



SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

June 30, 1967

Pilots Make 10 Trips Despite Intense Fire To Rescue Wounded

By: Sgt. Mike Saska

DA NANG—Despite enemy machinegun and mortar fire, helicopter pilots from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363 completed an emergency medical evacuation mission June 7.

Capt. Arch Ratliff, and 1stLts. David E. Niederhaus and Michael M. Hynes, piloted their UH-34D helicopters into the zone west of Khe Sanh 10 times to carry wounded Marines to medical aid.

A Marine unit which had been heli-lifted to the zone, had been hit by enemy mortar fire.

Two F-8 Crusaders and two A-4 Skyhawk jets were called and began making bombing and

strafing runs on the enemy positions.

Three medevac helicopters launched from Dong Ha with Hynes (Lathan, N.Y.) in the lead. He entered the zone and picked up several wounded Marines. Throughout his time on the ground his helo was receiving sporadic sniper fire from enemy forces.

He was followed by Niederhaus (Evansville, Ind.) who entered the zone and waited for a litter patient to be brought to the helicopter. "Then the enemy machine guns opened up," Niederhaus said.

One of the Marines carrying the litter was hit and the crew chief and corpsman aboard the helicopter assisted both Marines to the aircraft.

Machinegun fire smashed the spotlight under the helicopter and a bullet hit the cockpit, narrowly missing the co-pilot. The aircraft left the zone and flew the patients to Khe Sanh.

Ratliff (Abilene, Tex.) received the same volume of enemy fire when he entered the zone.

"The Marines were really hampered by the ground fire," he said.

Hynes reentered the zone and took three casualties aboard before an enemy mortar shell exploded to the right of the helicopter.

He lifted from the zone and made an emergency landing on a nearby hill where the crew chief checked the damage to the aircraft. The mortar round had caused only minor damage, and Hynes flew back to the zone to pick up four more Marines.

All three met with heavy small arms and mortar fire during their second trip. They later returned to the zone a third time.

ARVN Units Kill 51 VC During Week

DA NANG — Vietnamese infantry, rangers and cavalry units ended the week of June 14-20, killing 51 VC in heavy contact in Quang Nam Province. Other action during the period was light with an equal number of VC accounted for in separate actions.

Shortly after noon on June 20, infantry and cavalry units slammed into a unit estimated to be a reinforced battalion. The contact occurred during a sweep of a river island complex immediately west of Hoi An during Operation Phi Phung 27.

Contact was heavy until 5 p.m. when the VC pulled back. The Vietnamese troops drove forward, regained contact and then were hit from behind by another VC unit.

Attack aircraft and armed US Army helicopters — which had been pounding the enemy through the afternoon—returned to the battle and were reinforced by an Air Force "spooky" which poured out a heavy volume of machine gun fire.

The infantry and cavalry counterattacked to their rear and drove off the enemy.

As the firefight died down, 34 enemy bodies were found.

The action, coordinated with the Marines' amphibious operation BEACON TORCH, produced another 17 VC troops killed later in the evening. ARVN units attacked again, pinning a VC force against two Marine companies at the Thu Ban River.

In the separate actions, The heaviest engagement produced 16 VC KIA. The majority of the contacts, however, were light and there were no more than six VC killed in each encounter.

ARVN casualties in all instances were light.

Twenty-nine suspects were rounded up during the week, along with nine individual and three crew-served weapons captured. Also, five tons of rice were picked up and destroyed.



Wounded Comrade gets Help

Marines from the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, rush a comrade to a medevac helicopter during Operation Arizona conducted 14 miles southwest of Da Nang. (Photo by: LCpl. W. A. Porter)

Eight Marines Kill 25 VC In Fast, Furious Firefight

By: SSgt. Dan Wisniewski

PHU BAI — "That was just too close for comfort," reflected 2ndLt. Dennis A. Hinkle (West Hickory, Pa.) after a 15-minute firefight during which he and seven other Marines killed 25 Viet Cong soldiers.

The action took place 30 miles north of here during Operation "Choctaw."

Hinkle had his platoon spread out along Highway One as road security when an estimated 50-100 VC walked right into their command post.

"The night was so dark we could only see a short distance, then one of our artillery for-

ward observers fired. The VC were about 5 meters away. After that, all hell broke loose."

He and his men caught the VC column walking across the road towards their position. The sudden burst of fire caught the enemy by surprise.

The lieutenant began firing his pistol point-blank into the VC. He killed two enemy within 15 meters, and threw three grenades to Cpl. Charles W. Roberts (Alexandria, La.), who was pitching them at the VC in the open. His platoon sergeant, SSgt. Arthur L. Oliver (San Diego, Calif.) was alternately firing his M-16 and lobbing grenades.

"I thought we'd had it," commented Hinkle, "the VC were all over the place but we were putting out a tremendous amount of fire," he added.

Two VC managed to sneak around the group's flank into a small ditch.

As a corpsman ran to the left of the Marine position to answer a call, one of the VC in the ditch threw a ChiCom grenade at him.

"I thought the corpsman was hit at first," said Hinkle.

"We threw a grenade into the ditch, and the corpsman started running again. He made it to the wounded Marine."

As the firing died down, the forward observers (one wounded by shrapnel) began calling for artillery and illumination. A medevac helicopter was on the scene in 15 minutes to pick up

two wounded Marines.

In 15 minutes, the firefight was over. To their front, the Marines saw VC bodies up to within five meters of their position. Two were lying dead in the ditch, and they could hear the VC hurriedly dragging other bodies away in the dark.

A short while later, "Puff" the (Continued on Back Page)

'68 Selection Board Dates Moved Up

WASHINGTON — A revised schedule of Selection Boards for Fiscal Year 1968 has been announced.

Boards to select E-9's and E-8's will convene July 21. Sgt-Maj. consideration zone terminates with 1st Sgt. Johnston—precedence No. 938. MGySgt. consideration zone terminates with MSgt. Festing—precedence No. 1142. The board will be in session about 6 weeks.

Gunnery Sergeants eligible for consideration for 1stSgt. - MSgt. are those with a date of rank of 31 Jan., 1966 or earlier.

The Gunnery Sergeant board will convene September 8. Those SSgt.'s with a DOR of 30 June 66 or earlier will be considered. SSgt. board will meet 25 Oct. 67. All sergeants with a date of rank 30 June 66 or earlier will be considered.

Both boards will be in session about eight weeks.

'Well Done': Task Force Oregon

Your recent achievements during Operation Malheur and the many small unit actions in Chu Lai, Mo Duc, and Duc Pho areas have been most impressive. Task Force Oregon has demonstrated to a high degree the professional ability and combat efficiency so necessary for success against the enemy in I Corps. The aggressiveness and fighting spirit of your troops have been evident during the conduct of all operations. It is a pleasure to have Task Force Oregon as part of the III MAF team. Well Done, and continued good hunting.

LtGen. Robert E. Cushman Jr.

Letters for Freedom

IT'S up to every American to fight for the freedom we hold so dear. If we don't, the smells of free air could become dark and damp as in a prison cell."

This was written in a letter by Army Private First Class Hiram D. Strickland last year which won the George Washington Award from the Freedoms Foundation.

PFC Strickland never received the award. It was presented to his family because he was killed in Vietnam defending the freedom he held so dear.



This freedom for which so many have sacrificed their lives on the battlefields of the world is the basis for the 1967 Freedoms Foundation Awards Program. This year's subject is, "Freedom—My Heritage, My Responsibility."

Every serviceman and woman on active duty is eligible to submit as many entries as he may desire. Each entry may be in the form of a letter, essay or poem of not less than 100 nor more than 500 words in length. Entries must be sent to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., 19481, prior to Nov. 1, 1967.

Members of the Armed Forces may also compete for the other Freedoms Foundation awards offered. Dependents of service members, who are not eligible to enter the Letter Awards Program, may compete for awards in other categories.

Additional information on the Freedoms Foundation Awards Program may be obtained by writing to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa., 19481.

When you submit your entry, be sure to include your full name, rank, service number, branch of service, organization, and home state address.

This is your opportunity to be heard, to express your feelings about those freedoms you have sworn to defend and for which PFC Strickland and thousands of others have given their lives. (AFNB)

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New Pen Pal Listing:

Patricia Foreman (19)
60 Vanderbeck Pl.
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Carole Tourville (18)
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EDITOR'S NOTE: 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.



Son Advises His Artist Father

Cpl. John D. Hart Jr. advises his father on a technical aspect of the senior's drawings during Hart's trip to Chu Lai. Hart is a free-lance artist who has been commissioned to record on canvas the activities of the Marine Corps in Vietnam.

(Photo by: SSgt. Jerry Baker)

Scouts Honor Marine Killed in Vietnam

A special honor guard from Boy Scout Troop Forty-five of the First Methodist Church in Glen Ellyn, Ill., paid special tribute to former All-American football player Lt. Bruce Capel who died in Vietnam last year.

In Glen Ellyn's Memorial Day

parade and services the scouts carried the flag that had covered the late Lt. Bruce Capel's coffin. On the flag was his Marine Corps hat, a simple symbol of the supreme sacrifice Bruce Capel made for his country.

Capel died 16 months after he played his final game for the University of Illinois in the 1965 Rose Bowl to the cheers of mil-

lions of Americans.

When he died in Vietnam there were no millions watching, no bands, no cheers. The Americans who saw Bruce Capel die were the tired, dirty Marines of the platoon he led.

But the scouts of Troop Forty-five in Glen Ellyn did not forget Bruce Capel. They honored the memory of a former scout and member of their troop.



Outdoor Clinic

Navy LCDR Joseph J. Burke, of 14 Eden St., Putnam, Conn., and regimental dentist, treats a Vietnamese villager in conjunction with the civic action program of the First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division near Da Nang.

(Photo by: Cpl. R. Curry)



SEA TIGER

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Dike Stops Helicopter Temporarily

CHU LAI — Marine Capt. Chuck Upshaw, (Blythe, Calif.) a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362, flew as wingman for another helicopter on a recent medevac mission, when the lead ship received heavy fire as it landed in the pickup zone northwest of Chu Lai.

Before the wounded Marines could be taken aboard, the helo was struck by a recoilless rifle round which wounded both the pilot and co-pilot.

Upshaw, who had been hovering his helicopter overhead, landed directly behind the crippled and burning plane.

Taking the wounded Marines and the crew of the downed helicopter aboard, Upshaw tried to lift his helicopter out of the zone, skimming the craft over the surface of the rice paddies.

After 200 yards, the chopper jammed its wheels against a dike in the paddy.

When Upshaw's plane stopped, sniper fire hit the aircraft's engine twice, causing a partial loss of power.

With the enemy rifle fire increasing, a third helicopter landed next to Upshaw's and he told his crew chief to take everyone that could walk to the other plane.

With the load decreased, the crippled helicopter's engine slowly lifted it from the rice paddy.

After a 29-mile flight, Upshaw landed his damaged helo at the hospital pad at Ky Ha. He was about to hit the engine "kill" switch when the engine stopped.

Don't Carry Explosives On Aircraft

DA NANG — There are many type of items which are prohibited aboard aircraft upon departure from Vietnam.

Pets, narcotics, alcoholic beverages (seal broken), private motorized vehicles including motor scooters, permanent magnets, inflammables, including cans of lighter fluid and cartons of matches. But the most dangerous of all is explosive devices and materials.

Recently a situation was brought to the attention of the Commandant of the Marine Corps which could have cost the lives of passengers and crew and destruction of an aircraft as result of a US military personnel carrying explosive devices aboard the plane.

Each and every serviceman returning from Vietnam must complete a MACV Form 40, Declaration Certificate stating that they are not carrying any unlawful items back to the States.

