



NO LAUGH-IN MATTER—1st Marine Division tanks take up positions against the enemy on Operation Linn River, south of Da Nang. Marines met sporadic enemy resistance. (Photo by 1st Lt. Crane Davis)



SEA TIGER



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February 28, 1969

Fightin' TFY Command Changes Hands

9th Nails Reds Lose 1,825 To 1st Div

352 NVA

DONG HA — Leathernecks of the 9th Marines, 1st Marine Division, striking into the heart of the enemy's logistical center northwest of the Ashau Valley, have accounted for 352 North Vietnamese soldiers killed and 134 enemy weapons captured. Now in its fifth week, Operation Dewey Canyon has stirred the proverbial hornet's nest and the multi-battalion force headed by Col. Robert H. Barrow (St. Francisville, La.) is meeting a determined enemy.

One company from the regiment's 2nd Bn., in two separate encounters, killed 41 of the enemy. In one engagement, after receiving sniper fire from an enemy

(Continued on Page 12)

By LCpl. Art Kibat
AN HOA — "I am looking forward to the continued, hard-driving performance of Task Force Yankee," said BGen. Samuel Jaskilka (McLean, Va.), upon taking command of the task force (TFY) composed of elements of the 3rd and 5th Marines, Feb. 14.

Jaskilka relieved BGen. Ross T. Dwyer (Arlington, Va.). Dwyer has been reassigned to III Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters in Da Nang.

Dwyer commended all units involved for their performance with TFY since it was formed on Nov. 27, 1968. He emphasized TFY's accomplishments during Operation Taylor Common.

Since Dec. 7, 1968, the multi-battalion operation has hammered away at the enemy and

DA NANG—First Division Marines, air and artillery cut a swath through enemy territory during the week of Feb. 11-17, killing 112.

The action took place in 1st Division's TAOR, primarily on Operation Taylor Common, a multi-battalion thrust in the mountainous jungle terrain west and southwest of An Hoa.

Infantrymen of the 26th Marines directed air strikes on an NVA force of unknown size Feb. 16, after the enemy opened up with automatic weapons fire from a tree line. The 1st Marine Air Wing Phantoms accounted for eight NVA dead.

The same day, elements of the 7th Marines killed 16 NVA, well fortified in trenches and bunkers, and engaged an NVA platoon in open fighting. The Marines called for artillery support, killing 14 of the enemy.

Leatherneck and South Vietnamese forces on Taylor Common, now in its 9th week, brought the total number of enemy killed to more than 1,800.

his supplies in the flatlands and in the mountains.

Although Marines and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers killed 1,825 communists during the first nine

weeks of Taylor Common, the biggest blow to the enemy has been his loss of strongholds and almost uncountable caches of equipment and food.

One hundred and eighty-four

complexes containing 1,276 bunkers, 1,456 huts, 17 tunnel networks, 7 medical sites, 2 detention camps and 14 command posts have been found by elements of TFY during the operation.

If communist troops still in the area wanted to start a large scale battle their best bet for supplies would be to check with TFY. Its units have confiscated 1,000, individual and 75 crew-served weapons along with 418,286 rounds of ammunition, ranging from land mines to small arms.

Hungry enemy troopers will have to remove the hard shell from their rice by hand because the huge rice husking machine they once used in their mountain hideaway is now the property of TFY.

Many refugee families in the An Hoa Basin have been eating better lately. The 101 hogs captured by Marines are now at the Duc Duc refugee camp. Over 198 tons of food, the majority of it rice, have been confiscated and distributed to needy Vietnamese families.

Seven enemy medical sites housed over 150 lbs of bandages, 50 lbs of drugs and numerous amounts of surgical equipment.

Items such as field phones, typewriters, military radios, satchel charges, canteens, bows and arrows, cross bows, spears and maps make up just a fraction of the 4,449 miscellaneous items captured so far during the operation.

The 10,000 South Vietnamese piasters found during Taylor Common has gone to help pay the South Vietnamese civilians working at the An Hoa Combat Base.

Many North Vietnamese soldiers will have a long wait until their next payday unless they go to TFY headquarters and claim some of the two million North Vietnamese piasters captured by Marines.

NVA: All's Amiss; Ammo Missing

By Cpl. Bob Partain

CON THIEN—The Marine helicopter touched down near Con Thien and eight Marines wearing jungle utilities, their faces painted with camouflage paint to blend with the rugged terrain, scurried out of the helicopter and headed for the dense underbrush and cover.

They were on their own. Their mission: find the enemy and his arms caches.

The eight-man team from the 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. did just that.

"The first sign of the enemy came just after the helicopter had put us down," recalled Cpl. Ken B. Williams (Birmingham, Ala.). "As the chopper took off, the pilot spotted North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers in

(Continued on Pages 6,7)



Three of four enemy 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns captured by 3rd Recon Bn. Marines. (Other photos on Pages 6, 7)

And Nary a Horse in Sight

Grunt Is a Marine What Groans

By GySgt. John E. Conick

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — He calls it "humping." If you haven't tried "humping," ask a Marine rifleman—a "grunt." He'll tell you about it.

"Humping" is an everyday occurrence south of the Demilitarized Zone within the 3rd Marine Division. After assault landings from helicopters, it is up to the Leatherneck infantryman to stalk the hills and search for "Charlie"—the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldier.

The origin of the words "grunt" and "hump" becomes obvious as a Marine "saddles up," or straps on his gear. The equipment is loaded around his waist and on his back.

Back packs, carrying all the things needed to sustain life and a few luxuries, contain sundry items from a toothbrush to an inflatable air mattress.

In the pack will be up to five days rations. Although designed to give nourishment, an experienced Marine will supplement the rations with hot sauce, onions or whatever else may enhance the taste of pre-cooked foods. Also included within the pack are his "snoopy blanket," (a camouflaged nylon cover), socks, poncho, rain gear, and shaving equipment.

Strung around his chest may be bandoleers of ammunition while his cartridge belt contains more pouches of ammo. Also hanging from his belt are canteens containing almost a quart of water each.

Regulations normally require two canteens, but the field Marine usually carries at least four.

Other items include rifle cleaning equipment, gas mask, first aid packet, and entrenching tools to dig a foxhole.

Then there is still more equipment placed on the Marine's body. His rifle, smoke or fragmentation grenades, flak jacket and helmet. Radios for instant communications, parts of mortars and ammunition for the mortars are also carried.

The weight?

No one has stood still long enough to determine how much this assortment of gear weighs but the average Marine would gladly lighten the load if he could.

Experts have made estimates of sixty to eighty pounds, about one-third of the man's body weight.

No two Marines carry the same equipment, but each Leatherneck would testify that his load must weigh at least two hundred pounds. He would also tell you that he is carrying the heaviest load in his company.

Day in and day out, obstacles are placed before him. The long slanting slopes of ridge lines, frequently wet and slippery; jagged mountain cliffs; dense jungle growth and trails that twist and turn every few feet. To these natural obstacles the enemy has added mines, poison punji stakes and booby traps in many forms.

But the leatherneck continues to march.

He calls it "humping."

Civilian Clothing Permitted

All personnel will be permitted to wear civilian clothing on R&R aircraft (including leave) destined for all R&R sites except Hong Kong and Taipei. If you're heading for either of these two sites, you must wear "appropriate authorized service uniforms."

The change became effective Feb. 15.

But don't throw any parties yet, guys. The following rules also apply:

Civilian clothes may be worn at the R&R processing center.

There will be no mixing of "distinctive military uniform items" with civilian clothes. Military "low quarter" or dress shoes may be worn.

And we quote: "Personnel departing on R&R aircraft, whether in uniform or civilian attire, carry with them the responsibility of representing the military in the eyes of the public; dress must be suitable to the occasion and must not bring discredit upon the United States."

Last but not least, the following standards of civilian attire will be adhered to:

Shirts — dress shirts and sport shirts are acceptable. Unacceptable are sweat shirts, athletic shirts, shirts with printed novelty slogans, and white or camouflage colored T-shirts normally worn as undergarments. Only shirts with a squared bottom may be worn outside the trousers.

Slacks may be worn. Unacceptable are bluejeans, shorts, cotton khaki uniform trousers.

Footgear and socks must be worn. Civilian shoes, military low quarters, tennis shoes/sneakers and sandals may be worn. Unacceptable are boots, shower shoes and other generally unacceptable footwear.

