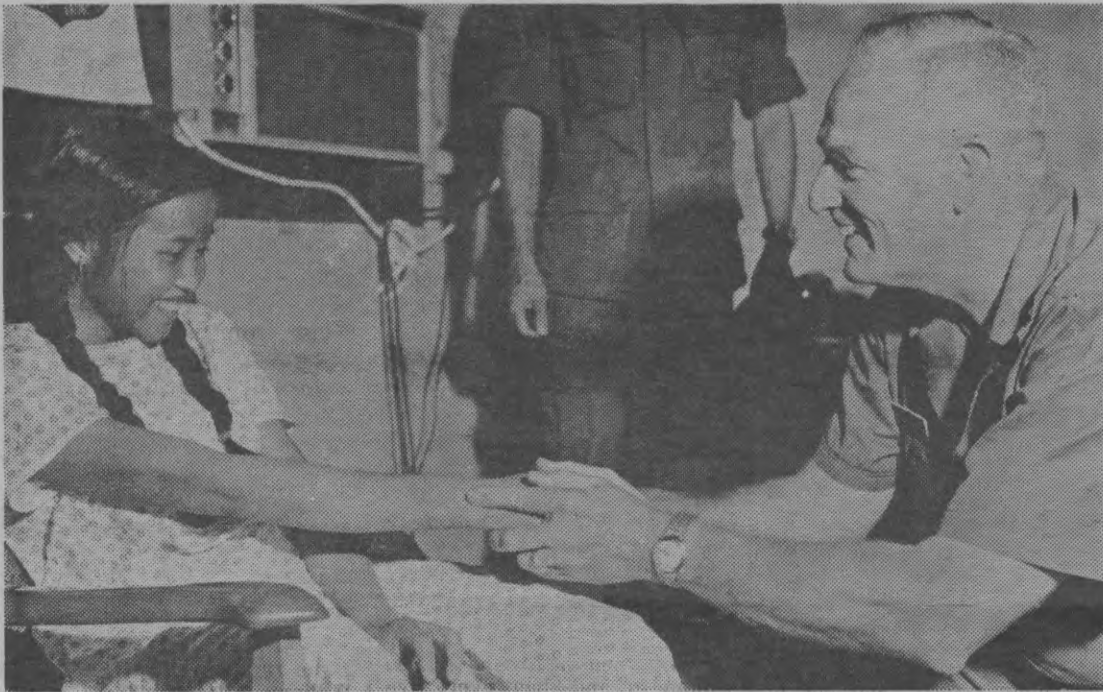
To complete the project, the engineers put down 30,000 yards of coarse crushed rock, purchased by FLC from local Vietnamese contractors. After heavy rollers covered the area, solidly packing the sand-earth-rock "sandwich", the lumber yard is ready for use.



## Really Keeping Cool

A Marine finds a way to beat the heat during a break in fighting the Viet Cong in Vietnam. The "cool" Marine is a member of 1st Bn., Third Marines, during Operation Beaver Cage, 25 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo By: LCpl. Wayne Axelrod)





**WELCOME**—MajGen. Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, extends the welcome and best wishes of the Wing to Miss Do Thi "Dottie" Dong, a 17-year-old Vietnamese girl who lost her leg two years ago when an artillery round exploded near her. Dottie was brought to Wing headquarters May 25, enroute to Saigon, where arrangements have been made by the Wing Civil Affairs Office to provide her an artificial leg. (Photo By: LCpl. D. A. Johnson)

## 'Dottie' Learning to Walk Again Thanks to Wing Leathernecks

By: GySgt. C. V. Stallings

**DA NANG**—A 17-year-old Vietnamese girl is learning how to walk again thanks to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Leathernecks.

Miss Do Thi Dong, "Dottie," of Ky Cuong Village, Quang Tien province, near Chu Lai, was injured by artillery fire in June, 1965, and lost her right leg above the knee.

A Marine civil affairs officer from Marine Aircraft Group-12 learned of her plight and wrote his wife, in Hawaii, who began a fund raising drive to purchase an artificial leg.

The artificial leg arrived at Chu Lai six weeks ago. However, the officer who had initiated the project had rotated

home. The 1st MAF Civil Affairs Office had the girl's name and former whereabouts, but little else to go on.