Any individual who fails to comply with the declaration certificate invites disciplinary action and may be subjected to heavy fines or other penalties for customs violations in accordance with Title 19, U. S. Code.



Giving It a Lift

A CH53A Sea Stallion of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-463 lifts a disabled UH-34 off the deck of a helicopter landing platform. (USMC Photo)

Marines Live, Die

Raw Courage Born in Battle

By: Cpl. L. T. Brown

DA NANG—"F" Co., 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, along with "A" and "D" Co. of the 1st Bn. were sweeping through a complex of open rice paddies toward a treeline a few hundred yards ahead on June 2.

The quiet afternoon was suddenly split open by enemy automatic weapons fire. Mortars smashed in a criss-cross pattern throughout the paddy.

Many Marines were wounded by the fire. Most of the others were pinned down behind dikes by it and unable to advance.

Towards the front of the "F" Co. a squad leader had been blinded by bamboo splinters. Next to him lies a machinegunner with a hand blown off.

Both are in shock, but both react. The squad leader positions himself behind the machinegun. The machinegunner, sighting along the nearby tree-line, calls targets to his squad leader.

The pair effectively fire several belts of ammunition into the enemy positions 150-200 yards away.

When their ammo runs out the two attempt to get back to friendly lines.

The machinegunner, dragging his weapon with him, dies as he crawls across the rice paddies before reaching friendly units.

The blind squad leader is later found by men from his company combing the paddies at dusk looking for wounded. He is led back to an awaiting medevac chopper.

The battle is over.

Korean Marines Kill 155 VC in Hour Attack

QUANG NGAI—Two companies of the 2nd Bn., Second Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, killed 155 Viet Cong during heavy contact—including hand-to-hand combat—around Hill 40 northeast of Quang Ngai June 13.

The fighting occurred five days after the Korean Marines launched Operation Angry Dragon II in the area of Lac Son, An Tho and An Phouc villages in conjunction with a military civic action.

Before the contact, the Blue Dragon troops had cleared their

Mission; Seize Hill... Army Paratroops Do

By SP4 William P. Singley

DUC PHO—Thirteen miles west of here is a hill. More than once paratroopers of the 101st Airborne were fired on from it.

Co. "C" of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry led by Capt. Fred Hillyard (Falls City, Neb.), got the assignment: seize the hill.

The 3rd and 4th platoons started up. Minutes later, enemy fire came from a heavily fortified position.

PFC. Joaquin Robledo (San Jose, Calif.), was hit in the chest by an M-79 round that failed to explode.

"He continued fighting," said PFC David Durante (San Benito, Tex.). "We couldn't keep him down."

The platoon spread out, using basic fire and maneuver tactics to get up the hill. As one element advanced, another provided cover fire. Then the elements would switch, one advancing, the other firing.

The battle lasted all day. PFC. Edward G. Borry (York, Pa.) was one of the first to reach the top of the hill. SP4 Charles Jenkins (Fort Royal, Va.) was another. They zeroed in on an enemy bunker and cleaned it out.

SP4 Floyd A. Seyler (San Jose, Calif.) positioned himself to cover the rear of the bunkers for fleeing VC. As they fled, Seyler opened fire. One stopped to throw a grenade, but Seyler ended the attempt.

SP5 Michael Broyer (Boston, Mass.) carried wounded down the hill and went from one man to another making sure they were all right.

PFC Raymond Marez (Chamez, N. Mex.) fought all day after being shot in the foot.

The hill became the property

of Co. "C" late in the day. It had served as a VC battalion headquarters and the enemy commander lay dead. Twenty more bodies filled the tunnels and bunkers. Weapons, food and ammunition also were captured.

"A lot of us were lucky today," reflected SSgt. David E. Sirois, Skowhegan, Maine.

No paratroopers were killed. Only seven were wounded.

The paratroopers relaxed. The hill was taken.

Engineers Blast Enemy Bunkers

PHU BAI — Marines of the 1st Bn., Third Regiment swept through an area 7,000 meters southeast of Phu Bai uncovering dozens of bunkers and fighting holes. The infantry cleared the holes, then left them for the engineers.

One four-man engineer team, under Cpl. Larry J. Berry (Mobile, Ala.) saw a full day's work with "A" Co.

Avoiding numerous booby traps, the team destroyed over 30 bunkers with 200 pounds of C-4 explosives.

The Marines found blood soaked-clothing and 500 rounds of ammunition left by the Viet Cong.

objectives with relatively slight enemy contacts.

In the hour-long attack on fortified defensive positions, Capt. Kang Dal Sin, led his 5th Co. against enemy machine gun fire which "poured down like rain."

Although severely wounded in both legs by a booby trap, Sin remained with the assault platoon to encourage his men.

Capt. Chang Ui Py-Ong's, 7th Co., neutralized the weapon, when squad leader Sgt. Kang Sin Tae crawled forward of his squad position to destroy the

gun with hand grenades.

Following Tae's one-man assault, both companies overran the hill mass.

During the search which followed, additional enemy were found hidden in three caves.

Diving into one with two other Marines, Sgt. Huo Kong Nam met seven Viet Cong. He killed five and captured two using Taekwondo (Korean Karate).

In all, the Korean Marines captured 23 Viet Cong and took 18 weapons along with ammunition and equipment.



A Marine radio operator gives his buddy a helping hand during an operation through lowland marshes and wooded areas. Both are assigned to "C" Co., 1st Bn., Third Marines. (USMC Photo)



Returns Enemy Fire

Two members of the 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, return fire against Viet Cong forces during an operation 23 miles south of Da Nang. More than 700 enemy troops were killed during the operation. (OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO)

Kill 4 VC in Cave

Marines Win Grenade 'Toss'

By: Cpl. Robert M. Bayer

DA NANG—A thorough search of a hamlet four miles south of Da Nang by a 12-man patrol from "M" Co., 3rd Bn., First Marine Regiment recently led to the death of four Viet Cong and the capture of their weapons.

The patrol, led by Cpl. Eugene Dolloff (Melrose, Mass.), was sweeping through Ba Trung (3) when it discovered traces of recent VC activity in the area.

"As I was probing one area with my bayonet I hit something hard in the ground," said Pfc. Philip Broussard (Lafayette, La.), "I dug out the dirt in the area and found it was a trap door.

"It was one of the best hidden doors I've seen. It had an old tree stump on top and unless I hadn't probed right next to it I would never have located it," Broussard said.

"In a hut right next to the cave there were four Vietnamese women. They told us they knew nothing of the cave," said Dolloff, "but that was pretty hard to believe since the cave was right next to their house."

The patrol surrounded the trap door and had one of the women go over and attempt to open it.

"She tried to open it, but whoever was inside the cave was holding it closed and the woman couldn't budge it. We could also hear the VC hollering to her," Dolloff said.

LCpl. Lural D. Stevens, Jr., (Grafton, Ill.) tried to open the door, but couldn't.

Stevens blew the trap door apart with a burst of fire from his rifle, killing a VC in the process.

"As we moved toward the cave to tell the other VC inside to come out, two Chi Com grenades came flying out at us," Dolloff said.

The Marines tossed two grenades of their own down the entrance, only to have four more VC grenades tossed back at them.

"A VC in the cave put his hand through the trap door and as he was about to throw the grenade he held, Stevens shot him in the hand and the grenade

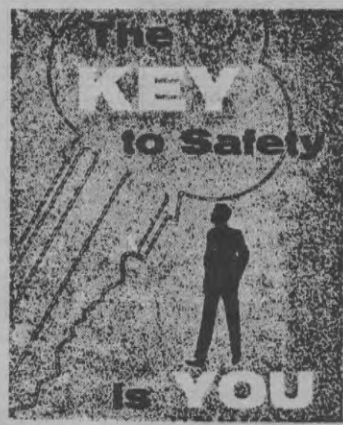
fell back in the cave," Dolloff said. "It exploded and so did another grenade they must have been preparing to throw out. We didn't want to take anymore chances with them throwing more grenades out, so we threw in another one for good measure," he said.

A smoke grenade tossed into the cave showed the Leathernecks locations of air holes and other entrances.

"We saw smoke seeping out another trap door and heard noises inside, so we threw more grenades in the new entrance," said Dolloff.

After digging up the cave, the patrol found four Viet Cong bodies, two AK-47 Russian-made assault rifles with magazines and ammunition, one 45 cal. sub-

machinegun with magazines and ammunition, eight Chi Com grenades, uniforms and assorted documents.



Radio Message Not Spectacular, But Sincere

DA NANG—The radio message wasn't typical air-ground traffic during a search and destroy operation.

"We just want to let you know that the men down here appreciate your help out here yesterday," the radio operator said. "More than one Marine has said he wouldn't be here today without you guys. Thanks much, and pass our thanks to the pilots. Over."

The aerial observer buzzing overhead acknowledged the message with a terse, "Roger, glad to do it. Out."

It wasn't a spectacular thank you.

But Cpl. David Tarter (Ozark, Ala.), was relaying the sincere appreciation of the Leathernecks of "D" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division to Marine, Air Force and Army pilots who supported them during an 18-hour stretch of Operation Union II.

"Let's face it," Tarter said. "Without the air support, we'd probably still be out in those rice paddies."

The paddies Tarter indicated were the spot where "D" and "F" companies, Fifth Marine Regiment, were pinned down June 2 in a 12-hour battle with North Vietnamese Army regulars, 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

When the two companies were pinned down by a crossfire from NVA automatic weapons, Tarter and 1stLt. John Updyke, (Oakland, Calif.), a forward air controller, began immediately to ask for air support.

The first strikes pounded the NVA positions within seven minutes of the time they were requested, as Marine jets streaked from Chu Lai with 250-pound bombs as payloads.

"From then on, we just kept air coming in," said Tarter, "it was our only chance."

Trapped Recon Patrol Gets Help From Sky

By: MSgt. G.E. Wilson

DA NANG—A ring of fire from armed Hueys and 360° pin-point bombing by attack aircraft enabled a 1st Reconnaissance Bn. patrol to fight off a large enemy force that had surrounded it June 5, 15 miles southwest of Da Nang.

All the while the Marines were hacking out a landing zone in 15-foot elephant grass during the three-hour battle.

The patrol riding in two helicopters was fired on as they hit the landing zone on a ridge overlooking a Viet Cong trail.

Cpl. Ronald S. Columbani of Bryte, Calif., said the patrol members scrambled for their lives, running as fast as they could with their 60-pound packs to an overgrown area by a creek bed, 350 meters away.

"We stopped to get a breather when the rear point man saw a Viet Cong scramble behind a rock 15 feet away," Columbani said.

"The patrol leader ordered us to move out when I heard two sharp reports which sounded like M-14 rifles and a loud burst," he said.

An enemy grenade had exploded near the patrol leader wounding him.

Columbani, assistant patrol leader, took control of the team.

Moving out to higher ground, Columbani organized a 360-degree perimeter defense and the team began to hack out a helicopter landing zone as Hospitalman James M. Compton Jr. (Indianapolis, Ind.) treated the wounded patrol leader.

The enemy opened up with automatic weapons and small arms fire from four sides.

Radioman Lance Cpl. Steve Ryan (Haverhill, Mass.) called in for medevacs and air strikes.

Gunships and fixed-wing planes of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing were on the scene almost immediately to provide the ring of fire around the team. The enemy fired at both the aircraft and the patrol, but air strikes prevented them from making an attack, Columbani said.

"We estimated from the sound of fire that the enemy was 25 to 50 meters away so Kelly, (Cpl. James J. Kelly Bronx, N.Y.), marked enemy positions for the Hueys by firing his M-79 grenade launcher at the positions then directing the air to hit so many meters from the point of impact," Columbani said.

"They were right on target," he added.

