

the word to spread out and find a runaway pig."

Laughing, the Marines shouted the order down the lines. Minutes later, the unmistakable squeal of a frightened pig was heard over the clatter of the helicopters. A Marine walked along a paddy dike toward the complaining woman and the S-2 officer. In his right hand he carried his rifle; in his left hand he grasped a small screaming pig by its rear legs. The woman greeted the pig as if it were her child and returned to the group of refugees. The S-2 officer shook his head and walked away.

OPERATION  
COLORADO

By late afternoon, the last Vietnamese family was evacuated. Hotel Company flew to another objective.

Three days later, Gunnery Sergeant Constande and Staff Sergeant Wysomirski were killed in action.

- - - - -

That same day (7 August 1966), the 1st Battalion of the 5th Marines dropped by helicopters into assigned objectives. Their area of operations lay some 3,000 meters to the east of the valley where the 2d Battalion was evacuating refugees. Charlie Company was helilifted into a small valley hit the previous night by a B-52 strike.

As usual, the zone was hit by air and artillery strikes before the 160-man company landed. The helicopters whirled down and the Marines jumped into the waist-deep rice paddies and waded toward the surrounding tree lines, staying in their heliteams. Once out of the paddies, the platoon sergeants sorted out their respective platoons, while the platoon commanders oriented themselves on their maps, not an easy process with a scale of 1:50,000. The company was twisted around the paddies in a jagged circle.

The Marines had set in a tight defensive perimeter in less than three minutes. The procedure they followed was well established; they had done it dozens of times, and, like most other times, this time they had encountered no resistance.

"Hell," growled one Marine, "it's just going to be another hot walk in the sun."

First Lieutenant Marshall (Buck) Darling studied his map carefully. Satisfied he had located his position exactly, he reported by radio to battalion headquarters and called a meeting of his platoon commanders. The company would sweep east up the mile-long valley with a platoon on either side of the main trail and one in reserve. He gave the first platoon two scout dog teams and kept an engineer attachment with company headquarters.

Before the company could move, the engineers had to destroy two boobytraps on the trail at the edge of the landing zone. Both traps had been plainly marked to warn the villagers and the markers (three bamboo poles placed around the mines in a triangular fashion) were still in place when the Marines arrived. One was an explosive charge buried under a pile of loose earth--the other a scooped-out section of the trail studded with bamboo stakes and cleverly camouflaged. With demolitions, the engineers quickly disposed of both obstacles.

First Lieutenant Arthur Blades attached a scout dog and handler team to both his first and second squads. The platoon moved forward to search the scattered huts. The area was poor. Most dwellings were small, one room huts with hard-dirt floors, mud and bamboo walls, and straw roofs. Nearly all contained deep bomb shelters. From past experience, the Marines knew chances were slight that enemy soldiers would hide in those holes. When Marines were on large offensive operations, the VC, unless cornered, fled rather than fought. Only stragglers would go to ground in exposed areas. The German Shepherd dogs enabled the Marines to move swiftly. The villagers rarely emerged from their hiding places when the Marines or even the interpreter yelled at them. But one low growl worked wonders. Cave after cave was emptied in seconds. Still the search yielded nothing--only frightened women and children.

Blades and his platoon were disappointed. They were spoiling for a fight and thoroughly exasperated with the situation. Nevertheless, the platoon commander did not allow his private opinions to influence his tactical decisions. Throughout the long and empty afternoon he yelled at his squad leaders to keep contact with each other, scolded his troops for bunching up, and insisted his flankers beat through the undergrowth and not drift into a single column. The sun sapped the Marines and gradually the pace slackened. After a few hours the dogs showed signs of fatigue and overheating. Blades prodded his men to stay alert. To an observer, he pointed out with particular pride the leadership his squad leaders were showing.

"Look at them," he said, "two are lance corporals and one just made corporal. But I wouldn't want anybody else. They know their people and work hard. They're real hardnoses."

In the third hour of the search, the Marines found a house hidden in a tree grove which contained VC khaki uniforms, medical supplies, and U.S. water cans. The material judged of intelligence value was saved; the rest, as well as the house, was burned.

In the late afternoon, Darling reported to battalion that the valley contained no enemy force. He requested a helicopter pickup. Battalion concurred.

800-866-2012  
X225

10/0 - [unclear] [unclear]  
[C.I.A.]

55TH  
APT

16 -  
OFFICE OF THE SULLIVAN OPERATOR  
FALLS CHURCH

[unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear] T.O.E.  
[unclear]

STATESIDE  
US

SPITZ

INFORMATION  
NETWORK

freedom  
DIFFICULTY

0279  
BILL

326991  
COA

12  
13

TRACKING

862959-90  
IP

25  
2

802278-00  
MIR BARBARA  
M-40  
1.00/ea

116  
X225  
802278-00

DUC FREEMAN  
(317) 453-0702  
RAIRO RACE  
94

X263

BRITISH  
10 MAN -  
RECAUSE  
CONCEPT

- YARRINGTON -

MIKE  
REAGAN.]

1ST EXPERIMENTAL.]

[QUANTICO.] [MARINE CORPS.]

PRIVATE ] FATHER WAS NEVER WAS.]

MOS- INFANTRY.

[80%] 14 days/ →

~~CIVILIANS // 60TH/~~

~~[VOLUNTEERED.]~~

MINE & BOAST MAPS

150 VOLUNTEERED.

NO PRIOR COMBAT EXPERIENCE

PURE EXPERIMENT AS THEY COULD GET.

NO POLITICAL & IT WAS KNOWN.

~~OILINAWA. / 14TH / 2 dead.~~

~~WOUNDED TWICE. / /~~

1ST. / 60TH. /

CAMP NE SCHE.  
69 BLACK

TENSION UNIQUE  
IN RESPONSE.

NEVER  
MADE  
CLEAR.

SIGNIFICANT.

VC BOUNTY ↑ [I-CORPS]

LA. GLOBAL. 2 FEET.

MONTH 9 HALF - ORIGINALLY.

MONTH AND

PVT DOWN ADJUSTED TO CAMPS  
HA YES.

ARMY. - VET.

② LATE TUBER HOSPITAL