After a month-long search, 2nd Lt. Berne C. Hart, a civil affairs officer, located Dottie in a refugee camp five miles north of Chu Lai. On crutches, she was financially supporting herself, her mother and a 12-year old sister by working as a seamstress. Her father had been

killed by the Viet Cong more than four years ago.

By the time the leg arrived, she had outgrown it. But Wing personnel quickly solved the problem.

Maj. James H. Stewart, Wing civil affairs officer, made arrangements with the U.S. supported National Rehabilitation Institute in Saigon for Dottie to be fitted with an artificial leg and receive therapy.

## Siesta in Hut Proves Fatal To Viet Cong

By Cpl. Robert M. Bayer

**DA NANG**—"It's not every day that you just walk into a hut and find a Viet Cong sleeping," said LCpl. Curtis C. Bennett of 10426 Avenue H, Baton Rouge, La.

But that is exactly what happened to the 19-year-old Marine during a search and clear mission six miles south of Da Nang.

Bennett, a rifleman with "K" Co., 3rd Bn., First Marine Regiment, was searching a small hamlet when he could see the legs of someone lying down in a hut.

"My first thought was that it was probably just an old man taking a nap, but I decided to check and make sure," said Bennett.

Bennett moved inside the hut and saw a cartridge belt with grenades on it hanging on the wall above the man.

"I backed out of the hut and signaled other Marines in the area to be quiet," Bennett said, "and then started back inside quietly. I wanted to get the cartridge belt before I woke the VC up."

As Bennett moved into the hut his helmet hit the top of the doorway. The VC woke up right away, jumped up and tried to grab Bennett's rifle.

"I pushed him down on the floor, but he got up and started to reach for a grenade on the cartridge belt so I had to shoot him," said Bennett.

**10 SEA TIGER**



## Off to See Charlie

First Marine Division mortarmen prepare to send a 60mm mortar round on its way to an enemy position during an operation south of Da Nang.

# Short Rounds

## Score Two

**CHU LAI**—A Marine helicopter gunship crew from Marine Observation Squadron-6 scored two Viet Cong kills May 26.

Cpts. William Rankin, Glenrock, N.J. and his co-pilot, William E. Capehart, Chattanooga, Tenn., were flying armed escort for transport helicopters 30 miles northwest of Chu Lai, during Operation Union II.

As they neared the landing zone Capehart noticed two bushes along a road move slightly. Rankin swung the gunship around and started a low level run toward them.

The two VC broke into a run, and headed toward a makeshift bunker.

The helo's machine guns were firing at the two before Rankin fired both rocket pods on target.

## Pick-off Artist

**PHU BAI**—LCpl. William R. Ashe (Sedro Woolley, Wash.), is a sniper for the Fourth Marine Regiment, based 25 miles northwest of here. His job is to pick off the enemy at ranges further away than the average Marine's rifle will reach.

He uses a Remington 700 bolt action rifle with a ten-power scope and has six enemy kills to his credit.

"The farthest one that I got was 700 yards away," said Ashe. "Our job is to get him before he can get us."

Arriving in Vietnam nine months ago, Ashe was asked if he wanted to join the snipers. After a month of sniper training, including everything from calling in artillery to range estimation, he was placed in a two-man team.

## Doughnuts

**DA NANG**—A doughnut shop is now in operation at Camp Brooks, for all military personnel in the Da Nang area.

The doughnut shop is operated by the Bakery Platoon, Ration Company, Supply Battalion, Force Logistic Command, located 10 miles northwest of Da Nang.

The shop services from 1,000 to 1,500 servicemen daily, since its opening.

In addition to serving over 3,000 doughnuts each day, the shop has coffee, ice tea, kool aid, milk, and ice cream available.

Hours of operation for the shop are: 8-11 a.m., 1-4 p.m., and 7-10 p.m.

LCpl. George Fairly, Baltimore, is NCO in charge of the shop.

## 23 VC Killed

**DA NANG**—Twenty-three Viet Cong guerrillas were killed in early morning action June 1 as Leathernecks of "L" Co., 1st Bn., First Marine Regiment, engaged a small enemy force 14 miles south of Da Nang.