A helicopter braved the enemy fire and dropped into the tight little zone chopped out of the elephant grass to pick up the team. The ship took three hits during the extraction but no one was hurt, Columbani said.

It was his 22nd patrol into enemy territory.

M-16 Rifle Saves Day For Patrol

DA NANG—"If it hadn't been for this M-16, I wouldn't have gotten those men back."

Sgt. Patrick R.F.K. Melim, Honolulu, Hawaii, a patrol leader with the 1st Reconnaissance Bn., related what happened when his nine-man patrol was cut off from a landing zone.

The team had been inserted into an area near Nui Loc Son prior to an operation. Once the operation commenced the team was to be heli-lifted out.

"We were moving through heavy brush, about 10 feet high toward a landing zone 140 meters away," Melim said. "The choppers were on the way and there were about 15 Viet Cong between us and the zone."

Melim called in air strikes. Then laying down a heavy volume of M-16 and machinegun fire, the team simply rushed through the VC line. They continued back to the zone, firing all the way.

Melim, on his first patrol, fired 20 magazines before being extracted.

He reported seeing nine enemy dropped during the air strikes and firing.

As night fell, the heavy contact continued.

The FAC team kept the strikes coming through the night.

Updyke appreciated what the night strikes demanded on the part of the pilots. A week before, he had been flying an A4 Skyhawk. Now assigned to the ground element of the team, he was on his first operation.

"Day strikes aren't bad," Updyke said. "Aerial observers mark targets with smoke and you can spot the target as they describe it on the radio. Night strikes, without illumination, call for lots of talking on both ends of the stick."

The Leathernecks on the ground, still moving troops and evacuating wounded from the paddies, could not use illumination to guide the aircraft, for fear of exposing themselves to the NVA.

The pilots were forced to use

such landmarks as haystacks set afire during daylight strikes as a guide for the night strikes.

"Puff the Magic Dragon — an Air Force cargo plane equipped with electrically operated guns — did most of the controlling," Updyke said. "We'd mark our position with a strobe light, and direct Puff's tracers into the area we wanted the strike. Puff, in turn, would talk the jets in."

"All of the aircraft we called — Skyhawks, Phantoms, and Crusaders—did a real fine job," he said, with special praise for the F8 Crusaders, which are fighters, not precision bombers.

After seeing the air war from both ground and air, Updyke said, "I can see it's a lot more impersonal when you're flying. You don't really realize what you're doing and how much it can mean until you get down here. All of a sudden, it becomes much more personal."



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4 SEA TIGER



Cross of Gallantry

Premier Nguyen Cao Ky awards the National Order Medal and the Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, to MajGen. Bruno A. Hochmuth, commanding general, 3rd Marine Division. The medals were presented at ceremonies held in the city of Hue, ancient capital of Vietnam. The ceremonies honored Marines and Vietnamese Army personnel killed in action during Operation Hickory in the demilitarized zone. (Photo by: MSgt. R. J. Austin)

Sgt. Wood Awarded Combat Decorations

DA NANG—Marine Sgt. Ronald W. Wood (Oakland, Calif.) was presented the Bronze Star with Combat "V" and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V".

The Bronze Star was awarded to Wood for his action while serving as a squad leader with "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

On February 1, 1967, while leading his squad to a position in a hamlet near An Loc, Quang Ngai Province, Wood, then a corporal, and his men came under intense enemy small arms fire.

Immediately, Wood moved his men to a nearby tree line. He saw that one of his fire team leaders had been wounded and was lying in the open rice paddy exposed to the enemy fire.

While his men directed a heavy volume of fire on the enemy,

'Doc' Earns Bronze Star

DA NANG—Hospitalman 2nd Class John T. Reed, Stockton, Calif., has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his part in rescuing two helicopter pilots from their burning aircraft.

Reed, a member of the 1st Reconnaissance Bn., 1st Marine Division, was cited for his actions during the afternoon of January 25, 1967.

Reed's platoon was waiting to be lifted out by helicopter from a landing zone near Chu Lai. The helicopters landed and were partially loaded when the landing zone came under intense enemy fire.

As the pilots took off, one of the aircraft had its rear rotor blade shot off and crashed on its side in the zone.

Seeing that the pilots were trapped in the downed and burning helicopter, Reed moved through withering enemy fire to the wreckage, where he helped remove the pilots and crew members to relatively safe positions. Shortly after the last man had been removed, the aircraft exploded.

Wood, completely disregarding his own safety, moved across 35 meters of open rice paddies to the aid of the wounded Marine. Although exposed to enemy fire, he dressed the wound and, unaided, carried the wounded man to safety and then continued to administer further medical aid.

The Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" was presented to Wood for his action during January 3, 1967, when, as a Lance Corporal, serving as a squad leader with "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, he deployed his squad in an ambush position near the hamlet of Phouc Ni Ha (5) in Quang Nam Province. Wood strategically positioned a machine gun covering the hamlet, then conducted a house to house search of the village with the rest of his squad.

Wood observed a VC running from one of the houses and killed the man. He then entered the house and captured another VC.

Immediately after Wood's action, the squad came under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Wood signaled to his machine gunner and directed effective fire on the VC position, silencing the enemy fire and killing one more enemy soldier.

Wood then continued to lead his squad through the hamlet, capturing two more enemy suspects.

Wood enlisted in the Marine Corps August 2, 1964 and has been serving in Vietnam since August 13, 1966.

The sergeant received the decorations from MajGen. H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division, during ceremonies at Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Decorations And Awards

DA NANG—A 20-year-old squad leader with "A" Co., 1st Reconnaissance Bn., 1st Marine Division was awarded the Silver Star Medal June 12 for his actions while serving as assistant patrol leader on a reconnaissance insertion deep within Viet Cong controlled area.

Sgt. John F. Witmer of Easton, Pa., was cited for his actions "while landing six of the patrol members in the second helicopter of a two aircraft flight.

As the first helicopter landed, it was discovered that the landing zone was occupied by 50 Viet Cong and the aircraft was hit by enemy fire.

While in the fire-swept zone, the aircraft's radio was damaged and the pilot was unable to inform the second helicopter that the mission had been aborted and that none of the troops had been inserted into the landing zone.

The second helicopter continued to the zone, landed and disembarked Witmer and the members of his patrol. He quickly established a perimeter defense and then, realizing that the patrol leader and the rest of the unit were not in the zone, radioed to higher headquarters for further instructions and air support.

An enemy grenade thrown into his patrol's perimeter, wounded Witmer and another Marine.

Disregarding his wound, Witmer moved about the perimeter defense, ensuring the safety of his men and providing words of encouragement to them. He directed accurate return fire and personally killed one Viet Cong and wounded another while his patrol killed another enemy.

He moved his patrol to a more advantageous position and directed an air strike on the enemy force, then moved his troops by fire and maneuver to an alternate landing zone where a successful helicopter extraction was made.

Witmer continued to direct suppressive fire at the enemy positions from the helicopter's windows as the aircraft lifted from the zone.

Lieutenant Murray

DA NANG — A platoon commander with the 1st Reconnaissance Bn., 1st Marine Division, who raced 75 meters across an open rice paddy to a downed helicopter and directed the rescue of Marines inside, was awarded the Silver Star Medal, June 12.

Second Lt. Grover Murray (N. Miami, Fla.), was presented the medal for his actions while his platoon was dispersed in a helicopter landing zone near Chu Lai with elements of an infantry platoon awaiting extraction by helicopters.

The helicopters landed and were partially loaded when the landing zone came under intense enemy automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire.

Recognizing the danger to the aircraft, Murray signaled the pilots to lift off and directed fire against the attacking Viet Cong.

As the helicopters were departing, .50 cal. machinegun fire ripped through the top of one of the helicopters, shearing off the rear rotor blade, causing the aircraft to crash and burn.

Murray then crossed the 75 meters of open rice paddy and directed troops out of the downed helicopter and into firing positions.

Realizing that the pilots were still trapped in the burning wreckage, he returned through the intense small arms fire to the aircraft to free the pilots.

Shortly after the last man was removed, the aircraft exploded.

"When the enemy fire was suppressed enough to allow additional helicopters to land," the citation reads, "Murray, with resolute calmness and professional skill, moved throughout the landing zone, continually exposing himself in order to direct and protect the loading of the last troops and only at the last possible moment did he board an aircraft."

Major Martin

DA NANG — Maj. Bruce A. Martin (West Boylston, Mass.), was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross by Col. William F. Guss, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group-11 May 25.

The Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron-232 pilot received the DFC for his efforts during an air strike March 3, south of the demilitarized zone.

The Leatherneck pilot was the flight leader of a two-plane section supporting ground units near the DMZ when he was directed to an enemy concentration.

When he arrived over the area, he found that the target area was surrounded by cloud covered mountains. He led his section in a series of strikes through the confined airspace, disregarding heavy automatic weapons fire and placed a heavy volume of 20mm cannon fire on target, inflicting severe losses on the enemy.

The citation credited the major's courage and daring action with contributing significantly to destroying the combat effectiveness of a North Vietnamese Army unit.

Captain Hyatt

DA NANG—Capt. Wayne R. Hyatt, a Marine helicopter pilot, was presented a gold star in lieu of his third Distinguished Flying Cross.

The Hanceville, Ala., Marine was on an emergency reconnaissance team retraction mission near Da Nang on Oct. 12, 1966.

The recon team, located in a small landing zone on the side of a mountain, was surrounded and under heavy fire from an enemy force.

After the lead UH-34 extracted half of the 10 man team, Hyatt commenced his approach with his aerial gunners firing on the enemy positions.

The citation lauded the Leatherneck pilot for fearlessly making his approach into the zone despite the concentrated enemy fire.

Because of the steep slope he was forced to hover in the zone with only one wheel touching the ground until the remaining five Marines were aboard.

When the helicopter left the zone the enemy force directed intense fire at it in a final attempt to shoot it down.

The pilot was praised for his heroic actions and steadfast determination which "... undoubtedly saved the lives of numerous Marines..."

He is presently serving with Marine Aircraft Group-16 at the Marble Mountain Air Facility near Da Nang.

Major Gailey

DA NANG — Maj. Lloyd E. Gailey, a Marine Aircraft Group-16 pilot, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his action to protect a small Marine force surrounded by enemy troops.

The citation accompanying the award lauded him for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight" while serving as an airborne tactical air controller on Jan. 27.

A small Marine reaction force and the three man crew of a downed helicopter were surrounded by an estimated 150 North Vietnamese Army soldiers in the rugged mountains northwest of Khe Sanh.

The Marine pilot launched his C-117D transport aircraft on a flare mission to direct air strikes against the enemy force. The Marines, enclosed in a 25 meter perimeter, were under intense enemy attacks and were in danger of being overrun.

Despite low clouds and approaching darkness, Gailey controlled all supporting aircraft over the zone and repeatedly located and identified enemy targets for Marine jet aircraft.



Joint Service Medal

Major Arthur D. Malovich, left, is congratulated by Brig-Gen. James E. Herbold, Jr., commanding general, Force Logistic Command, after presenting him the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Malovich was presented the medal for meritorious service as chief of Plans and Resources Management Branch, from July 1964 to January 1967.

Help... Friendship... Compassion... Hope

CIVIC ACTION

From the Demilitarized Zone to Chu Lai

Walking Water Highlight Of Village Cleanliness Campaign

By: Cpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI—Civil affairs personnel from the Fourth Marine Regiment have introduced "walking water" showers to the people of Phong Dien village as part of a cleanliness campaign.

The "walking water" unit, as it is referred to by the Vietnamese, is a mobile

shower which accompanies each visit to Phong Dien.

Each time the medcap team visits the mothers give children a shower prior to their visit by the doctor or corpsman.