All clothing must be clean and in good condition. The wearer should present a good appearance within the guidelines set above.

3/27 Officers Hold Reunion

Officers of the 3rd Bn., 27th Marines will hold a reunion on March 28, 1969 at Camp Pendleton. Officers in-country who will be able to attend should contact Lt. Col. Tullis Woodham, III Marine Amphibious Force G-1 section, by any means available.

Editorial

Never Too Late To Learn

If you dropped out of high school before getting your diploma, you should investigate the possibility of finishing school while still in the service. Or at least acquire a high school diploma or certificate through the General Educational Development (GED) tests.

You might have dropped out of formal education, but keep in mind that the education process goes on. True, the "bush" of Vietnam makes it a bit incon-

venient for most of us, but chances are you still have some time on your enlistment to serve in the States after your tour is over.

Here is where GED comes in; these tests measure the level of education one has acquired, either formally or through informal self-education and intellectual growth. The emphasis in the GED tests is to measure your ability to think clearly, to interpret, to comprehend and to evaluate. They will determine whether you have the equivalent of a high school education.

The high school GED tests at

present consist of five parts: correctness and effectiveness of expression, social studies, natural sciences, interpretation of literary materials and general mathematical ability.

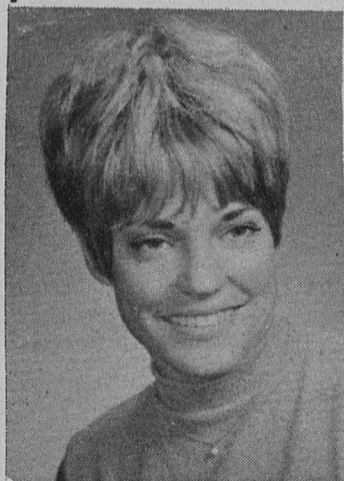
The Commission on Accreditation of Service Experience has recommended minimum passing scores acceptable for civilian and military use. This recommendation is of an advisory nature, however, and does not guarantee that a school or state department of education will grant a diploma or equivalency certificate on the basis of the GED test. Each state establishes its own standard for the

granting of diplomas or equivalency certificates.

The Commission's recommended scores are, however, accepted by all services and most civilian establishments as equivalent to high school graduation. In the case of those who desire to continue their education, some business and trade schools will accept the GED tests as a basis for taking an entrance examination.

If you do not have a high school diploma, the GED tests might be that "knock of opportunity" you have been waiting for and a broad avenue to better things. (AFPS)

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Hey Guys, Enough!!!

We don't usually publish photos of our Sea Tiger correspondents but this occasion warrants special attention.

All of the 130 Marines who wrote to Terry Cookley, Box 499, Colona, Ill. and asked for a picture, please take notice. Marines, this is Terry (above). She says she deeply appreciates the letters and either she or her friends will answer all, but she didn't have enough pictures to go around.

Whew!!!

Pump Gear To Grunts

FSLG-B's Super Supply

By LCpl. R. K. Nystrom

QUANG TRI—In Vietnam's northernmost reaches, just below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Supply Co., Force Logistic Support Group Bravo (FSLG-B), is the pulsating heart that pumps essential combat gear to more than 45,000 Marines and Army personnel.

Supplies reach the company from Da Nang by three modes of transportation: ship, aircraft, and truck convoy.

Issued on arrival or stored for use at a future date, all combat gear passes through Supply Co. personnel at Dong Ha or Quang Tri Combat Bases. It's a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week job for the less than 600 men — the pace changing only as a result of bad weather and bulging or contracting supply channels.

"There is no dollars and cents assessed value for Supply Co. Cost Accounting is handed at another level of support. We deal in requirements, not worth. We work directly with the men we support — face to face," said LtCol. T.E. Dolan (407E Columbia St., Falls Church, Va.), CO of Supply Co.

Supplies from food to ammunition, antibiotics to tank tracks, and rat poison to sand bags, are divided into classes: I-rations, II-household, III-fuel, IV-field fortifications, and V-ammunition.

Supply Co. can easily be compared to a huge shopping center in the United States.

"LEATHERNECK SQUARE"

Currency is an IBM requisition card in multiple copies — a kind of military credit card. There are no brand names, no store window displays, no sales, no loss-leaders, no specials — just a Federal Stock Number (ESN) and a military description: Pie Filling, Cherry, FSN-8940-616-0227, or Battery, Dry BA-200/U, FSN-6135-050-3280.

Quite unlike the colorful assortment of commodities filling shopping center shelves, almost everything is colored a drab green and comes boxed in plywood or in waterproof containers.

LACKING A FANCY FRONT

"Dong Ha Super Market" cov-

ers more than 10 acres — it's best known as the rations dump. Durable commodities such as ketchup, canned goods, and C-rations, are stored outside. Reefers house perishables like meats, milk and lettuce. Last month more than 76 million pounds of food were issued.

Nearby, the combat bakery turns out 7,200 loaves of bread daily and bakes cakes for special occasions like Thanksgiving and Christmas. Two men produce more than 1,930 gallons of ice cream every month at the ice cream plant next door. Near the canned goods section, Class B, Open Storage, is located the Navy Drug Store. Here more than 575 different items are stored. CWO J.R. Kanavel (Hubert, N.C.) calls them "emergency items only." Penicillin and rabies vaccine are most often called for.

CLASS II AND IV, INC.

The largest and most complex section of "Leatherneck Shopping Square" is Class II and IV. Within thousands of boxes and on hundreds of feet of shelving in Class II are stored almost any conceivable item needed by a Marine in or out of combat. Rifle cleaning patches, ball point pens, cleaning brushes, paper plates, tires, mimeograph paper are just a few of the hundreds of items kept in stock.

Just recently, Supply Co. set up what is called a Remote Storage Activity (RSA). This is a step in the direction of "complete" automation. It took Class II's men 30 days to change over from their previous manual sys-

tem to "mechanized" management by computer. Although the present system includes only 300 basic, combat essential items, future potential is projected to incorporate up to 6,000 different items.

Steel engineering stakes, sandbags and concertina wire are the most sought after Class IV commodities.

MEN'S WEAR DEPARTMENT

Although this section lacks a variety of colors and styles, it does provide all sizes of clothing to keep a Marine clothed in combat. Just in jungle utilities alone, more than 20 different items are stocked in 100 various

sizes — or can be obtained within a reasonable length of time.

Regular Stateside uniforms are stocked to replace a Marine's worn or lost gear. More than 200 separate items and sizes of utility and khaki uniforms are kept in stock. Socks and hats compose almost half of Clothing's inventory. Dress uniforms can be issued, but only on special order.

DUST BOWL SERVICE STATION

There are hundreds of vehicles and aircraft constantly on the move in northern I Corps. To keep fuel tanks full, more than 80 men maintain Supply Co.'s petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) section. Ground aviation fuel is stored in 10,000-gallon rubber bladders. Fuel is also stockpiled in 55-gallon drums. Lubricants for M-16 rifles and hydraulic fluid for 175mm guns, plus a complete compliment of engine oils line warehouse shelves.

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3rd Div. Marines Wax Rich

By GySgt. Gus Apsitis

DONG HA—A total of 205 enemy soldiers were killed in January by 3rd Marine Division infantrymen as they continued to engage the enemy and search for his base and supply camps throughout the northernmost sector of South Vietnam.

In all, during January, 3rd Marine Division infantrymen located and destroyed 978 enemy bunkers and fortifications and found more than 200 different items of NVA equipment and supplies.

Large ammunition caches were unearthed that included more than 77,000 small arms rounds, more than 3,000 various size mortar rounds, 812 mines and grenades, and 110 weapons, including automatic and semi-automatic rifles, pistols and several mortars.

Some of the other enemy items captured in the field included more than 66,000 pounds of rice and one rice grinding machine, one rice grinding machine, stoves and various cooking utensils, and one NVA flag.

1/7 Cleans House In 'Dodge City'

By Sgt. Gary Clark

DA NANG — It's a shattering defeat and still return to the same area for more, but that is what's facing the 7th Marines in the "Dodge City" area, 12 miles southwest of here.

The regiment's 1st and 2nd Bns. recently joined units of the 1st, 5th, and 26th Regiments in Operation Meade River, which succeeded in clearing "Dodge City" at cost of more than 1,000 enemy soldiers killed. Now, a little more than a month after the operation ended, enemy soldiers are again attempting to infiltrate the area.