The action began at 5:15 a.m. as a two squad patrol observed six enemy in small boats fleeing from the Marines. The patrol opened fire, resulting in six VC killed.

The leathernecks then spotted more enemy movement in a nearby hamlet and maneuvered one squad into a blocking position and began closing in.

Six more VC were spotted and the Marines again opened fire.

When the action had ceased, 17 more VC had been killed.

A search of the area was conducted and several containers of black powder and shape charges were found.

There were no Marine casualties.

## Two Pilots

**CHU LAI**—Two pilots from Marine Attack Squadron-121 were credited with six Viet Cong kills during an air strike nine miles west of Khe Sanh, May 28.

Cpts. Bob Ticken, Warwick, R. I. and Jack Tuttle, Los Angeles, Calif., piloted their A-4E Skyhawks through enemy small arms fire to destroy four VC bunkers located on the crest of a hill only 1000 meters from ground Marines.

"It was probably a VC observation post," said Tuttle. "Artillery in the area marked the target. We were able to come in right on target."

Carrying eight 500lb. bombs each, the Leatherneck pilots made eight runs on the target.

## County Fair

**DA NANG**—With the blaring of loud speakers and the assembling of the III Marine Amphibious Force Drum and Bugle Corps, a "county fair" began for the villagers of Mau Chanh (2), 27 miles southwest of Da Nang May 25.

The two day event was sponsored by 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, with the assistance of the U.S. Army's 29th Civil Action Company.

"Our medical facilities treated 460 persons and our dental people aided over 200," said GySgt. Henry E. Hamel (Valparaiso, Ind.), of the S-5 Section, 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment.

During the county fair, 2,000 pounds of rice, 1,000 pounds of clothing, and 1,000 bars of soap were distributed to the nearly 1,000 persons attending.

Movies were shown both nights while 3,500 newspapers and 1,000 allegiance cards were given away.

"We considered this county fair very successful," concluded Hamel, "the people seemed very happy and receptive."

## Father-Son

**DA NANG**—Major Wayne R. Floyd (Camp Pendleton, Calif.), and his son, SSgt. Boyce W. Floyd (Hubert, N.C.), were never stationed near one another—until Vietnam that is.

Maj. Floyd came to Vietnam during May 1966 from Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif., while SSgt. Floyd was serving as a drill instructor at the Marine Corps' Parris Island Recruit Depot.

In December son Floyd arrived in Vietnam.

His father is the executive officer of the 9th Engineer Bn. at Chu Lai. SSgt. Floyd is assigned as company gunnery sergeant for "B" Co., 1st Bn., First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, near Da Nang.

The younger Floyd was able to visit his father recently when "B" Co., provided security on a truck convoy from Da Nang to Chu Lai.

While thousands of miles apart in the United States, the Floyds are only 50 miles away in Vietnam.





## Montagnard Souvenir

Marine Aircraft Group-12 Protestant Chaplain C. Frank Jordan, Winston-Salem, N.C. (left), and Lance Cpl. William E. Land Jr., San Francisco, Calif., inspect a Montagnard sword the chaplain purchased during a visit to a village in the South Vietnam central highlands. Chaplain Jordan buys swords, crossbows, blankets and other items from the villagers for resale to Chu Lai-based Marines and at the same time boosts the Montagnard economy. (Photo By: Cpl. R. G. Cowen)

## Cholly Leads 'L' Co. To Hidden VC Sites

By: LCpl. Chuck Giesler

PHU BAI—"Cholly", a former Viet Cong and now a Chieu Hoi, led "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Twenty-sixth Marines, to three harboring sites and one POW compound in the Thon Ben Tau area, south of here.

Cholly left a VC medical unit he had been forced to serve with since 1963, and requested sanctuary one month ago under the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) program.

### VC Mine Explosion Kills Playing Child; Five Others Injured

DA NANG—It was an idyllic spring day and six Vietnamese children, like those everywhere, were playing their games and enjoying life.

One small child reached down to pick up a stick, and the fun and games ended as the air was rent with a rocking explosion, killing the tot and injuring the other five, two critically.

The children, ranging in age from three to eight, were playing near their homes some nine miles southwest of Danang near the command post of the 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment.