To give the Vietnamese a sense of participation in the medicap visits, older children in the village are now given the task of washing soap.

Other projects undertaken by the civ team are the screening-in of the hospital, increased sanitation and construction of latrines at the local dispensary and maternity.

The 3rd Marine Division Civil Affairs (CIV) team, which has been in the area since the refugee movement from the Co Bi Than area, has "reduced the population in previous Viet Cong villages, giving rise to terror directed toward the Phong Dien refugees."

The report said that although the refugees were subjected to terrorism, the medicap visits were always welcome in the villages.

Currently, primary emphasis by the Marines is being placed upon refugee resettlement near district headquarters at Phong Dien.

Working in daily association with the chief and sub-sector advisor, the Marines launched a rebuilding project to house the displaced villagers.

The return of several Catholic nuns who evacuated the area when Catholic leader Matthew was assassinated by the Viet Cong aided the resettlement.

"The return of the nuns has materialized the stability as a show of permanence. The villagers were beginning to doubt," the report read.

A new priest in the area has also volunteered to arrange for labor on construction projects.



MEDCAP CLINIC

Navy Dr. Geron Brown Jr. (Memphis, Tenn.) examines a youngster south of Phu Bai as others await their turn for treatment. Brown and Dentist Garry Welch (St. Louis, Mo.) have a multitude of Vietnamese patients in surrounding hamlets and river junks.

(Photo by SSgt. H. A. Magness)



Polar Bears Conduct All-Out Program in Heat of Chu Lai

By Pfc Dennis Shutz

CHU LAI—The 4th Bn., 31st Infantry "Polar Bears" of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade have begun an all-out program of assistance to the hamlets around the battalion's base camp south of Chu Lai.

On a typical day the battalion had a total of three separate

civic action and Medical Civic Action Program operations in one hamlet.

The battalion's civil affairs section, led by 1stLt. Walter L. Corey (Concord, N.H.) joined forces with the Medcap team and Capt. Donald G. Moehring (Claremont, Calif.) from the battalion's aid station.

The combined group set up shop in the hamlet of Le Thuy recently to conduct the hamlet's first large Medcap and clothing, food, and school supply distribution.

The project was an unqualified success.

Of the continuing programs which have been underway since the "Polar Bears" took over the Marine camp in the scenic hills around Le Thuy, possibly the most successful involves four volunteers from the battalion's Co. C, who live within the hamlet on a full-time basis.

The four men, under leadership of SP4 Joe Paul Curran (Beekman, N.Y.) are jacks of all trades, doing everything from administering first aid to mapping and naming the streets after famous Vietnamese heroes.

"The people want to aid and welcome our help, and are enthusiastic about the whole idea," Curran commented. "And they are also helping us in more ways than one. We've already had 42 rounds of M-60 machinegun ammunition turned in to us, along with a map with valuable data written on it."

"One of the largest projects we are working on now is rebuilding the Catholic church," said SFC Charles F. Extrom (Stuyvesant Fall, N.Y.), who heads the construction project.

Experience Pays Off

By Pfc Jack Mitchell

CHU LAI—A doctor with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's 3d Bn., 21st Infantry, was given a lesson in childbirth recently.

While conducting a Medical Civic Action Program in Chu Lai, Army Capt. Charles D. Gianitti (Wetherfield, Conn.), battalion surgeon, was called into a nearby hut by a Vietnamese mid-wife and shown a woman who was in the late stages of pregnancy.

Through his interpreter, he told the mid-wife that it would be an hour before the birth would take place. The mid-wife argued that it would be 10 more minutes.

"It seemed as if the mid-wife had a stopwatch because 10 minutes later the woman started delivery. The mid-wife did most of the work, I just helped out," said Gianitti.

"She told me this was her 2,000th delivery, so she didn't need much help from me. This was my third," added Gianitti.

At last report both baby and mother were doing fine, and the doctor makes periodic checks on them as he conducts daily Medcap's in the small village.



CHURCH DEDICATION

School children from Phuoc Nghia hamlet perform a dance for BrigGen. James E. Herbold Jr., commanding general, Force Logistic Command, and other guests during dedication of the new Queen Mary Church June 4. The church, one mile south of Camp Books near Da Nang, was built by villagers with materials furnished by FLC civil affairs.

(Photo by: LCpl. A. M. Alejos)

Even in Combat There's Time to Help a Youngster

By: Cpl. Phillip Hamer

DA NANG—The Navy doctor had experienced his first real contact with combat in Vietnam.

Assigned as assistant surgeon to the 1st Bn., First Marines, 1st Marine Division, Navy Lt. James B. Back, 28, Lexington, Ky., was with a blocking force for a sweep by Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units about 15 miles south of Da Nang.

The force had moved into a confirmed Viet Cong village area located along a riverbank.

"I noticed anti-American signs on the gate as we entered the village," Back said, "and there must have been several miles of trenchlines, as well as heavy bunkers."

When the group halted near one of the buildings, the doctor's professional interest was aroused.

"The place was an apothecary shop, a well-stocked pharmacy with all kinds of roots, herbs and dried mushrooms," he said.

"In the back of the shop was another room where about 15 women were gathered, some of them with babies," he said.

Back believed the shop was used as a hospital. Some of the women and children were being treated for various ailments by local "nurses".

One of the battalion scouts carried in a girl found near the village. She had been wounded a few hours earlier. Her mother had bandaged the wound with a dressing of rabbit dung and fur.

Back cleaned the wound, dressed it and put her arm in a splint.

"It was the best we could do under field conditions," he said.

Before leaving the village, the doctor and his hospital corpsmen conducted an informal "MedCap", treating and examining the Vietnamese.

When the battalion command group began to move back to their command post upriver, Back carried the wounded child, while her mother helped row the boat.

A few hundred meters from the village, Viet Cong guerrillas opened fire from the opposite bank. Back, still carrying the child headed for the safety of a sandbar in midstream until Marines could silence the enemy fire.

"I paddled the girl back to shore in a small boat," Back said. "A helicopter came in to take us back to the battalion area."

From the battalion command post, the child was flown to the Marine Corps' 1st Medical Bn. hospital in Da Nang. Later she was transferred to the ARVN hospital there.

"I think she'll be all right," said Back. "Her arm was in pretty good shape and the bone and joint weren't damaged," he added.

BEDSIDE MANNER—COMBAT STYLE



Islander's 'Coolness' Turns into Friendship

By Cpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI — Thai Duong Ha Hamlet is a picturesque cluster of mud and thatch homes nuzzling a wide, freshwater bay on Thuan An Island 10 miles east of Hue.

When Marine elements moved onto the island in February, 1966, their reception, though not openly hostile, was decidedly cool.

The villagers, living a life re-

mote from the mainland, earning their living by fishing among the numerous coastal sandpits slicing the shoreline, were even suspicious when Vietnamese troopers paid periodic visits to the island.

A change, though not dramatic, has taken place in the Marine-Vietnamese relationship.

No longer afraid, villagers of all ages cluster excitedly around HM1 Charles H. Pichon (New

Orleans, La.) and his team of Navy corpsmen on their regular medcaps to the hamlet.

This attitude and response of the island people is one of the major yardsticks by which "Doc" Pichon measures the effectiveness of the civil affairs program of "B" Co., 3rd Shore Party Bn., headquartered on the island. Pichon is civil affairs NCO for the island.

"When we first began to hold

medcaps we couldn't get anyone to come near us," Pichon said. "I think they were more afraid of us than anything," he said.

Things have improved so much since the program began that he now rates the Marine-villager relationship "very, very good. The attitude of the people has improved a thousand-fold," he said.

Because Thai Duong Ha sits adjacent to the shore party installation most of the city civil affairs activity was concentrated in this village.

Now, the Marines have begun to expand their operations to embrace the 24,000 people on Thuan An and adjoining islands.

Transport, often a problem, has been solved in unusual ways. The corpsmen often ride the medcaps atop amphibious tractors and have even used craft from a nearby South Vietnamese junk fleet to reach remote villages.

The bulk of the company's civil affairs effort has been devoted to health and education.

Although the fisherfolk generally are some of the healthiest people in the country, many of the children have skin diseases. Regular treatment and tips on hygiene are changing this.

"Most of our medcaps in the area are now generally preventive," Pichon said.

To this end, it was necessary to revamp the area's water system.

"Most of the wells in the area were polluted," Pichon said. "We improved them and made them more sanitary and currently are waiting for five pumps to be delivered for the wells. This is the only way to make them safe from pollution."

The civil affairs team brought building materials to the island and directed the Vietnamese in building a dispensary. The hamlet chief painted the building himself, and the local barber has been trained to staff the dispensary for normal sick call.

Vietnamese corpsmen also have been trained by the Americans in routine medicine, freeing the Navy corpsmen to visit other areas and concentrate on more difficult cases.

The team secured school supplies and directed the construction of two classrooms at the local school. They also, working through various Vietnamese and Marine agencies, secured two more government teachers for the school.

With the extra classrooms and teachers it is hoped the 500 school children will be able to attend full-time when the autumn term begins in September.

Plans are now being made to improve and expand two other schools on the island.

11,000 Are Moved to Safety

By: Cpl. Dave Cumming

DONG HA — Some cry, others smile, but most show only expressionless facial emotion common in the Orient.

They are the more than 11,000 Vietnamese civilians who are being moved bag, baggage, and livestock, from their homes in and near the demilitarized zone for relocation near Cam Lo, several miles west of Dong Ha.

The relocation to safety is through a joint effort on the part of U.S. Marines, Army, Navy, OCO personnel and Vietnamese Army and revolutionary development teams.

Marines of the 3rd and 9th Motor Transport Bns., the 11th Engineer Bn., and the Third Marine Regiment were the "movement."

Capt. J. D. Garrett (Loveland, Colo.) civil affairs officer of the regiment, said, "Most of the planning and manpower was supplied by the ARVN, but the program needed the help of our Marines to get them moving."

It began May 19. The people were loaded aboard Marine and ARVN trucks. Most of the

larger livestock walked, but an occasional water buffalo was seen aboard a truck.

The trucks travelled south on Route 1 some 10 miles, turned right on Route 9 and continued past Cam Lo.

There, tents and metal-roofed buildings were set up to temporarily house the people.

All of the refugees were processed, issued identification paper and treated for any ailments, before moving into their temporary housing.

The medical treatment was an important part of the operation.

Navy Hospitalman Howard Williams (Fort Worth, Tex.) said, "The farther north we went, the lower the level of sanitation and hygiene seemed to be. I'd spot one kid who needed to be treated, and I'd have to treat 50 before I finished," he added.

Once in Cam Lo, processed and housed, the people were supplied food by OCO. The 11th Engineer Bn. dug wells for water.

The temporary tents and tin housing will be replaced by permanent homesites nearer the Cam Lo River.



Preparing for a Blast

Cpl. Larry R. Kline, Chester, Pa., sets demolitions charge to blow a crater during an operation south of Da Nang. Kline is a member of H & S Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

(Photo by: Cpl. C. D. Thomas)

VC Find Merry-Go-Round Of 12th Marines No Fun

By: Sgt. Keith Carter

PHU BAI—A "merry-go-round" in Vietnam is what the Marines of "Hotel" Battery, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines resemble when a firing mission is received at their fire control center.

According to 1st Sgt. Ray Humphries (Memphis, Tenn.) firing missions have full priority and are given every consideration. When a call is received the cannoneers show very little courtesy in getting to their guns. Humphries added, they feel it is easier to apologize for bumping someone over than explaining to each other why they let a "Charlie" get away.

Whether they are eating a noon meal or standing in a morning formation, when a mission comes—they are ready.