Still, the price the enemy pays for the infiltration is high. Every day 1st Marine Division patrols and ambushes catch units infiltrating into the area and exact a heavy toll in enemy soldiers and weapons.

Three NVA soldiers were accounted for by men of "A" Co., 1st Bn., 7th Marines in the area recently. With the company at that time was LCpl. Frank Hernandez (6013 Hudson Ave., West New York, N.Y.).

"My platoon had been searching an area in Dodge City when we became pinned down by enemy machinegun fire from a treeline. We called in air strikes and artillery on the enemy position," Hernandez said, "but it was too dark to attempt an attack on the treeline, so the Marines took night defensive positions and waited for morning."

"At first light," continued Hernandez, "we assaulted the treeline and moved through it to a river. Although we met no resistance in the trees, we did catch incoming AK-47 fire from the other side of the river."

"We fired into the area, crossed the stream and made a search."

The bodies of three North Vietnamese soldiers were found in graves on the other side of the river, apparently casualties from the air and artillery strikes the day before.

"We also found huts, bunkers and a tunnel complex the NVA had built. We removed some NVA uniforms in them and the engineers destroyed the complex."



ENEMY DETERRENT COMES IN COILS—Concertina wire is offloaded at Supply Co.'s open storage lot at Quang Tri Combat Base. The new "razor band" wire is used to protect field outposts against enemy ground action.

(Photo by LCpl. Roger K. Nystrom)

Underwater Security for Bridge

Limey Becomes Diver With Marines

By LCpl. T.J. Hansen

DA NANG — London Bridge has fallen down but the III Marine Amphibious Force Bridge stands strong, thanks to the efforts of Londoner Sid Ellis.

Sgt. Sidney A. Ellis, a former resident of the London suburb of Hounslow, is currently serving as a scuba diver with "C" Co., 1st Military Police Bn., Force Logistic Command (FLC). The Marine security unit protects the strategic III MAF bridge against enemy assaults above and below the surface of the Han River.

As a link between Da Nang, Vietnam's second largest city, and infantry, supply and command units to the east and southeast of the Han River, the bridge is a prime target for enemy probes and attacks. To insure maximum security, Sgt. Ellis and his team of divers patrol below the river's surface, checking the bridge and inland waterways for explosives, hidden underwater caves and weapons caches.

To conduct their sub-surface

operations the divers have set up their headquarters within the shadows of the bridge.

"When I arrived in Vietnam over a year ago, we worked out of battalion headquarters near the Da Nang Air Base," recalled Ellis. "We now live right on location and the job runs a lot smoother."

Around the riverside "hootch" area are the tools of Ellis's trade. Two skimmer boats in the river, wet suits, air tanks, flippers and diving masks are everywhere. To the rear of the diver's hut, a vital air compressor wheezes away filling the scuba tanks with oxygen.

Inside the hut, the atmosphere is permeated by the presence of the "British" Marine. A round table, made by Sgt. Ellis and finished with scrap pieces of tile in the shape of a chess board, fills the center of the room. In the rear of the hut is a small icebox. Perched atop the box is the ever-present pot of tea.

In the corner of the hut, where Ellis has his cot, is a picture of

his girl friend, wood carvings (a hobby of the FLC sergeant), and assorted magazines on skin diving, automobiles, and mens' fashions. Among the fashion magazines is the British trade publication, "Taylor and Cutter." It is the reason Ellis is now in Vietnam and diving in the Han River.

With his father, a 35-year veteran of the British Army, Ellis traveled to India, Iran, Egypt, North Africa, Cyprus and Gibraltar. It was while on the island of Cyprus that he first became interested in diving.

Following his father's military retirement, Ellis returned to England and to school.

British boarding schools offer vocational courses in tailoring and fashion designing, similar to wood and metal shop classes conducted in American high schools. While he was taking one of these classes, Ellis' teacher noticed he had a flare for this sort of work. The teacher encouraged the hesitant Ellis to enter a world-wide fashion contest sponsored by the British

trade magazine, "Taylor and Cutter." The contest proved highly enlightening to Ellis. Taking a second place his first year, followed by top honors the following two years, he gained confidence in his ability as a designer.

Upon graduation from boarding school, the military influence of his father and a yen to become a pilot in the RAF left Ellis in a quandary as to his future. After several talks with professionals in the men's fashion industry, Ellis decided to pursue a designing career. After a four-year apprenticeship at the Taylor and Cutter Royal Academy in London, Ellis received his City of Guilds, the academy's certificate of graduation.

The future Marine then accepted an offer from Woodward and Lathrop, a large clothing firm in Washington, D.C., where he worked until the inevitable greetings from Uncle Sam.

Ellis discarded his sharply tailored tweeds for a set of Marine Corps "greens." Boot camp at Parris Island and advanced infantry training at Camp Lejeune were followed by a brief stint in the supply field at Albany, Ga.

From Albany, the 22-year-old Marine was sent to a five-week Navy Diving School in the Philippines. After undergoing the rugged scuba and "hard-hat" training, plunging to depths of 130 feet, Ellis qualified as a Marine Corps Diver.

From diving school, Sgt. Ellis
(Continued on Page 12)

FLC's War Wagon

Truck-Tank?

By PFC J. R. Doyle

DA NANG — When a "war wagon" begins to roll, no one disputes its claim to be "King of the Road" — not even Roger Miller.

A war wagon is an armored cargo truck bearing a .50-cal. machine gun. These mechanical monarchs reign over convoys of Truck Company, Force Logistic Command (FLC), headquarters at Camp Books; near Da Nang.

"Our war wagons provide security for a minimum of two cargo vehicles to as large a convoy as we might form," said Sgt. Angelo A. Tchowitz (2804 Kingman Blvd. Des Moines, Iowa). Tchowitz was one of the Marines who helped build the war wagon.

"Our main objective," he explained, "is to gain rapid fire superiority in case our convoys are attacked. Two Marines, a driver and a gunner, are assigned to each war wagon.

"When driver-gunner teams are assigned to a vehicle, they stick with that one vehicle. After every convoy, the driver does the mechanical work on his truck, and the gunner checks

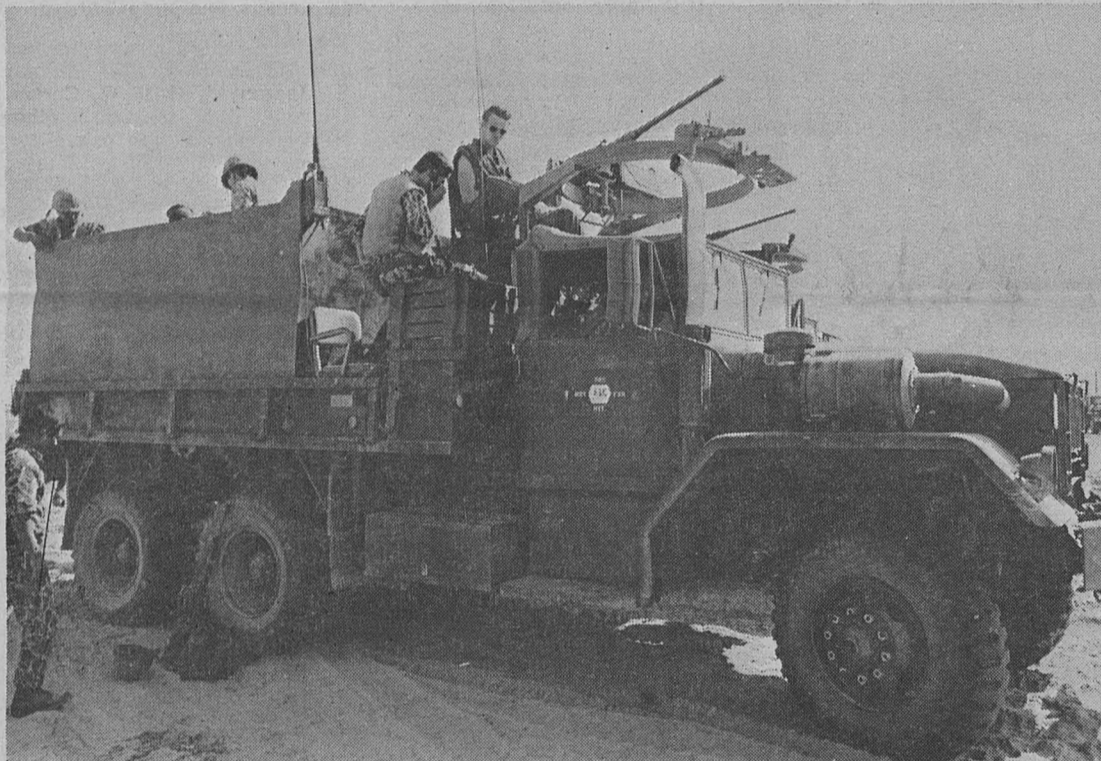
and cleans his machine gun. They personally handle these tasks because they know they have to depend on their performance — and that others depend on them."