This was just one more example of the Viet Cong terrorism tactics used in this war torn country. The stick, which was to become a play thing for the children, had been set up by the Viet Cong terrorist forces as a triggering device for an anti-personnel mine.

He readily led the Marines to the sites hidden in the dense, triple canopied highland jungles.

"It was obvious that he was familiar with the area," said 1st Lt. T. A. Bailey (Dallas) Tex.). "As a result of his knowledge of the trail system we were able to locate and destroy these enemy sites which had been a thorn in our side for months."

Capt. F. D. Bynum, (Columbus, Ga.), "L" Co. commander, said they located and destroyed 17 40-man huts with underground bunkers the first day, and found the POW compound on the second. "It was extremely well constructed, had three permanent houses, underground bunkers and running water nearby," he said.

"The area was so thick with jungle foliage that we saw daylight only in rare instances. Without Cholly we could have walked within 50 yards of each site and still not seen them."

The unit captured uniforms, cooking utensils, a rifle grenade, 7.62mm ammunition, 10 pounds of TNT, an anti-tank mine, a K-50 loaded magazine and a new automatic weapon barrel still in cosmoline.

# Army's 'Polar Bear' Platoon Turns Back 200 Viet Cong

By: PFC Dennis Shutz

Twenty-seven men beat back overwhelming odds of more than seven to one as an estimated 200-man Viet Cong force tried to overrun a platoon from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade in the early hours of a recent morning.

The 2d Platoon of Co. C, 4th Bn., 31st Infantry "Polar Bears" turned back a large element of the 48th Viet Cong Battalion and 95th Local Company in the battle, which lasted almost one hour.

In describing the fight, 1st Lt. James L. Williams (Carmichael, Calif.), the platoon leader, said, "We had been in Van Tuong village for seven days as a security platoon for MEDCAP's (Medical Civic Action Programs) and civic action projects which the battalion was conducting.

"Some of the men seemed a little more restless than usual and couldn't sleep, and one of the riflemen came over to report that he kept hearing things to his front. I told him to check it with a night detection scope and when he didn't come back I figured he hadn't seen anything.

"I kept hearing noises myself, which I thought might be signals like the kind you read the Indians used to use. But the PF (Vietnamese Popular Forces soldier) next to me assured me it was

nothing, so I didn't think any more about it."

It was approximately 3:45 a.m. when Williams dozed off. He didn't sleep long. "I awoke when a hand grenade exploded about ten feet away," he recalled. "Then they really started raining in, and about every five to ten seconds another grenade would go off. When the fighting was over I counted over 150 small craters in the ground, made by grenades.

"As I looked around I could see Viet Cong everywhere. They were wearing grey shirts, black shorts with black belts and silver buckles with a star scratched into them. All of them had about six or seven grenades strapped to them."

A quick assessment of the situation revealed the Cong had two 75mm recoilless rifles, one .50-caliber machinegun and one .30-caliber machinegun. Quite a few had automatic weapons.

"When the attack first began I ran towards the trench line," Williams related. "Some of the men thought I was hit and one of them kept calling my name asking if I was all right. I knew if I answered, the VC would zero in on me, but if I didn't the men might be pretty shocked thinking I was dead.

"So I yelled back that I was okay. Just as I did a grenade bounced off my back and exploded about three feet away. It was a home-made grenade, packed with glass and junk, so it didn't have much effect and luckily only scratched my arm.

"By this time the VC had knocked out five of my nine positions. The last plan of defense was to pull back to the pagoda in the center of the perimeter. Just as I gave the order to pull back, a barrage of grenades hit the pagoda, forcing us to stay put.

"At this time I was informed that gun ships were on their way, so I had the men throw out their trip flares to help the helicopters adjust their fire. Things were looking pretty grim when we looked up and there they were — the gun-ships. They were beautiful to see.

"I can't say enough about the men," said Williams. "They did what they were told with no hesitation. They just did an outstanding job. I could see the VC leader motioning his men to overrun us, but they couldn't do it. That shows you the kind of job my men were doing."

## Dong Ha Unit Has Never-Ending Task

DONG HA — Supplying the needs of corpsmen in the field with Marines in the northern section of I Corps, is a never-ending task for the medical supply unit at Dong Ha.