Upon receiving a mission the alert is sounded and the men waste no time getting rounds into the air. The firing data is computed and the guns are loaded while more rounds are piled close at hand. Within 90 seconds of the alert a heavy volume of concentrated fire is on its way.

With their forward observers to guide them in on target, simple adjustments are made to deliver accurate and deadly fire.

Since joining the 3rd Marine division in Vietnam the battery has fired more than 50,000 rounds and has participated in 22 extended search and destroy operations. With its punch in the 105mm howitzer, reputedly known to be one of the most mobile artillery pieces used by the free-world, no mission is too large or too small for the men of Hotel Battery.

Commanded by Capt. B.F. Westfall (Martinsville, Va.) the unit is attached to the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marines on search and

8 SEA TIGER

1/5 'Homesteading' in Country Once Controlled by Viet Cong

DA NANG — The small, boulder-strewn hill northwest of Tam Ky, a beehive of activity in daylight hours, becomes unnaturally silent as night falls.

Only an occasional cry of "Fire!" from the artillery battery nearby competes with the crickets and frogs that inhabit the area.

The smoking lamp goes out at dusk. Mortar attacks are frequent, and no one desires to give away his position.

The hill, 25 miles southwest of Da Nang, comes alive at daybreak. By 7 a.m. the first "Sea Stallion" helicopter, loaded with

supplies, is kicking up whirlwinds of dirt in the landing zone.

Supplies are ferried in throughout the day. Among the ammunition, mess hall furnishings, and rations, are thousands of empty sandbags.

The 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division is building its new home.

The hill, unoccupied a few weeks ago, is to serve as the new combat base for the battalion, formerly based near Chu Lai.

The Leathernecks work feverishly to complete bunkers and other basic essentials. Luxuries, such as a field mess hall and a shower system, will come later.

At the moment, C-rations and swims in a nearby stream serve the purpose.

Combat engineers from "B" Co., 1st Engineer Bn. are assisting the unit in building up its base, working on the major projects such as an ammunition bunker, combat operations center, and installation of a water purification system.

The villagers have welcomed the Marines, who will keep their area free of communist control. Banners across the village streets attest to the feelings of the area's residents.

"We are welcoming the Marines who come to protect our village," says one sign.

The area has been under Viet Cong control in the past. Operations Union I and II, in which the Fifth Marine Regiment battled North Vietnamese Army regulars in fierce fighting, were just a few miles away.

Vertical Assault Operation Nets 35 Viet Cong

PHU BAI — Marines ended a vertical assault operation five miles southeast of here which accounted for 35 Viet Cong KIA during the 10 days of sporadic fighting.

Marines from the 1st Bn., Third Marine Regiment, also captured six Viet Cong and two NVA along with 55 other suspects who were detained for questioning.

During the operation Marines found a Viet Cong base camp containing 13 concrete reinforced bunkers and 37 smaller bunkers. While destroying these bunkers the Marines discovered the entrances to five tunnels. Further examination revealed that one tunnel led to an underground room capable of holding 50 to 60 fully equipped enemy.

A thorough search of the area accounted for nine rifles, a 62-mm mortar complete with a camouflaged launching site and a dozen uniforms and packs.

Just as swiftly as they entered the valley 10 days earlier, the Marines were heli-lifted to a new area.

The 1st Bn., Third Marines is commanded by Lt. Col. Peter A. Wickwire. The battalion of Marines was under operational control of the Fourth Marine Regiment, commanded by Col. Roy H. Thompson (Pearsall, Tex.), during the battle.

Drummer, Ex-Guerrilla Form Kit Carson Team

By: Sgt. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—A former Texas dance band drummer and an ex-Viet Cong guerrilla form a Kit Carson scout team which enables more rapid detection of the enemy.

LCpl. David A. Cutaia (Houston, Tex.), is the drummer turned-battalion scout with the 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

The other half of the team is Nguyen Toa, a 17-year-old who returned to the side of the Government of Vietnam under the "Chieu Hoi" (Open Arms) program.

Together, the pair are working to make life as miserable as possible for VC insurgents in the Que Son area, about 25 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The Kit Carson program utilizes a "Hoi Chanh" (returnee) and a Vietnamese speaking Marine scout, working together to aid infantry companies in the field, in interrogation, searches and other intelligence functions.

Toa was 16 when the Viet Cong

came into his home in Ky Chang hamlet near Chu Lai and forced him into service as a guerrilla.

He learned his job well, and soon became a VC squad leader.

But his heart wasn't in it. After a month he picked up a pamphlet dropped by U.S. aircraft, urging guerrillas to surrender under the "Chieu Hoi" program and promising them good treatment.

He slipped the pamphlet, which would serve as a safe conduct pass, into a pocket of his black pajamas.

For three months he kept the pamphlet—and his intentions—hidden from the Viet Cong.

The lack of food and medicine, and the constant danger in living as a VC were helping shape his final decision.

Finally, he turned himself into the Marines near Chu Lai.

After some time at a rehabilitation center, Toa was assigned to the 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, and shortly afterward was teamed with Cutaia.

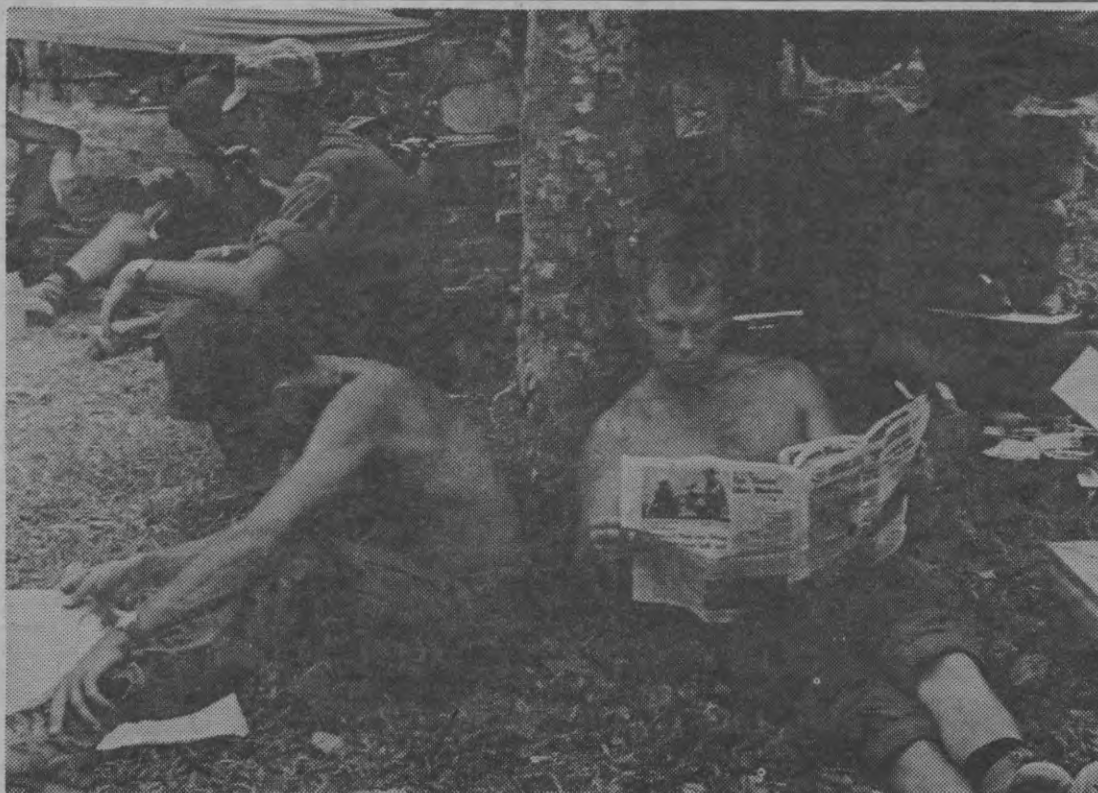
The Kit Carson concept keeps the two working together constantly. Since Toa speaks practically no English, Cutaia, who attended Vietnamese language school in California, serves as interpreter.

"Toa, having operated with the VC, knows a lot of things to look for that we would miss," Cutaia said. "He looks for such things as Viet Cong haircuts, listens for words used only in guerrilla vocabulary, and watches for other signs as he conducts on-the-spot interrogation of suspects in the field."

For instance a 10-year-old boy, from all appearances carrying a harmless note, was found by Toa to be bringing the Viet Cong a detailed report of Marine activities on the hill which serves as the battalion's base camp.

Cutaia voluntarily extended his Vietnam tour by six months until September.

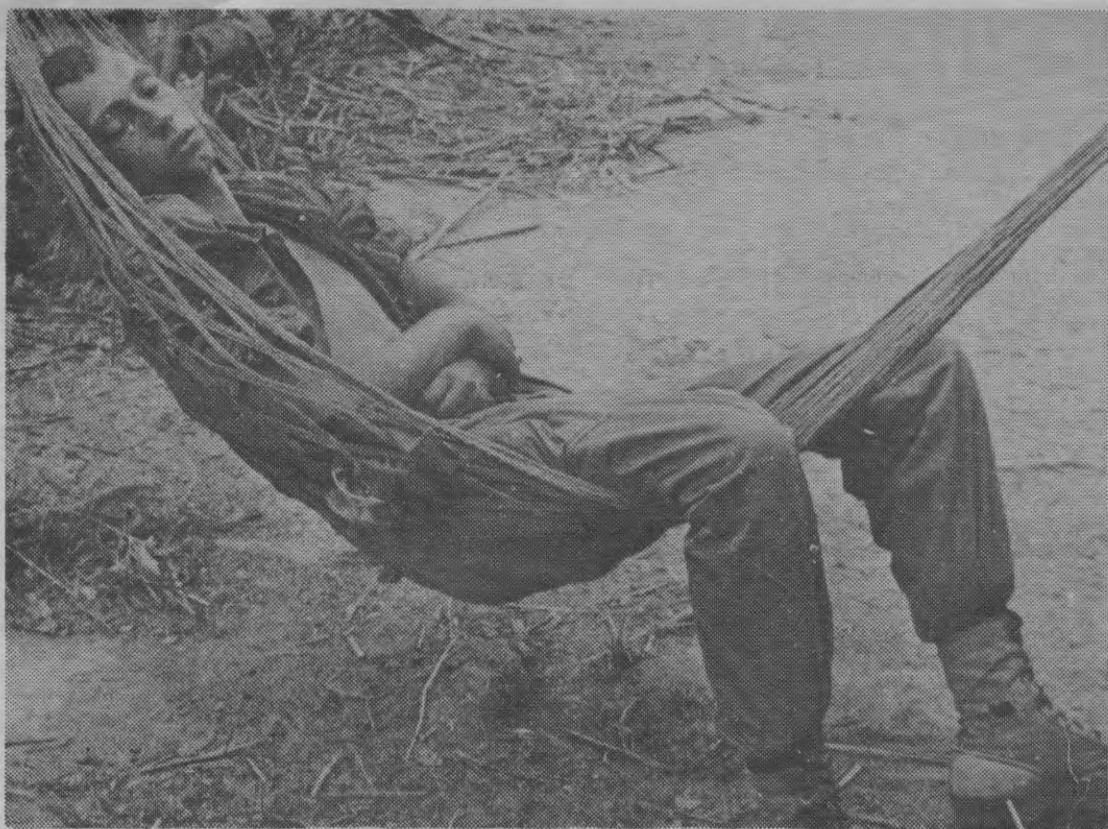
"I figure I might as well be here as anywhere," says Cutaia. "At least I have the feeling I'm accomplishing something; and being a scout is interesting work."



Marines Take a Break

NEWS TIME—Marines of the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division, take time out during an operation to catch up on the latest news in the Sea Tiger, the Marine Corps' paper in Vietnam. The Leathernecks spent 10 days in the area 23 miles south of Da Nang during the operation and killed more than 700 Viet Cong.

(OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO)



Asleep in The Shade

A Marine from the 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, takes advantage of a respite during an operation to stretch a hammock between trees for a siesta.

(Photo by: Cpl. G. N. Bradford)

FLC Opens Self-Service Store

By: LCpl Ron Howell

DA NANG — The credit card buying spree has reached the shores of Vietnam, but unlike the Diner's or Playboy Club plan, the new credit system is solely for Marines in the I Corps area.

Operated by the Force

Mine Incidents Kill 6, Hurt 15 Damage Trucks

PHU BAI — Two Viet Cong mines killed six persons and wounded 15 others, many of them civilians, in mining incidents along Highway One June 8.

The two mines, one estimated to be a booby-trapped 250 pound bomb, severely damaged one civilian truck and caused moderate damage to two Marine vehicles and light damage to two others.

A Marine convoy discovered the civilian truck a short time after it had detonated a 30-pound charge of TNT near a small bridge. The truck was carrying 8,000 pounds of rice and china-ware.

The explosion wrecked the cab, but sandbags on the vehicle's floor protected the driver and one passenger from injury. The Marines had moved the wrecked truck from their path, when the Viet Cong detonated a bomb, buried under the road.

The mine was detonated some 30 meters south of the first incident in an area congested with military and civilian personnel and vehicles.

While the dead and injured persons were cared for by corpsmen, a Marine minesweeping team discovered another 500 pound bomb buried just off the highway another 50 meters away. It was rigged with a blasting cap and detonator cord, to be fired from some distance away. It was disarmed and set aside to be blown by explosive ordnance specialists later.

Marine helicopters from Phu Bai medevaced the casualties to nearby "Alpha" Medical Battalion.

Logistic Command (FLC), the credit buying is handled by the new FLC Self-Service Store.

Catering to all Marines in the area, the self-service store handles between \$8,000 and \$10,000 of business a week and has over \$75,000 worth of merchandise within the store.

Over 400 line items stock the store, ranging from general hardware, office supplies, food service items, cleaning gear, and controlled items.

Designed and initiated jointly by Lt. George L. Begor (Baltimore, Md), operation officer Supply Battalion, and officer in charge of the self-service store, and MSgt Robert Benanti (Miami, Fla.), the store is open for business seven days a week.

Utilizing the regulation supply request form as a credit card, the system was designed to eliminate almost all of the pa-

perwork involved in ordering supplies. The new credit card method allows the individual units to draw the needed supplies, usually those supplies which are most in demand, without going through the process of submitting supply requests.

This plan enables the units to eliminate the time between submitting the supply requests and the actual time it takes to get the supplies to the requesting units.

In most instances, supplies handled by the self-service store are those items which are hard to get, or those items which are most in demand.

Operated by a 10 man crew, the store is a part of Supply Battalion, 1st Force Service Regiment, Force Logistic Command, located 10 miles northwest of Da Nang.



MINE DAMAGE—This civilian truck detonated a Viet Cong mine on Highway One. Neither the Vietnamese driver nor his companion was injured from the explosion, an estimated 30 pound charge of TNT. Sandbags on the floor of the cab protected the two. The truck was carrying an 8,000 pound load of rice.

(Photo by: SSgt. Dan Wisniewski)

Short Rounds

Surprise Party

DA NANG — Cpl. James A. McRoy (Logan, Ill.), a radio operator with the 1st Bn., First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, found himself in the middle of a combat operation 15 miles south of Da Nang on May 29—his 22nd birthday.

When Viet Cong guerrillas attacked the battalion command group late that afternoon, it wasn't the sort of "surprise party" that McRoy enjoyed most. There was plenty of noise and action as the Marines returned fire, but the atmosphere was deadly serious.

"All I could think of was that this is a crazy way to celebrate your birthday," McRoy said.

The VC were driven away after the firefight, and McRoy had not been wounded. In the absence of birthday cake, he ate C-rations.

There were no colorfully-wrapped packages to open but McRoy discovered that coming through the battle unscratched was a welcomed gift.

Burst of Flame

DA NANG — "The platoons were moving toward a small village, and got within 150 meters of a tree line, when the tree line just burst into a flame of gunfire."

LCpl. William W. Mankins, of 4210 Mineral Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C., described the opening of a 12-hour battle June 2 between Marines and North Vietnamese Army troops on Operation Union II, south of Da Nang.

Mankins, an artillery forward observer, was attached to "D" Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, for the operation.

Most of his company was pinned down in open rice paddies during the battle against the entrenched NVA troops.

Mankins joined the company commander moments after the battle began, and started to call in artillery rounds on the enemy positions.

"It wasn't hard at all," Mankins said. "You could give almost any coordinates in the area and be sure of hitting some NVA. They were everywhere."

State Pride

KHE SANH—Marines of "A" Battery, 1st Bn., Thirteenth Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, are certainly proud of their states and that pride is visible throughout the battery area.

"We have 32 state flags," said Capt. John V. Brennan (Fall-river, Mass.). "There are 38 states represented; some just haven't sent them yet. They are on the way, I suppose."

The battery was previously stationed on Hill 55 near Da Nang. The flags flew in the same manner there as they do at this northwestern Marine combat base.

"Their area looks nice, but the men do their jobs and do them well," Brennan remarked. "The spirit of this battery is excellent."

Alpha battery has been in Vietnam since July, 1966. They have supported 3rd and 1st Division Marines in operations against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army regulars.

Togetherness

DA NANG—Two First Marine Regiment Leathernecks have fought in two wars as members of the First Marines.

MSgt. Robert E. Mayville (San Diego, Calif.) is operations chief in the 1st Bn. S-3 section and GySgt. Thomas E. Thompson (Oshkosh, Wisc.),

serves in the S-2 section.

"We were on the same flight to Okinawa in September, 1966," Mayville said, "but we didn't start talking about the past until we were on the plane to Vietnam a little later."

It turned out that both Marines had made the landing at Inchon, Korea, in September of 1950, exactly 16 years earlier. Digging deeper, they discovered that both were then assigned to the same platoon of "H" Co., 3rd Bn.

Upon arrival in Vietnam, they found themselves headed for the First Marines once again. Both were gunnery sergeants then, and both were assigned to rifle companies with the 1st Bn.

For their actions on combat operations with the battalion, Mayville and Thompson each have received Bronze Star Medals.

Reunion

DA NANG — When Marines of "D" Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, were heli-lifted into Operation Union II June 2, the furthest thing from any Marine's mind was a family reunion.

But, a family reunion took place that night when the company moved to set up a defensive position after having gone through an enemy mortar attack.

As "D" Co., moved forward they were joined by "E" Co., 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment.

Cpl. Fred J. Hughes, a forward observer for an 81mm mortar section was greeted by his brother, Steve, 19, both of Jefferson City, Mo.

"We haven't had time to see each other since Union," Fred said, "but we plan to spend the day together at the China Beach recreation center soon."

Fred arrived in Vietnam in August, 1966 and is scheduled to rotate home in three months. Steve enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 1966 and reported to Vietnam last May.

First Time

CHU LAI — "When the first few shots went off it didn't bother me too much. But when they started zinging in over my head I realized they weren't playing games and all I wanted to do was hug the ground." Those were the words of PFC Leonard Ratliff (Atoka, Okla.).

For the young infantrymen joining the 3rd Bn., 21st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the first operation and first time they get fired upon are moments they never forget. They will be fired at many times in their tour of Vietnam, but they always remember the first.

It all started for Ratliff on a three-day search and destroy mission. They were moving through dense jungle which suddenly opened into a rice paddy. Directly across the paddy was a village suspected of being a rice supply base for local Viet Cong.

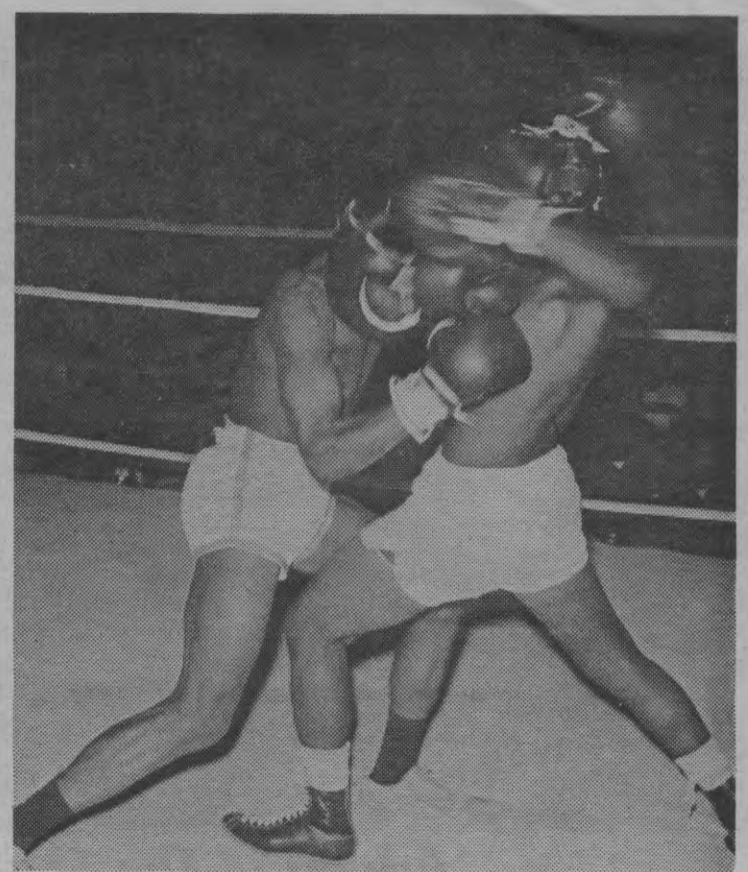
Just as the 3rd Platoon started across the paddy two VC were spotted coming down a trail on the other side. The platoon opened up and the VC shot back. One Charlie was hit immediately and both disappeared into the jungle. A squad searching the area soon discovered the body of the one who had been hit.

"We continued to get light contact and sniper fire all day, but after the initial shock things weren't bad," said Batliff. "I don't think I'll ever get completely used to guys shooting at me, though."



Lots of Luck 'Kid'

Marine Cpl. Charles Allen, Cleveland, Ohio, a member of the Force Logistic Command, receives good luck wishes from RearAdm. John S. Lacey, commander, Naval Support Activity, as Marine Cpl. Oscar DuFrene, Cot Off, La., tapes Allen's hands before his bout during NSA's third monthly boxing "smoker," June 10. Allen went on to cop the third win of the evening for FLC.



Who's Got the Action

Marine Cpl. Alonzo Griffin, Baltimore, Md., a member of the Force Logistic Command, ducks a left jab thrown by John Leverette, Hamilton, Ohio, a sailor of the Naval Support Activity (NSA), in the third round of their bout at NSA's third monthly boxing "smoker" held at the China Beach Gym June 10. Griffin went on to kayo his opponent in the third round.

Servicemen Helping to Sustain Vietnam's Oldest, Proudest Craft

By Cpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI—Marines and other U.S. servicemen stationed in the Hue-Phu Bai area are helping to sustain one of Vietnam's oldest and proudest crafts — lacquer work.

Located within the walls of Hue's Forbidden City, The Vietnam Handicraft School is one of only two such institutions remaining in country. The second is at Saigon.

Lacquer craft is one of the oldest forms of artistic work known to the Orient, but until the late 1950's and early 60's, the industry had fallen on hard times.

Encouraged by the government, the industry recently made a comeback. The school is a popular shopping stop for servicemen visiting Hue.

Nguyen Van Gia, an instructor at the lacquer school on the premises, estimates almost two-thirds of the handicraft center's customers are now Americans.