Besides providing fire power, the war wagons carry out other tasks within a convoy. One war wagon serves as the convoy commander's mobile command post equipped with a permanent radio system. Other convoy vehicles carry portable radio systems, for communications with the mobile command post.

"We also carry supplies: C-rations, extra ammunition, spare tires, and spare parts," Tchowitz continued. "In the event that another vehicle has minor mechanical problem during the convoy, the spare parts carried on the war wagon are used, with the driver-gunner team aiding in the repair work.

In all, there are 22 men assigned to Truck Company's war wagons.

The teams have compiled an enviable record. They have never lost a war wagon during a mission and they provide daily protection for convoys covering up to 100 miles a day.



KING OF THE ROAD—A "war wagon" is readied for a daily convoy security run. (Photo by LCpl. N.W. Myers)

Villagers Help Build 4th CAG Compound

By LCpl. Bob Partain

QUANG TRI — The Marines stared in amazement as approximately 100 South Vietnamese civilians came marching down the road toward them bearing axes, hoes and scythes.

The Marines and Vietnamese Peoples Self Defense Force (PSDF) soldiers of 4th Combined Action Group (CAG) were building a new compound near several villages north of Quang Tri to offer the villagers security from the Viet Cong.

The villagers volunteered to help in building the new compound.

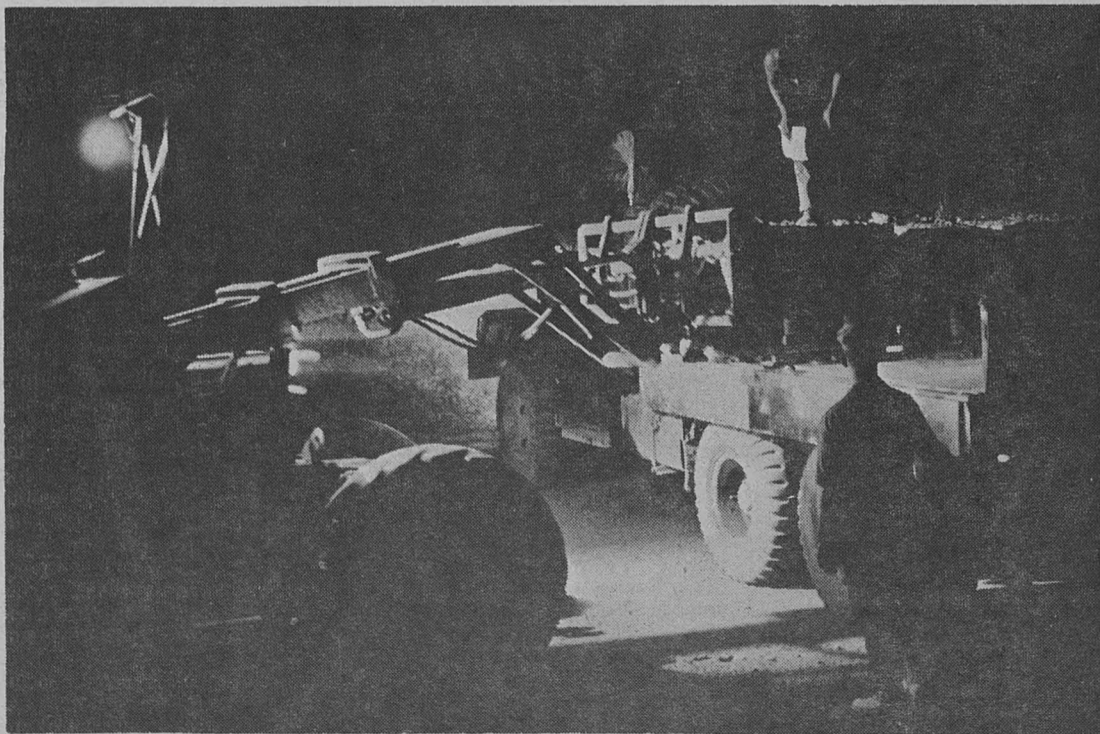
"A PF (people's force) soldier told the village chief we were building a new compound

and he asked the villagers if they wanted to help. They turned out in full force, ready to work," said Sgt. Wilbur E. Sweet (Tucson, Ariz.), a platoon leader of the Marine/PF unit.

As the Marines and PFs strung barbed wire and dug bunkers, the villagers chopped down brush and trees along the compound's perimeter.

"They cleared a 500 meter field of fire for us and carried all the brush away," said Sweet as he scanned the new compound. "It would have taken us a week to do the work they did in one day."

"There has been increased Viet Cong activity in this area and the civilians are helping us fight it. With this compound, the village will receive better protection and the people are anxious to help us," Sweet concluded.



SUPPLY NEVER STOPS—When the sun sets, Marines just turn on their lights. Work loads rarely change pace from day to night. Here a forklift loads artillery shells on a roughrider convoy truck that will leave the following morning.

(Photo by LCpl. Roger K. Nystrom)

Innocent Scene Becomes Stage of War

By Cpl. Dave Allen
AN HOA — A Marine platoon found that first impressions are not always right while on patrol in the mountains west of here on Operation Taylor Common. The platoon from the 5th Marines came to a fork in the

jungle trail they were following on a search-and-clear patrol during a heavy rain.

The platoon's second squad was sent to check out the smaller of the forked trails. A short distance from the main "road" the Leathernecks came upon

what appeared to be three empty huts.

A check of the first two revealed nothing, but as Pfc. Glen L. Schofield, (Topeka, Kan.) approached the third hut through the driving rain, he heard movement inside. Schofield stopped

about eight yards from the hut and a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier stepped outside of the door for a moment, then went back inside.

Immediately the Leatherneck patrol returned and the platoon leader called in artillery on the

enemy position.

With the barrage over, the platoon made their way to the village. With much of the jungle foliage removed by the artillery blasts, the Leathernecks quickly discovered that there was much more than just three huts.

Coming upon a large bunker, one of the Marines tossed a grenade in, and the explosion caused two secondary explosions. Seconds later, an enemy soldier stumbled from the mouth of the fortified cave and fired one shot before he was cut down.

Trying to reach the second bunker, the Leathernecks met continued resistance as the NVA threw hand grenades at them. Working into position, a Leatherneck M-60 machine gun team delivered 100 rounds into the opening of the bunker. The grenade barrage ceased.

Low groaning sounds could still be heard from the bunker, as two Marines armed with .45-cal. pistols and flashlights, entered the door. The NVA tossed one more grenade and the Leathernecks made their way to cover before it exploded. Going back in, the Marines killed three NVA who had survived the machine gun fire that had killed three others inside the bunker.

As the squad moved further into the complex, Cpl. Richard W. Jazowski, (2635 W. Cortez, Chicago, Ill.), spotted another NVA soldier attempting to make a getaway. The two exchanged fire, but Jazowski's bullet struck first.

Another enemy soldier was found dead from the earlier artillery barrage.

Meeting no further resistance, the Leathernecks made a thorough search of the area. The complex was found to consist of twenty well-built huts and 18 fortified bunkers.



ON THEIR WAY—Marines of Battalion Landing Team 3/26 head for a helicopter and transportation ashore from the amphibious assault ship USS TRIPOLI during amphibious operations off the Vietnam coast.

(USN Photo by PH3 Ralph Fix)

Pilots That Fly Together...

By Sgt. R. R. Keene

CHU LAI — It came as no surprise to members of Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 121 when two of their pilots hit the 300 mission mark together.