Supporting every military unit in the northernmost sector of the I Corps area, including the "D" medical facility at Dong Ha, the three-man staff works around-the-clock supplying medical gear to infantry units in the field.

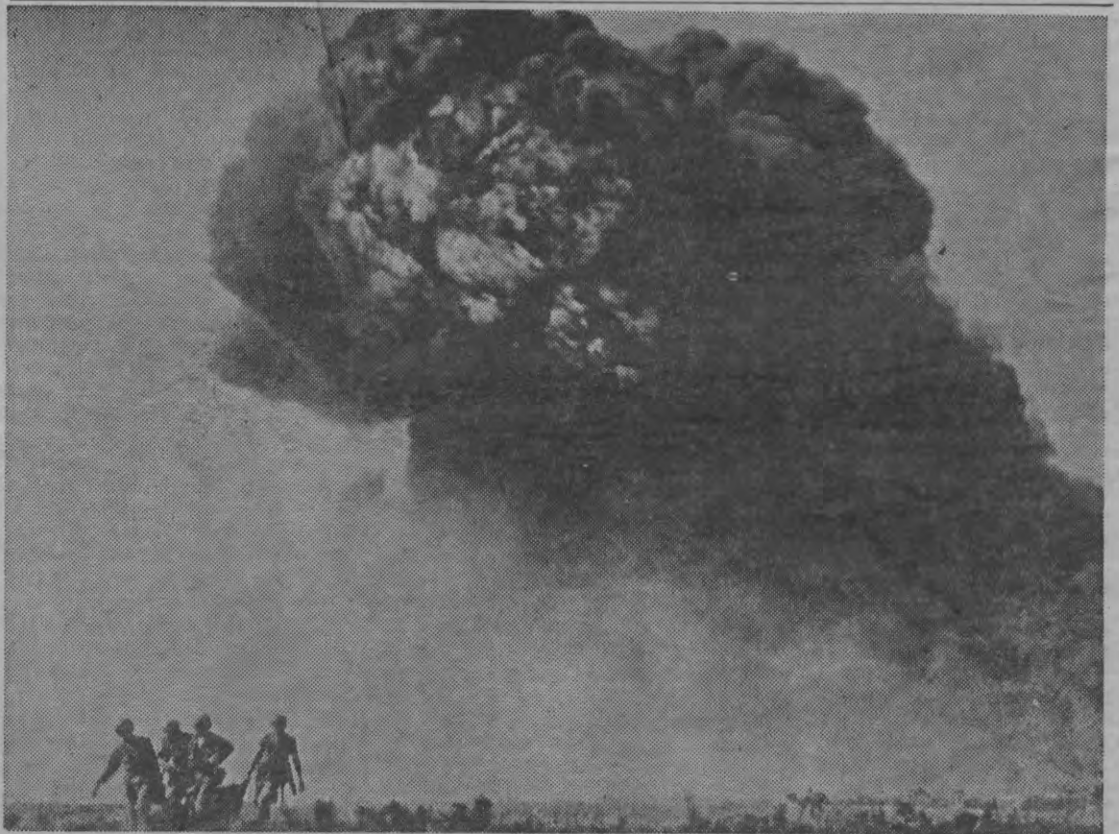
"Although our job isn't as adventurous as the corpsmen in the field, without us they would have nothing to work with," said Senior Chief Hospitalman M. J. Beave of Duncan, Okla. A unit of Force Logistic Sup-

port Unit-One, the section fills nearly 1,200 orders monthly, servicing some 1,100 servicemen in Quang Tri province.

Battle dressings are the biggest demand by the units in the field.

"We can tell how the war is going by the amount of requests we receive for battle dressing," said Beave.

Usually on a weekly basis, corpsmen from the infantry units in the field come in for supplies, but according to Beave, "in emergencies, they send a message or go through their battalion medical aid station and we get it to them any way we can."



## Jets Hit Enemy Positions

Marines carry a wounded Leatherneck for medical evacuation during Operation Union II, north of Chu Lai. Phantom jets of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-542 hit a fortified enemy treeline position, smoking in the background. (Photo By: Sgt. Gary Thomas)



# 3 Trapped Marines Help Repulse Attack

By: LCpl. M. W. Stokey II

DA NANG—Trapped between enemy and friendly lines and unseen by either side, three Marines eluded the heavy firing and mortars to return safely to their lines in time to help repulse a three-hour attack.