They shop for some of the finest lacquer-ware to be found in the Orient. Because of the long apprenticeship served by the lacquer craftsmen and the painstaking work put into each piece, the prices are not cheap.

A long, slim lacquered vase standing around 10 inches high

with a delicate painting and highly glossed lacquer would cost about 2,200 piasters.

According to Mr. Gia, it would probably take three months to complete the vase.

Would-be lacquer men begin early. After completing their primary education, a Vietnamese child is sent to the lacquer schools in Hue or Saigon at age 12. For the next three years he will undergo a rigid apprenticeship in all facets of lacquer work from carving through painting to lacquering.

Currently, the school in Hue has some 40 students enrolled. When these Vietnamese finish their training they will either become craftsmen at one of the two government-sponsored centers or branch into his own business.

The craftsmen receive 3,000 piasters a month.

The center produces a wide range of art forms ranging from intricate statues, to vases, jewelry boxes and photographic albums. The most popular items to the buying American are the vases and albums.

Lacquer itself is extracted from the Sumac trees which grow in Cambodia in much the same way that rubber tree sap is tapped.

A craftsman might take five days to carve a piece of wood from a breadfruit tree to the required shape. Then, it is a process of smoothing and lacquering several times and adding a thin coat of fiberglass to the frame.

Because lacquer is always either black or dark brown, a white eggshell mosaic is used for designs and patterns. The eggshells are crushed into minute pieces and then laboriously pieced onto the object in an appropriate design.

By the time a work is finished, Mr. Gia estimated 12 men would have been involved in the process and the object would have been coated some 13 times with lacquer.

World of Sports

Major Leagues

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	42	22	.656	—
Cincinnati	41	28	.594	3 1/2
Chicago	36	28	.563	6
Pittsburgh	34	29	.540	7 1/2
San Francisco	36	32	.529	8
Atlanta	35	33	.515	9
Philadelphia	29	35	.453	13
Los Angeles	28	39	.418	15 1/2
Houston	26	43	.377	18 1/2
New York	22	40	.355	19

Friday Night

Atlanta 12	New York 4
Pittsburgh 4	Cincinnati 2
San Francisco 7	Los Angeles 1
St. Louis 3	Philadelphia 2

Saturday

Chicago 3	Houston 2
(2nd game postponed, darkness).	
St. Louis 2	Philadelphia 1
Los Angeles 2	San Francisco 0
New York 9	Atlanta 1

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	39	25	.609	—
Detroit	36	29	.554	3 1/2
Boston	34	31	.523	5 1/2
Minnesota	33	33	.500	7
Cleveland	33	33	.500	7
California	34	36	.486	8
Baltimore	31	33	.484	8
Kansas City	31	37	.456	10
New York	29	35	.453	10
Washington	30	38	.441	11

Friday Night

California 2	Kansas City 0
Minnesota 1	Chicago 0
Washington 3	Baltimore 2
New York 3	Detroit 1
Boston 8	Cleveland 2

Saturday

Chicago 5	Minnesota 2
Cleveland (O'Donoghue 3-1) at Boston	

Minor Leagues

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

Western Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Spokane	34	32	.515	—
Seattle	34	33	.507	1/2
Tacoma	36	35	.507	1/2
Vancouver	33	33	.500	1
Hawoli	31	36	.463	3 1/2
Portland	31	37	.456	4

Eastern Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	38	29	.567	—
Phoenix	36	32	.529	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	36	33	.522	3
Indianapolis	33	31	.516	3 1/2
Denver	31	33	.484	5 1/2
Tulsa	29	38	.433	9

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Rochester	36	23	.610	—
Toronto	29	25	.537	4 1/2
Richmond	30	29	.508	6
Buffalo	27	27	.500	6 1/2
Columbus	27	29	.482	7 1/2
Toledo	27	30	.474	8
Jacksonville	27	31	.466	8 1/2
Syracuse	23	32	.418	11

TEXAS LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Amarillo	40	25	.615	—
El Paso	36	30	.545	4 1/2
Arkansas	34	31	.523	6
Albuquerque	30	33	.476	9
Dallas-Ft. Worth	29	39	.426	12 1/2
Austin	29	40	.420	13

EASTERN LEAGUE

Eastern Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Binghamton	34	25	.576	—
Waterbury	32	25	.561	1
Pawtucket	27	32	.458	7
Pittsfield	24	31	.436	8

The Leaders

(Through Friday's Games)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Based on 150 at bats.

Player Club	GAB	R	H	Pct.
Yastrzinski Bsn	65	234	42	.338
F.Robinson Bal	64	238	51	.332
Kalene Det	65	226	50	.327
Carew Min	65	250	36	.316
Conigliaro Bsn	44	170	27	.312
Blair Bal	56	184	22	.304
Mincher Cal	65	215	38	.302
Freehan Det	65	213	27	.300
Northrup Det	59	230	28	.290
Petrocelli Bsn	63	223	29	.286

Home Runs

Killebrew, Minnesota, 22; F.Robinson, Baltimore, 21; Yastrzinski, Boston, 17; F.Howard, Washington, 16; Kalene, Detroit, 15.

Runs Batted In

F.Robinson, Baltimore, 58; Killebrew, Minnesota, 56; Kalene, Detroit, 52; Yastrzinski, Boston, 51; Bielecky, Baltimore, 40.

Pitching

7 Decisions

Horlen, Chicago, 8-1, .889; McGlothlin, California, 7-1, .875; Sparmann, Detroit, 7-1, .875; Tiant, Cleveland, 6-1, .857; Lonborg, Boston, 9-2, .818.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Based on 150 at bats.

Player Club	GAB	R	H	Pct.
Clemente Pgh	60	238	45	.357
Staub Htn	56	205	20	.341
McCarver STL	53	186	34	.339
Cepeda STL	59	222	35	.333
Rose Cin	59	238	44	.324
Aaron Atl	64	245	55	.322
Gonzalez Phi	55	174	28	.322
Phillips Chi	62	204	33	.319
Torre Atl	56	205	36	.317
Brock STL	63	288	47	.316

Home Runs

Aaron, Atlanta, 18; Wynn, Houston, 18; Perez, Cincinnati, 15; Brock, St.Louis, 13; Banks, Chicago, 12; Phillips, Chicago, 12; Clemente, Pittsburgh, 12; Williams, Chicago, 12.

Runs Batted In

Wynn, Houston, 53; Aaron, Atlanta, 47; Clemente, Pittsburgh, 47; Perez, Cincinnati, 46; Phillips, Chicago, 45.

Pitching

7 Decisions

Lemaster, Atlanta, 7-1, .875; Queen, Cincinnati, 8-2, .800; Cuellar, Houston, 8-2, .800; Veale, Pittsburgh, 8-2, .800; Hughes, St.Louis, 7-2, .778.

Staff Sergeant Helps

Korean Marines Set Up Air Freight at Chu Lai

DA NANG—SSgt. Ralph H. Files (Rossville, Ga.) offered to help the Korean Marines establish their own air freight terminal at Chu Lai.

His project was to provide Korean passengers at the Chu Lai air freight terminal with quarters. He started by helping to build quarters for the Koreans who were to operate the air freight establishment.

Files helped wherever and whenever he could. He contributed his spare time to helping the Koreans get their passenger terminal operating efficiently. His work earned many friends among the Koreans.

"They are good, hard working people, so the language barrier was no problem. Once they found out how the project was to be accomplished, their desire to get a job done, made it just a matter of time before they had completed their task."

Later, Files had almost forgotten about his assistance to the Koreans. They, however, did not forget the sergeant. On May 31 Files was eating the noon

meal at the Chu Lai messhall when a Korean Marine came in and escorted Files out.

"I didn't even have time to finish my meal. I kept asking what was going on. I got outside and there was a jeep waiting. We drove to the parade ground of the 2nd Blue Dragon Brigade, 20 miles south of Chu Lai."

There, Files was presented a letter of commendation from BrigGen. Yun Sang Kim that read in part: "His professional competence contributed greatly to the effort for peace in Vietnam and strengthened the friendship of the Republic of Korea and the United States of America."



WAGON SWAP — Marine MSgt. William D. Abbott (left) holds a Vietnamese boy's homemade wagon after trading it for a new red wagon. Abbott is working with Amateur Trapshooting Association, in the United States, to supply Vietnamese youngsters with wagons donated by the members of the Association. (Photo by: SSgt. T. Bland)

Master Sergeant Starts 'Operation Red Wagon'

By: SSgt. Ed Brey

CAMP CARROLL — Distinguished international shooter, MSgt. William D. Abbott (Stafford, Va.) has parlayed his close association with the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) into a people-to-people program.

Abbott initiated "Operation Red Wagon" to provide hundreds of red wagons and other articles to Vietnamese school children as incentive awards.

The idea for the operation was planted when he noted several small bedraggled children playing with a pitiful excuse for a wagon while on a jeep patrol. The children were pulling each other on a homemade wooden wagon hardly a foot square. It had been made out of discarded ammunition boxes. Its wheels consisted of the round rubber cushioning used in packing artillery shells.

"Right then," he recalls, "I decided that if I had a little red wagon I'd trade him for it." When he returned to Camp Carroll from the patrol he found a mail order catalogue with just the wagon he wanted and wrote to his wife to get it for him.

Meanwhile tragedy struck and Abbott was called home to attend the funeral of his mother. "I still couldn't get the idea of those children out of my mind, who were born to nothing, pulling a bright red wagon," he said. The idea of being able to provide more than one wagon began to take form.

Abbott has a long and distinguished trapshooting record, having been on two United States world championship teams and an alternate on two others. He won the title of "Distinguished International Shooter" in 1965 at the World meet in Santiago, Chile, by tying for second place high shooter honors. He has been a member of ATA since 1954.

He called his long time acquaintance and president of the ATA, Ralph Taylor, at his home in Keedysville, Md.

Taylor liked the idea and thought that ATA shooters would like the chance to participate. Taylor and other ranking shooters of the ATA had scheduled a charter flight to Reno, Nev., for shooters from Baltimore and Indianapolis.

The get-together proved an appropriate time for Taylor to talk of Abbott's plan. The shooters were enthusiastic and money for 109 wagons was collected on the spot. Later, an editorial in the association's official publication, "Trap and Field", really got things rolling.

Returning to Vietnam last month, Abbott began to get the program in motion. His regimental commander endorsed the project. The civil affairs officer agreed to administer the program and began work with village and hamlet chiefs to create an incentive program whereby the children could earn the wagons. Third Marine Regiment motor transport personnel volunteered to assemble the wagons as they arrived.

The response to "Operation Red Wagon" surpassed anything Abbott had dreamed. With the support of the ATA, the operation is being enlarged to include such items as tricycles, scooters, small dolls, bib overalls, and shower shoes for tiny feet, all of which must be earned by some scholastic or other achievement.

"Operation Red Wagon" has gained momentum in the United States and the last word received by Abbott is that the ATA has collected 500 wagons to be shipped to Vietnamese children.

"We want to show them," said Abbott, "that they can do things to better their own lot. By learning to help themselves, they will help us. By working with children, we can help future generations."

When Abbott received the two wagons he bought he visited a Montagnard refugee village near Cam Lo, ten miles south of the demilitarized zone, and found a youngster with a wagon like the one that first gave him the idea for "Operation Red Wagon." It didn't take much fagling for him to work out a trade.

"The smile on that child's face," said Abbott, "was worth every minute I've spent with this program."

The child asked an accompanying interpreter why the American should trade such a beautiful wagon for his makeshift one. The answer: The wagon is being sent to ATA headquarters where it will go on display.