Marine Skyhawk jet pilots, Capt. John S. Holmes (14049 SE. Fair Oaks Way, Portland, Ore.), and Thomas J. Luciano (76 Ridge Dr., Livingston, N.J.), have been flying together since they left the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C., more than a year ago.

After serving together at VMA-332, Cherry Point, both pilots received orders to Vietnam. They joined VMA-121 in Japan, and spent months flying together as the squadron deployed to Okinawa and the Philippines prior to coming to Vietnam in April.

Since then, the two have been parallel in combat. They flew their first and last combat missions together. Each has in addition to his 300 combat missions, a total of 350 combat hours. Each flew 30 missions over North Vietnam prior to the bombing halt. They collected six of the North Vietnam missions in one day, flying three missions each. Now, with two years each of Skyhawk experience and 22 air medals apiece, both are being assigned to Beaufort, S.C., for duty.

Although their tours parallel, most of the combat missions were not flown together. Once they gained combat experience, both were assigned as flight leaders and struck at numerous targets in I Corps.

While Luciano led a flight to the Demilitarized Zone to support Marines, Holmes and his wingman accounted for 32 enemy killed while flying in support of the Korean Marines south of Da Nang.

Both agree that the missions they most enjoyed were the close air support missions. "It gives you a chance to put your ordnance right on target and see the results," said Holmes. "Of course, anytime you can help

the ground troops it is rewarding."

Luciano summed it up. "We were able to help because of the teamwork, not just between myself and Capt. Holmes, but throughout the squadron."

Army Takes Over Civil Affairs

Marines To Leave Friends

By GySgt. E J. Moore

DA NANG, Vietnam — When people come across the word Marine, the first thing that comes to their mind is a rugged, rifle bearing, stubbled bearded fighting man.

For one Marine officer and six enlisted men of the Civil Affairs section, Force Logistic Support Group Alpha (FLSG-A) at Phu Bai, the opposite is true. They still maintain that Marine ruggedness — but instead of carrying a rifle, they carry clothes, food and building tools of peace.

The present section, headed by 1st Lt. George O. Rohlfen (Rt. 1, Faribault, Minn.) and SSgt. Henry V. Goodno (34 Winner St., Waterville, Me.), has a total of 74 months accumulated civil affairs experience.

These Marines have the distinction, although to them a sad one, of being the last group of Leathernecks to serve in this capacity at Phu Bai. In a few weeks, civil affairs of the Hue Phu Bai area will be taken over by a U.S. Army team. In

the meantime, they are being feted and feasted by the Vietnamese whom they have helped over the past two and one-half years.

Going over past records, Goodno proudly related the work that has been accomplished by his predecessors and his present crew.

"We support four hamlets, an orphanage, a 13-room combined grade school and high school, plus a large Chieu Hoi (open-arms) center," Goodno said. "In addition, our medical team treated nearly 49,000 patients in 1968."

Goodno pointed out that the Chieu Hoi program is the most satisfying job they have worked on.

This program is a government effort offering rewards to local Viet Cong if they come over to the side of the South Vietnamese government.

So successful has this program been in the central I Corps area that last August the Chieu Hoi village at Hue had 700 occu-

Tiger—

Lott to

Be Desired

By Cpl. Robb Straub

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — A Marine gunnery sergeant at Vandegrift Combat base has set his sights on catching a tiger.

GySgt. J.E. Lott, (Zephyrhills, Fla.), a member of Vandegrift's Logistics Support Unit (LSU), was asked to take on the task after several sightings of tigers in the Vandegrift area.

Lott has already built two traps in hopes of catching the large animals. "The only difference between these traps and those I used back home to trap alligators and rabbits are that they are made of heavier material and are large enough to hold a tiger," explained Lott.

One of Lott's traps is a cage constructed from heavy fencing wire and two-by-fours. A small animal, placed and protected by another smaller cage within the trap, is used as a lure. If the tiger takes the bait and enters the large cage he triggers a tripwire which drops the door closed.

The other tiger trap is made out of a net anchored and weighted with a 400-pound barrel. The bait serves as a trigger. When the tiger touches the meat, the 400-pound barrel drops, lifting up the net and the tiger along with it.

pants, commonly referred to as Hoi Chanhs, or returnees.

"The returnees," Goodno said, "have three choices upon completion of a two month rehabilitation course. They can enlist in the South Vietnamese Army, join the 'Kit Carson' program (become scouts for allied forces) or enter into civilian life in a village of their choice. If they choose the latter," he continued, "the government will support them for six months, which is considered ample time to establish themselves."

Sgt. Goodno, on his second tour of duty in Vietnam, gave an account of how he felt. "I came here in 1966 as an infantryman and I felt differently about the people. This tour, I have worked in civil affairs for a full year. I have gotten to know these people, how they live and what their customs and feelings are."

"Once you get to know them," he continued, "you find they are very sincere and become lasting friends once they understand you. Truthfully, I hate to leave."



Marine and his M-16, unbeatable combination.

Satchel Rips NVA, Flips Leatherneck

By GySgt. Chuck Lane

DA NANG—A Marine engineer made a perfect one point landing into a mud-filled paddy after a satchel charge blew up an enemy bunker 15 feet away.

The Marine, Pfc. Michael A. Emmons (Rt. 1, Minnesota City, Minn.) was attached to "H" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, during a recent operation southwest of here.

The company was moving across rice paddies and through tree lines when they were pinned down by heavy enemy fire from a large bunker.

Capt. Ronald J. Drez (4979 Baccich St., New Orleans, La.), the company commander, directed his men to surround the bunker.

"Some of the men close enough to throw grenades into the bunker," the captain said, "but most of them would come flying right back out. Some would go off inside the bunker but it didn't seem to do any good. We were still receiving heavy fire."

The captain then decided to use one of his engineers whose specialty was demolitions . . . Emmons.

"Three 'grunts' gave me cover as I crawled up next to the entrance of the bunker. I had a satchel charge made with 12 sticks of explosive . . . about 15 pounds," said Emmons.

"The captain and I had cut the

\$1 Million, Round-the-Clock Supply Operation Feeds I Corps Marines

By GySgt. E. J. Moore

DA NANG — American fighting men in South Vietnam are not only being fed better than any army in history, but in many cases are receiving fresh fruit and vegetables right on the battlefield.

The responsibility of supplying food for a daily average of 55,000 of America's troops, in Da Nang and surrounding areas, belongs to the Marines of Rations Co., Force Logistic Command (FLC), headquartered eight miles northwest of Da Nang.

To move the staggering amount of fresh frozen meat and produce needed to feed these men takes a lot of hard work and cooperation up and down the supply chain, from large

supply depots in the United States to the platoon supplyman in the field.

Supply records at FLC reveal that over a recent seven-day period, 4,296,000 pounds of canned goods were issued to field messes and semi-permanent mess-halls. A further breakdown on just one of these items, a traditional American favorite, shows that 44,345 cans of pork and beans are distributed weekly.

To maintain an even flow of fresh food and prevent deterioration, the cold storage section of Rations Co. works two 12-hour shifts, seven days a week.

GySgt. George W. Dillard (4311 Greenhaven St., Wichita, Kan.), the night operations chief, is responsible for receiving all shipments from the Naval Support Activity (NSA) complex in Da Nang.

Improves With Age

Old Black Beauty

By LCpl. Trygg Hansen

DA NANG—In May 1967, the Marine Corps began using the M-16 rifle as its basic combat weapon for the individual Marine in Vietnam. Since then it has earned the reputation as one of the best weapons ever used in combat, anywhere.

The M-16 Repair-Rebuild Warehouse at Marine Force Logistic Command, eight miles northwest of Da Nang, was created as the main refurbishing center for M-16s used by Marines in Vietnam's northernmost tactical zone. The shop, now operated by Force

Logistic Support Group Alpha (FLSGA), repairs and rebuilds over 95 percent of the M-16s used by Marines in Vietnam.

Until recently, the repair-rebuild shop was operated by Maintenance Bn., FLC. It is now staffed by Marines from FLSGA and Maintenance Bn.

"By handling the job here at FLC, instead of the United States, we save the government over \$50 on each weapon," SSgt. John E. Grey (488 Hickory Lane, Albany, Ga.) said. As head of repair-rebuild crews, Grey is in charge of 15 Marines who can turn out a rebuilt weapon every 60 seconds.