"We were on a night ambush when we heard a couple of platoons of Viet Cong approaching us about midnight," said LCpl. James B. Barbour (St. Louis, Mo.), "M" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. "We tried to radio to our command post for instructions when mortar rounds started coming in."

Both forces opened up on each other.

"I knew we couldn't stay there," said Barbour, "but I couldn't make contact on the radio. We started crawling towards our lines until the fire became too intense to move any closer."

Moments later the fire became sporadic and Barbour fired a green star cluster into the air.

"The Marines stopped firing altogether, and the three of us started running towards our lines," said Barbour.

An illumination round lit up the area. Before they could reach the platoon, Barbour turned and saw several VC. He dropped four of them with his M-16.

After they had returned safely, Pfc. Steven M. Walker (Houston, Texas), one of previously trapped, spotted a VC armed with a grenade launcher keep popping up and firing at the Marines.

Waiting until another illumination round went up, Walker saw that the VC had gotten

careless.

"As he stood up to load," said Walker, "I got a couple rounds off. I wasn't sure whether I hit him or not, but no more grenades came from that position."

Another barrage of mortars fell and a group of VC started running through a trench line, charging the platoon.

"It was crazy," said Barbour. "Some were patched up from wounds they had received moments ago, but they just kept running toward us."

The Leathernecks killed four of them as the rest retreated.

For three hours the battle continued the same pattern. Mortars would come in, the VC would charge, Marines would open up and the VC would retreat.

In the interim, Barbour and his ambush team were called back to the command post, and ordered to help the wounded back to the landing zone.

Helping bandage the wounded, the three Leathernecks stayed near the landing zone, which was under enemy mortar attack until the choppers came in to evacuate the wounded.

By early morning, all the wounded were heli-lifted out and the battle subsided.

The same morning, a thorough check of the area accounted for 50 enemy dead.



## On the Double

Marines of the 3rd Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment, rush to board helicopters at Dong Ha for a vertical assault against the NVA in the Demilitarized Zone. The Marines landed against the enemy during Operation Hickory. (Photo By: Sgt. A. J. Jodzko)

# Banner Month for Marines...

(Continued From Page 1)

made an amphibious landing near the mouth of the Ben Hai river to kick off the operation.

Elements of the Fourth Marines and the South Vietnamese Army forces were heli-lifted further inland the same day in the three-pronged sweep to clear the buffer zone of North Vietnamese regulars using it as a sanctuary. Units of the Ninth and Twenty-Sixth Marines were later committed in the operations.

Before Beau Charger and Hickory came to an end May 28 the Marines recorded 445 confirmed kills.

In addition, they had uncovered huge caches of food, sup-

plies, ammunition, explosives and weapons. One two-day search yielded 33 tons of rice and five tons of ammo and explosives.

Other operations of the 3rd Marine Division which terminated during May included Prairie IV, May 31 with 489 enemy killed, and Shawnee, May 21 with 128 enemy dead.

Operations Crockett (which began May 13 near Khe Sanh), and Choctaw (which started May 22 northwest of Hue), accounted for more than 100 enemy confirmed killed by the end of the month.

In a significant small unit action May 8, a company-sized Marine unit drove off a heavy attack by two battalions of the 812th North Vietnamese Regiment at Con Thien special Forces camp, killing 199 of the NVA.

In the Marines' air war, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's 150 sorties on May 1 on the 881 hill complex pushed them to a single-day sorties record of 333 in Vietnam. Marine attack aircraft dropped 300 tons of ordnance that day, and more than 1,500 tons during the 12-day Khe Sanh battle. In addition artillery units pounded the hills with more than 18,000 rounds.

Wing aircraft also flew 310 missions over North Vietnam, and supported I Corps units with 7,999 sorties and 43,753 helicopter sorties during May. Nearly 3,000 of the helicopter lifts were in support of ARVN and Korean

Marines.

The helicopters carried more than 40,000 troops during the month and 4,500 tons of supplies. Transport aircraft of the 1st Wing flew 29,518 troops and 38,246 tons of supplies.