Sea Tiger Spotlight On:

'W' Btry., 2nd Bn., 11th Marines

By: SSgt. T. D. Stephens

DA NANG—The sound of "Fire Mission" starts the Marines of "Whiskey" Battery, 2nd Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division scrambling for the gun pits at Hill 29, 25 miles south of here.

The officer whose job it is to give the word to fire the guns heads for the "Exec Pit", and the Fire Directional Control center comes to life.

Fire commands are flung back and forth across the tent as the radio man relays the coordinates, range, nature of target, and a dozen other things to the other Marines in the tent. Positions are checked and double checked. Range is plotted and checked.

And out of all the seeming confusion comes an order which is passed to the "Exec Pit" and on to the gunners standing by the guns.

"Battery Adjust"—all four of the guns will be used.

"Shell HE"—high explosive ordnance.

"Charge Seven"—long range powder charge.

"Fuze Quick"—detonates on impact.

"Battery One Round"—each gun fires one shell.

"Deflection One Zero One Four"—direction of fire.

"Quadrant Four Seven Niner"—range.

Even as the commands are being repeated in each gun pit, the Marines are in action. One has the powder in hand; others pick up the 96 pounds of steel

and TNT ready to place it to the gun; two others hold the rammer staff ready to seat the shell in the chamber.

As the last command is given the shell is rammed home, the powder charge is shoved in and the breach is closed and locked.

The gunners call back to the pit, "Gun One, Safe and Ready; Gun Two, Safe and Ready; Gun Three, Safe and Ready; Gun Four, Safe and Ready."

As the last gun checks in, the command comes down to "stand by."

And, at last, "FIRE!"

Another mission has been fired and four more of the 1,699 shells fired by Whiskey Battery in support of the Fifth Marine Regiment on Operation Union II were on their way.

The battery was "handed" the four 155mm Howitzers shortly before deploying on Operation Union I which began in late

April. Union II started May 26.

"The men have come along fine," said Capt. Denver D. Scott of 790 West Morgan, Marshall, Mo., commanding officer of the unit. "They handle those guns like pros."

The battery is part of the 2nd Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment serving artillery support to the Fifth Marine Regiment.

'They Hit Us with Everything'

DA NANG—"They hit us with everything," said LCpl. Gilbert L. Pagan (Long Beach, Calif.).

Pagan's unit, "F" Co., 2nd Bn., Fifth Marines engaged a North Vietnamese Army Regiment.

"I fired all 24 rounds for my M-79 immediately," said Pagan. "Then all I could do was lay low; there was intense fire covering the entire paddy."

A Marine crawled by Pagan checking dead and wounded. They started to crawl back to their lines.

"The last several hundred yards we just got up and ran," said Pagan. "I figured I'd rather get shot than captured."

Cultural Centers Tour Helps Marines to Understand Vietnamese

By: Cpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI—"This, gentlemen, is the Everlasting Longevity Palace, the residence of former Queen Mothers of Vietnam. It was built in 1803 with all the facilities for privacy, public ceremonies and daily prayers.

"Notice the preponderance of the red and gold colors and the shape of the dragon, which represents power to the Vietnamese."

GySgt. Daniel J. Corey (Oceanside, Calif.) rattled off a list of interesting points to the 20 Marine officers and senior Staff NCOs clustered around in the Palace, which is at the center of the seven-walled Forbidden City in Hue.

"Later in the tour we shall see the Palace of Full Peace or

Throne Room. You will notice the two different level courtyards. The higher courtyard was for the higher ranking mandarins and the lower courtyard for the lower officials.

"The administrative mandarins stood on the left and the military on the right.

"Note, too, the Ngo Mon, or Noontime Gate, immediately to your front," he said. "Above the gate you will notice the Ngu Phung Building which used to house the royal guard. Below this are five structures built side-by-side. Standing atop this, one can see nine separate structures."

Although the tour, encompassing many of the major cultural centers of former Vietnamese civilizations, had a superficial

"Tourist" value it was designed for an entirely different purpose.

"We are trying to educate Marines to the knowledge that Vietnam has an ancient and proud civilization and culture," 1stLt. Robert E. Mattingly (Baltimore, Md.) said.

Mattingly, a graduate of Columbia University, heads the "personal response" program in the office of civil affairs, 3rd Marine Division.

The afternoon tour of Hue is a climax to a two-day course conducted by the civil affairs office each month for officers and staff NCOs.

Mattingly said each unit, battalion-size and above, in the division sends at least one representative each month to the course.

They undergo two days of talks and visits by various Marine, civilian and Vietnamese instructors on Vietnamese history, culture, religion and armed forces.

"Our objective is not to whitewash the Vietnamese," Lt. Mattingly said. "It is purely informative. We want to make the average Marine aware of his environment."

The personal response program was started in February and thus far the response has been "generally good."

"Most Marines visiting Hue and Forbidden City for the first time find it difficult to believe that Hue is in the same country as the villages and hamlets they have been used to along the DMZ or in the jungles," Lt. Mat-

tingly said. "They go away quite impressed."

Although the monthly classes spearhead the personal response program, Mattingly and his staff make regular excursions to the field to address units there.

They also instruct Combined Action Company recruits during their indoctrination courses.

"In the field I find we get the best reaction from units involved in close combat situations such as recon," the civil affairs officer said.

"We try to instruct them that this is a different type of war; a revolutionary war. It is a people's war. The people are going to win this war. That is the whole personal response program. People."

Marine Returns From Battle To Find His Father Waiting

PHU BAI—Marines returning from operations against enemy forces in Vietnam look forward to many things. Paramount among these are a hot meal, letters from home, a bath and change to dry clothes, and a well-deserved rest.

PFC Cass W. Bastain (Downey, Calif.) thought of all these things when he returned to Phu Bai after a four-day fight against the Viet Cong forces.

As he disembarked from the troop helicopter, and reported to the command post, the least expected thing happened to him—he looked out of the hut and there, waiting for him, was his father.

The two embraced—a civilian father and a battle-weary Marine—in the midst of a war in Vietnam. It was their first meeting in nine months.

The elder Bastain started looking for his son five days ago.

He knew Cass was with the 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, and that he was in the Phu Bai area. But he did not know just exactly where.

The father, Harrell D. Bastain (Downey), works for Quinton Engineering, Ltd., in Saigon, as a cost engineer under contract to the U.S. Navy.

The last time he saw his son was when he dropped him off at the Los Angeles Recruiting Station. Since then the senior Bastain has been working in Vietnam.

His search to meet his son, who arrived in Vietnam three months ago, started with Marine headquarters in Da Nang. There, officials told him he might find his son at Phu Bai.

Bastain got off an airplane at the Phu Bai base in the midst

of troop activity. He watched Marine helicopters taking off and coming in.

Little did he realize that his son was in one of the helicopters, taking off for a landing against the Viet Cong just four miles away.

The Third Marine Division started a search for the Marine and discovered he was a member of a rifle company in the assault group.

It was then a matter of waiting until the operation was over before the father could see his son.

During the wait he visited Marine units on the base, was explained the workings of a Marine operation in combat, and watched from the flight line as Marine jets screamed through the sky, bombing Viet Cong positions and flying in support of his son's battle.

He talked with Marine leaders and saw first hand how Marines live and fight.

The father and son spent two days together at this base following the operation, bringing each other up-to-date on their travels

in the Far East.

Then, once more, young Bastain packed up his gear and said goodbye to his father. He piled on a truck, along with Marines of his unit, and moved north to fight again.

His father caught an airplane heading south, thankful of the chance to see his son again and eager for another meeting.

25 VC—

(Continued From Page 1)

machine-gun equipped transport plane, was on the scene dropping flares and raking the enemy side of the road with automatic fire.

"We were very lucky," commented Hinkle. "We caught the VC completely by surprise, and cut them down before they knew what hit them. Most of them took off running right after we opened up."

The group was reinforced with another squad and covered by artillery fire for the rest of the night. In the morning, they captured a wounded VC, who had crawled a short distance away.

The two Marines wounded in the fight were both non-serious.

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.

Operation Arizona Begins With Air Strikes, Leaflets

DA NANG—Air strikes and thousands of leaflets floating over the countryside, marked the beginning of Operation Arizona, northwest of An Hoa, June 14.

Elements of the 1st and 3rd Bns., Seventh Marines, were lifted into the zone by a wave of helicopters led by LtCol. Ural Shadrick (Jacksonville, Fla.).

Prior to the heli-lift, 105 and 155mm howitzers pounded the area followed by air strikes of Crusader, Skyhawk and Phantom jets from Marine Aircraft Groups-11, 12 and 13.

While the landing zone preparation was underway, thousands

of leaflets were dropped over the operational site, informing civilians to clear the vicinity of the planned operation. The leaflets told of two refugee and safe centers where the Vietnamese would be cared for.

Then helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262 and 165 transported troops into two zones.

On their approach the aircraft received sporadic sniper fire from ridgelines, and heavy machinegun fire from nearby enemy occupied structures. None were hit during the initial assault.



Machinegun Gives Cover

Two Marines with an M-60 machinegun set up their gun to give cover to members of "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, as they search out a village while on Operation Arizona, 14 miles southwest of Da Nang.



FAREWELL — Harrell Bastain, of Downey, Calif., says goodbye to his son as Cass departs with his unit following a two-day reunion. Young Bastain's battalion was trucked to a position near the DMZ to continue fighting Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces.

(Photo by: Cpl. E. L. Cole)

'Real Professionals'

Hand-Picked ARVN Co. Doing Battalion-Size Job

QUANG NGAI—A hand-picked company is doing a battalion-size job here.

It's testing enemy fortifications, acquiring information from natives, analyzing Viet Cong strengths and movements, and having a vital effect on the outcome of 2nd ARVN Division operations.

The unit is the 2nd Division Reconnaissance Company, a unit of Regular Army, Airborne, Ranger and Montagnard troops, headed by a 14-year-service veteran, Capt. Che-Quang-Thao.

In addition to reconnaissance, the unit performs missions ranging from convoy escort duty to providing security for key division areas and visiting dignitaries.

It is also used in a strike role. Reconnaissance unit members may be deposited in VC territory in blocking positions or as a reaction force. They move by helicopter or armored personnel carrier.

SSgt. Harold D. Byerly, an advisor to the unit, has a lot to say about it.

"These soldiers are real professionals," he said. "They're good on weapons and tactics and the majority are quite intelligent."

"About 40 per cent of our unit's members have been decorated for bravery, and all are hand-picked. They are also extremely good on night operations," the Erie, Pa. native said.

He pointed out that the information the unit gets back to division headquarters may well determine how an operation is conducted.

Occasionally, company members work with 16 man Marine reconnaissance outfits. Half of the team is composed of Ma-

rines while the others are Vietnamese.

Another advisor to the unit, 1stLt. William Mozingo, of Mobile, Ala., pointed out that the unit is one of only two reconnaissance companies in the five northernmost provinces of South Vietnam.

"The unit had been beefed up for its own security," Lt. Mozingo said, "which makes it rather a unique organization."

"Capt. Thao and the others are doing an outstanding job."

The two advisors aren't doing a bad job either. Both the lieutenant and sergeant have been awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Stars.

Byerly, has had his hat shot off three times and taken seven bullet holes in his uniform . . . and the two are averaging 25 days in the field plus about 10-15 operations a month.

"It's units like this," Mozingo said, "that make one happy to be associated with the Vietnamese effort. I'm proud to serve with these men for they deserve a lot of credit for what they're doing."

Command Change

CHU LAI — LtCol. Stanley A. Herman (Alexandria, Va.) assumed command of the 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn., June 12.

He relieved LtCol. Thomas I. Gunning, (29 Palms, Calif.) who has been transferred to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro, Calif.

LtCol. Herman previously commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron-1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.