"We went into full swing last March," recalls the FLC sergeant. "The first rebuilt M-16s equipped with the new chrome barrels were sent to Khe Sanh prior to the so-called siege."

In the last 10 months, the repair-rebuild unit has turned out more than 50,000 reconditioned M-16s. The facility is also completely stocked with spare parts to keep the program moving. Unlike the M-14, which the M-16 replaced, every part of the M-16 is interchangeable, simplifying the assembly-line process.

The assembly line begins with a take-down of the light-weight rifle into its three basic groups. These groups are examined for defects and wear along the line. Damaged or worn parts are replaced and new barrels are added at separate stations. As the weapon passes down the line, every part is checked thoroughly until it reaches the final stages for reassembly.

After it is reassembled, the rifle is given another thorough inspection to insure that all parts operate properly and

smoothly. If even the smallest part, however minor, is not perfect, the weapon is rejected.

The FLC unit has a large stock of M-16s on hand in its warehouse to replace rifles that are turned in for repair or rebuild. Sgt. Grey said company-size units have turned all their weapons in at one time for reconditioning. If the unit commander needs rifles immediately, they are issued from the stored lot. Or he can receive the "originals" back as they come off the assembly line.

"Every so often," said Grey, "a Marine will want his original weapon back. When a man lives with his rifle day in and day out, he can get quite attached to it. We do everything in our power to return it to him."

In addition to rebuilding the rifles, the Marines test fire the stored weapons to check on the effectiveness of their program. "So far we haven't had a repaired weapon that didn't fire properly," Grey says with obvious pride.

Further evidence of the program's results can be seen in the record books.

"Earlier statistics indicate that the old model M-16s had a 40 percent kick-back after repairs were made," SSgt. Grey says. "Today, we have less than two percent of the weapons returned."

"In a way, I'm working myself out of a job," adds Grey. "In a few months, we should have a complete changeover throughout I Corps. With very few rifles being returned, my job will be greatly cut back. This means the mission of the repair-rebuild program is being fulfilled."

After it is reassembled, the rifle is given another thorough inspection to insure that all parts operate properly and

(Monroe, Mich.). "Our work really begins at midnight when the 'Sea-Land' refrigerated trailers start rolling in from NSA. We know what is on them and can plan ahead," he said.

"We've already started making up orders for morning issues from on-hand supplies," he continued, "and if we run short on any items, we fill it from the incoming trucks."

"We have all orders filled and ready for pick-up by 7:00 a.m. From 7:30 until around 9:30 a.m. trucks from the units we supply come in. It's just a matter then for the driver and his working party to load and move out. We also make up issues for truck convoys and helicopter lifts for units out of range for normal pick-ups."

The day operations chief, (Continued on Page 11)



On Target

Two Marines from a 3rd Recon Bn. patrol open fire on the enemy during a recon mission near Con Thien. GySgt. Michael F. Merritt (Atchison, Kan.), left, and LCpl. David Christzburg (Ft. Worth, Texas) helped find and unearth a large munitions cache.

Couldn't Stay for Dinner

NVA Flee; Cache Found

By Cpl. John Lawrence

CON THIEN—Infantrymen of the 4th Marine 3rd Marine Division, dealt a stunning blow to a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) engineer unit near Con Thien by capturing the enemy's equipment and large stores of ammunition.

Acting on reports from aerial observers that enemy units were massing the area and that there was increased trail activity leading south, Marines were heli-lifted into an area just west of Con Thien.

"As my men swept along the trails, they discovered caches of ammunition and some sophisticated engineering equipment," said LtCol. Joseph E. Hopkins (Costa Mesa, Calif.), a battalion commander with the 4th Marines.

"The NVA in one case left everything they owned and escaped from the area just a few minutes before we got there. One of my companies found rice and vegetables still bubbling over cooking fires," Hopkins continued.

One cache of equipment included two ohmmeters, two electrical

hand generators used for detonating explosives, 350 pounds of TNT and several miscellaneous electrical devices.

"From the amount of personal equipment captured," added Hopkins, "the engineer unit was at least of company size."

"The NVA didn't have the guts to stay and fight for their property, but it seems that they had somebody watching us through field glasses," he remarked.

"On two separate occasions, just as my men began to lift captured gear from enemy bunkers, the NVA opened fire on our positions with 60mm mortars," said Hopkins.

On both occasions Marines called in counter-mortar fire to silence the NVA mortars.

In addition to the various pieces of engineering equipment, the Marines' thrust into the jungle just south of the buffer zone also netted the Leathernecks a large enemy munitions cache. It included 26,190 rounds of .50-cal ammunition; 115 rocket propelled grenades; 641 mines and grenades; 594 61mm and 82mm mortar rounds; 94 82mm recoilless rounds, including nine gas rounds; and one .50-cal. machinegun.

3rd Div Chapel Dedicated

By LCpl. Bob Partain
QUANG TRI — Four months ago Marines of the 3rd Engineer Bn. started out to build their own house of worship.

Today the chapel, a wooden structure with mahogany paneling and glass windows stands proudly amidst all the other structures at Quang Tri Combat Base.

During brief ceremonies, headed by Navy Capt. R.W. Radcliffe (Falls Church, Va.), senior chaplain of the III Marine Amphibious Force, the chapel was dedicated to all Marines who have served with the 3rd Engineer Bn. in Vietnam.

"Many hours of hard work, patience and tender loving care made this chapel possible," said Lt. John A. Ecker (Yakima, Wash.), 3rd Engineer Bn. Chaplain.

He was more than happy at the dedication ceremonies. "The men have worked almost four months to get all the material and build this chapel for themselves," concluded the chaplain.

Recons Uncover NVA Munitions...

(Continued From Page 1)
of our position. They were firing at the helicopter."

The recon Marines checked their equipment and started to move.

"We had moved about 160 yards and stopped for a security check, when we heard what sounded like four or five groups of two or three men each walking toward our position," said Cpl. Mike Schatz (Tonkawa, Okla.).

With the enemy soldiers moving toward them, the Marines radioed for an aerial observer to try to get the exact location of the enemy.

"Broncos from MAG-39 flew over and spotted the Reds, opened fire on them and drove the NVA away from us," said LCpl. David P. Chreitberg (Ft. Worth, Texas), a member of the team.

The remainder of the day passed without incident as the Marines cautiously searched the area for signs of the enemy and his munitions caches.

Vietnamese writing on trees and old trails were found as they continued their search. But they made no contact with the com-

munists.
"On the third day we were following a five-foot-wide trail when an NVA soldier jumped out of a tree and started running," recalled Pvt. Clay Babb (Morro Bay, Calif.), point man for the patrol. "We stayed in our positions and again radioed for an aerial observer."

Soon a light observation plane was on station to aid the Marines.

"When the AO arrived, he immediately spotted nine enemy around us and called in another Bronco. The pilot fired everything he had at the enemy and drove them away," said LCpl. Oscar Murkerson (Blakely, Ga.).

The team also called in artillery fire on the enemy positions before starting to move up the trail again.

"We started to pass some new bunkers and then all of a sudden there were bunkers all around us," related Cpl. Mark A. Killian (Cathedral City, Calif.), leader of the small recon team.

"We checked out the bunkers and found all kinds of ammunition in them."

Killian entered one bunker

and found four 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns.

"They were just laying there next to the wall of a bunker," continued Killian. "They looked as if someone had just disturbed them. There was loose ammunition in the area and also spare parts for the guns."

An intensive search through the enemy bunker complex revealed additional large amounts of assorted enemy arms and ammunition.

"We radioed the battalion and asked them what they wanted us to do," recalled Cpl. Joe E. Carragher (College Point, N. Y.).

"We were instructed to stay in the area, that a reaction force was enroute to help us guard the find," added Carragher.

When two additional recon teams arrived to provide security, the Marines set up a perimeter defense for the night.

Throughout the night the enemy kept trying to reach the bunkers containing their ammunition, but the Marines drove them off with grenades and small arms fire.

Enemy movement around the Marines, however, persisted and was getting closer. Killian start-

ed down a trench that the enemy had been using to approach the Marines' position and spotted four Red soldiers about 50 yards down the trenchline.

"I jumped out of the trench and into another one and then opened fire on them with my M-79 grenade launcher," said Killian. "I stayed down there an hour until I spotted a few more of them going down a hill, jumping from trench to trench, before I returned to our perimeter lines."