In other action during May:

The U.S. Army's Task Force Oregon, which relieved Marine units in the Chu Lai area for fighting further north, continued Operation Malheur killing 390 during the month.

The 2d Brigade of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps killed 71 VC in one day's action May 22 northwest of Quang Tri City.

Marines throughout I Corps killed 133 VC/NVA in small unit actions on May 3.

And VC terrorists killed and wounded over 100 Vietnamese civilians in eight major incidents.

On May 3, the VC set fire to 130 huts in Tra Ley hamlet, killing two and injuring 20, then attacked the Can Dong New Life camp wounding 15 more civilians.

Near Hue, two companies of VC hit Phong Dien village on May 15, taking nine hostages, killing two and wounding nine. Catholic Priest Father Mattieu was killed during the raid.

As the month ended, Marines, in addition to the 2,752 enemy killed, captured 16 NVA and 228 VC prisoners. They also took 479 individual and 99 crew-served weapons.

One NVA and five VC rallied to the side of the South Vietnamese government during the month.

# Kit Carson Scout Kills 31...

(Continued From Page 1) out of ammunition and couldn't find another weapon.

For Kinh, Union II was his second action with the Marines. Previously he led the Leathernecks into a village in an action that accounted for 16 VC killed and the uncovering of a large cache of rice and equipment.

Kinh said he spent 20 months as a Viet Cong squad leader after he had been "pressed into service" when the Viet Cong came through his hamlet near An Hoa in January, 1965. Before that he said he fought the VC

with the other villagers.

He said during his service as a VC squad leader, supply was a major problem and most of the ammunition and weapons had to be captured from American and ARVN forces in order to continue operations.

He left the VC and rallied to government control because of the heavy taxes the VC levy on farmers and to bring his family (a wife and three children, his mother and brother) to the safety of American security.

Smiling broadly in obvious embarrassment when asked if

he had ever fought the Americans as a VC, Kinh said that he and his squad of 12 men were capable of pinning down a company of Americans.

Although he added, the VC know Marines are "not fearful" of them, and said the enemy guerrillas were told the Marines would stay and fight when encountered. He said artillery support for the American forces is "very effective" in killing VC.

While a guerrilla, Kinh said he was paid nothing, but served because he would have been killed if he didn't. He said the VC did promise him farmland when the Americans left (previously he farmed one-half of a rice paddy square).

Kinh now receives 5,000 piasters (about \$43 American dollars) a month for being a scout from the Marines. He is one of 25 such former VC serving with the 1st Marine Division since the program began nearly seven months ago.

During that time three of the Kit Carson Scouts have been killed in action. Another two have been wounded.

The program began on a trial-basis with the 1st Division when a test group of six ralliers were sent throughout the Da Nang area to act as scouts for Marine units.

The program was so successful in the initial stages (33 VC confirmed killed by the group as well as numerous positions and supply caches uncovered) that it was rapidly expanded, and introduced into the 3rd Marine Division area south of the demilitarized zone.

# 701 Killed in Union II...

(Continued From Page 1) with small arms, mortars and an air strike.

By 6:15 p.m., Marines were in heavy contact with an estimated enemy battalion and under automatic weapons and mortar fire. The fighting, supporting arms and airstrikes killed 161. In all 172 of the enemy were killed that first day.

Following three minor actions on the morning of June 2, the Marines engaged an estimated enemy regiment and committed reserve forces (including two companies of the Seventh Marines) in the fighting officially described as "heavy and close."

Fifty-six NVA were killed.

After searching the battle area, the Marines again met "hard resistance" from entrenched enemy positions between 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Using

air and artillery arms the Marines tallied 117 enemy killed during the day.

By 9:45 the next morning, "F" Co., 2nd Bn., had swept across a rice paddy area and taken a hill from which the enemy were firing from fortified and entrenched areas, killing another 35 NVA.

The action marked the end of the "two-day operation within an operation" with 210 of the enemy killed.

Later on June 3, another 46 NVA were confirmed killed after a search of an area of contact at 5 p.m. Casualties for the day were confirmed as 276 enemy killed.

Another 80 enemy were added to the tally when search teams found additional bodies on June 4.

By the operation's close at 6 p.m., June 5, the final toll of enemy dead for Union II stood at 701.

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