The following morning Marine engineers were flown into the area to blow up the cache.

"We were standing security for the engineers when I spotted another NVA soldier in a khaki uniform just walking along a trail. I opened up on him and didn't see him get up again," recalled Williams.

Marine engineers used 600 pounds of plastic explosives to set up charges for blowing the enemy ammunition. They were soon ready to clear out of the area.

Broncos were "on station" overhead firing at the enemy, still trying to reach their cache

(Continued on Page 12)



Hot Line To I Corps

A Marine on the Camp Muir helo-pad, 10 miles southwest of Da Nang, snaps a net full of supplies on the cargo hook of a 1st MAW Sea Knight chopper. (Photo by LCpl. Blake B. Barker)



LANDING ZONE PERIMETER—Members of the 9th Marines protect a rugged landing zone while other members of the unit are enroute in choppers. The 3rd Marine Division Leathernecks are searching for the enemy and his supply caches in the northwestern corner of I Corps. (Photo by LCpl. M.C. Patterson)

Too Busy Along Highway 1

Chu Lai: No Resort For 9th Engineers

By Sgt. J.D. Perdue

DA NANG — Sixty miles south of Da Nang is a place that in future years, after the war, may be known as the Palm Springs of Vietnam. Huge multi-million-dollar resorts may be built on the miles of sun-whitened bleached sands of the beach.

Mini-bikined bathing beauties may adorn the beaches as the waves of the South China Sea roll in to crash on the shore and the cool ocean breeze offsets the temperatures that in summer months may soar above 130 degrees.

The name of this potential resort-and-vacation land is Chu Lai. Sometimes referred to as "Chu Lai by the Sea."

However, at the moment, it is the home of the 9th Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, commanded by LtCol. Darrell V. Davidson (Osage, Iowa). And since the battalion's arrival in June

1966, it has resembled anything but a vacation land or resort.

When the battalion landed, there was little more than a few hard-backed huts and tents, housing elements of the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Now it is also the home of one of the largest Army units in Vietnam, the Americal Division, two Marine Aircraft Groups and supporting elements.

Besides these units the battalion also supports units of the Army's 5th Special Forces Group, Korean Marines and a Marine Combined Action Group (CAG) that operates in and around Chu Lai.

Primary mission of the Marine engineers is to keep an approximately 47-mile stretch of Highway 1 south of the Chu Lai River to Chu Lai open and passable. To accomplish this, the Marine engineers and Americal

Division work hand in hand, with the engineers building and the Army providing most of the Security.

Not only are the engineers accomplishing this part of their mission but they are upgrading the road to U.S. Military standards and paving it. The ordinary engineer battalion is not equipped for such an ambitious undertaking. Four miles have been paved and an additional five miles have been prepared for paving.

"One of our main problems is water distribution," reports Maj. Sven A. Johnson (28 Ellington Dr., East Northport, N.Y.) the battalion operations officer. "This means that we have to maintain the proper moisture content in the roads for the asphalt. If the roads are too wet the asphalt gets mushy and sloppy. If they are too dry, the asphalt won't pack."

To solve this problem, the engineers use several 6,000 gal. tank-trailers to haul water for the roads.

The Vietnamese weather and enemy activity often slow down construction work on the road and the bridges. Several of the bridges between Chu Lai and the river north have been blown up and have had to be rebuilt.

"The farther north we get, the more enemy activity we run into," commented Johnson. "Thirty-two miles of the road must be swept by a mine team each morning and that takes a lot of man hours away from the job." The mine sweep team usually finds at least four mines on each sweep.

The engineers are nearing the completion of rebuilding two bridges destroyed by enemy mines. A third, to replace an old deteriorating French-built structure, is one of the longest fixed-

span bridges ever built by Marine Corps engineers. It is more than 720 feet long and crosses the Ba Ren River 42 miles north of Chu Lai.

Besides doing their primary job on Highway 1, the engineers find time to construct almost any type of building needed by the Americal Division, the Marine aircraft groups or the other free world forces in the area.

In the last six months they have completed a series of buildings for the Americal Division that include fourteen 16' x 64' living quarters, a 1,400-man messhall, a combat operations center, and a fire direction center bunker, storage warehouses, maintenance pads and recreational buildings.

They have been equally busy building bomb dumps, an enlisted mens' club and roads.

The Marine engineers also build bunkers and cantonments and clear fields of fire for the Combined Action Group units in the area. Supporting the 5th Special Forces perhaps offers the most exciting part of the engineers job. For the Green Berets, they have built suspension bridges and cantonments in the wilds of the jungle near the Laotian border.

When a unit needs something built, 1st Lt. Charles J. Toeniskoetter, (2158 Riverside Dr., Beloit, Wis.) the battalion construction officer, receives the request.

"Getting the materials for the vertical construction that we do is the biggest problem we have," reports Toeniskoetter. "That is why we usually ask the units to get their own materials."

Once the request is received, Toeniskoetter inspects the area for the proposed building. From this inspection the specifications and measurements of the proposed construction are figured out and then the drafting section goes to work. The item is designed and drafted on blueprints and then taken to the requesting unit for approval. If changes or modifications are called for, the blueprints are re-drafted until the unit is satisfied.

At the same time the unit approves the blueprints, they receive a list of materials necessary for the construction. When the materials are procured, the engineers go to work.

One of the main reasons for the success of the engineer battalion is the work of its Service Co. personnel.

These Marines work night and day to keep the engineer's trucks, cranes, tractors and other heavy equipment rolling.

"These people work around the clock to get a piece of equipment on the road," said Maj. Edward M. Condra (2028 Elizabeth Blvd., New Orleans, La.), the company commander. "As long as they have the parts, the equipment is repaired as soon as humanly possible. While the rest of the men of the battalion get a chance to go to the club to see a movie, at least part of my men are working each night."

Much of the credit for their success at keeping the equipment rolling is their new, mobile machine shop. Most of the small pins, bushings, sleeves, axles, drive shafts, bolts and nuts can be turned out in the shop.

All Marines pride themselves on doing a lot with a little. Marine engineers can claim to do even more with a little less. They prove it every day in Vietnam.

'Middlemen' Keep Supply Moving

By LCpl. T. J. Hansen

DA NANG — For Marines the terms "incoming" and "outgoing" generally conjure up unpleasant memories of mortars, artillery and rockets. To Force Logistic Command's (FLC) 15th Aerial Port Liaison Team, the terms have an entirely different meaning.

Located at the Da Nang Air Base, second busiest air terminal in the world, the FLC liaison team, headed by Sgt. T. J. Sasso (149 Eagle St., Fredonia, N.Y.), processes over 90 percent of the cargo airlifted to and from Vietnam's northernmost tactical zone. Working around the clock, the supply unit acts as a go-be-

tween for FLC supply units headquartered at Camp Jay K. Books and the cargo-transport planes arriving and departing from the Air terminal.

Keeping accurate records is a must for the section. All incoming and outgoing items must be compared with a manifest order to insure that nothing is missing. A copy of this record is kept, double checked as the cargo is sent to Camp Books, and then filed for future reference.

In routing the cargo the liaison team works closely with two FLC headquarters units; the Traffic Management Office and Motor Transport Control Center. "By keeping in close contact

with headquarters, knowing the status of incoming gear, the items being staged on the flight line and the availability of aircraft, we can recommend whether or not cargo should be shipped by air or other means of transportation," said Sgt. Sasso.

Staging the supplies is another important part of the liaison team's duties. Ammunition is given special consideration because of the air base's attractiveness as a target for Viet Cong rockets and mortars.

"We store all of the ammo in steel bunkers," said Lance Cpl. Lawrence Minnaert (800 Nasa, Webster, Texas), who processes the munitions. "When the bunk-

ers start to fill up, we have to start worrying."

When a tactical operation is in progress, the amount of ammunition coming in is increased greatly. During the month of January, over 15 million pounds of ammunition was processed by the six man liaison team.

A key word in the unit's activities is speed. "Hot items," those receiving top priority, and perishables are given prompt attention.

Summing up their mission Lance Cpl. James Skipper said, "When the equipment comes to us, we try to get it off the line and to the Marines who need it as fast as possible."



MIDDLE OF NOWHERE—Marine UH-1E (Huey) helicopters touch down with their loads at Fire Support Base Cunningham. Artillerymen of the 12th Marines at Cunningham are supporting elements of the 9th Marines conducting search and clear operations. (Photo by LCpl. M.C. Patterson)

AO Spots Enemy Cache

By Cpl. Robb Straub
VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — An alert Marine aerial observer (AO), operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone in support of infantrymen of the 4th Marines, sighted an enemy storage area.

The AO, flying at tree-top level over the rugged jungle terrain southwest of Con Thien, discovered the NVA hiding place just 400 meters from the Marines on the ground. He informed elements of the 2nd Bn., 4th Marines operating

nearby and they moved in to unearth the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) weapons and ammunition storage plant. "We had a patrol near the area the previous day," said Capt. Walter Fleming (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.), a company com-

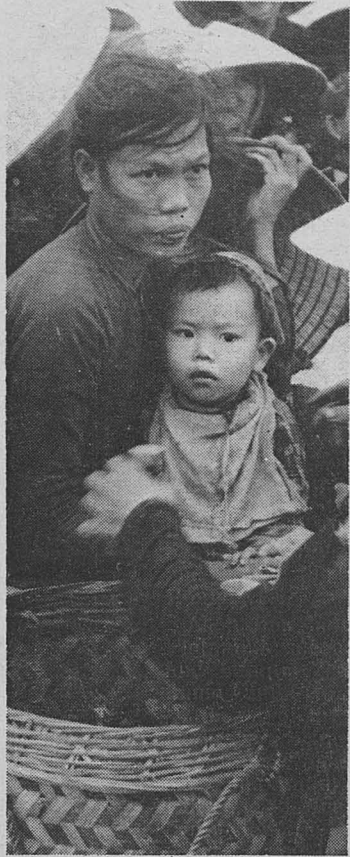
mander with 4th Marines, "but due to the heavy undergrowth and rugged terrain, we were not able to search out the area as thoroughly as we would have liked."

The NVA bunker-complex housing the arms cache was well-camouflaged and virtually undetectable from ground level. But the light, single engine aircraft above spotted the enemy position and the Marine air-ground team swung into action. The AO radioed the Marines on the ground and marked his find with smoke grenades. His markers led a squad-size patrol to the area to check out the discovery.

As the Marine force moved into the enemy supply area they met with no enemy ground resistance, but did draw enemy mortar fire on their positions. Marine counter-mortar and artillery fire was used to silence the enemy mortar positions.

"First reports from the patrol indicated that it was a company-size enemy supply point," said Sgt. Eugene Kissel (Channelview, Texas). After a closer look, the Marines discovered a false floor under one of the bunkers, which revealed additional enemy munitions and a French-made .50-cal. machine gun.

In all, the Leathernecks found and destroyed ten NVA bunkers in the area. The bunkers yielded more than 500 enemy mortar rounds, 350 Chinese communist grenades, 36,000 small arms rounds and one enemy 122mm rocket round. In addition, the Marine force destroyed four enemy machine gun positions and 45 rocket propelled grenades.



MIXED EMOTION—Concern for the future of her child and herself is mirrored in this Vietnamese mother's face. She has just left her village as requested by Marines. After the battle passes, she and her neighbors will be returned to their homes free of the Viet Cong. (Photo by SSgt. Bob Jordan)

Quang Tri All Secure

By LCpl. Bob Partain

QUANG TRI — When 2ndLt. James A. Yorg (1824 Roseview Lane, St. Louis, Mo.) left an infantry company for duty with Headquarters Bn., 3rd Marine Division, he thought he had a relatively quiet desk job waiting for him.

He was soon to discover that he was only half right.

Besides being assigned as executive officer of Headquarters Co., he was given the job as the security platoon commander.

"The security platoon handles 80 percent of the patrolling around the Quang Tri Base and all of the long-range patrols," explained the 24-year-old lieutenant. "We also back up any unit that makes contact on the perimeter. And we go outside the perimeter if a night ambush or listening post needs our help."

Only 30 percent of the security platoon is composed of trained infantrymen. The majority of the unit's members are former tankers, artillerymen, clerks or cooks who are assigned to the security platoon.

Capt. David L. Chilcote (5911 Marta Dr., Tampa, Fla.), commanding officer of Headquarters Co., also performs a dual role as commander of the defense force for Quang Tri Base. Many times Capt. Chilcote's unit will accompany the security platoon on patrols.

"Six enemy soldiers have been killed by the security platoon and the men on the lines recently," stated Capt. Chilcote, "and one day we had the only two confirmed enemy killed in the 3rd Marine Division's TAOR (tactical area of responsibility)."

Supplies Op. Taylor Common

An Hoa LSA Gets New Look

By Cpl. Larry White
AN HOA — It's a small helicopter pad set off in a corner of An Hoa Combat Base and without the constant clatter of incoming helicopters, it would go unnoticed.

Marines of the 3rd Shore Party Bn. use the small landing zone around the clock providing food, ammunition and water for Leathernecks in the field who are conducting Operation Taylor Common near An Hoa.

"When the 3rd Marines moved south to participate in Operation Taylor Common there were no Landing Support Activity facil-

ities," said Maj. James Connelly (Alexandria, Va.), operations officer, 3rd Marines. "We took over the landing zone, introduced our own techniques of staging the supplies and immediately started the shuttle of equipment to the field units.

"Now that our system is going full steam, we can airlift in excess of 500,000 pounds of supplies to the field in one day," continued Maj. Connelly.

To the newcomer, the constant flurry of activity around the LSA looks highly complicated.

"It's actually quite simple,"

commented Connelly. "The supplies are brought in from Da Nang and stockpiled on the helicopter pad or in a nearby warehouse. When a field unit requests a resupply, the supplies are located in cargo nets and placed on an assigned line and number on the pad.

"As the helicopter pilot hovers over the LSA, a shore party radioman tells the pilot which supplies are his external load. Then the helicopter simply drops to within a few feet of the cargo net, gets hooked up and airlifts the supplies to the field unit," added Connelly.

"Weather is our biggest problem," stated Connelly, "so we keep several days of supplies at the fire support bases. However, infantry units must carry their supplies so their resupply must be handled daily."

The task performed at An Hoa's LSA is why Marines in Vietnam are termed "The best-fed and most highly equipped men ever to enter combat."

VC Spoil Ambush

Talked-to-Death

By Cpl. Frank B. Wiley

CHU LAI—An ambush set by 30 Viet Cong (VC) failed because the VC were a bunch of blabbermouths.

The action was described like this, "We were on a six man patrol which was supposed to go out 500 meters from our perimeter when the point man heard some Vietnamese voices," said Sgt. Joseph H. Hauer (206 N. Payne, New Ulm, Minn.), leader of the "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 26th Marines patrol.

The Marines moved up a little further and heard more voices but then had to get down because there was too much illumination from a flare ship passing overhead.

"After getting down we decided we had to crawl to the enemy so he would not spot us. It took us five minutes to get to the enemy because of the deep water in the rice paddies and that 100 meters we had to travel on our stomachs," said PFC Robert L. T. Ramsey (701½ N. Maple St., Stuttgart, Ark.).

Ramsey was the first to spot the three VC moving on the patrol flanks and fired an automatic burst with his M-16, killing two of the enemy soldiers.

The rest of the Leatherneck patrol fired and dropped the third VC.

Sgt. Hauer decided that it would be best to stay there and let the enemy come to them. So the Marines waited.

"I was guarding the rear when I saw a VC coming up behind us. He raised his rifle to fire but I fired first and killed him," said Lance Cpl. Willie E. Watkins (Rt. #1, Box 109, Red Springs, N.C.).

The Marines had been in their position for half an hour when they saw five more VC moving toward them.

Lance Cpl. John W. Raulding (P. O. Box #21, Ridgeway, S.C.) opened up with his M-79 grenade launcher and after one of the enemy dropped, the rest turned and scattered.

The score—five gabby 'ambushers' down, no Marines lost.



FOUR DEUCE—Artillerymen of the 12th Marines send a 4.2-inch mortar round on its way to an enemy target. (Photo by LCpl. M.C. Patterson)

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

(Cont. From Page 2)

- Rita Wolff
2503 Thomas
Louisville, Ky. 40216
* * *
- Linda Newman
R.D. 1
Julian, Penn. 16844
* * *
- Jean Hilliard
Box 14
Briggsville, Wisc. 53920
* * *
- Karen Hicks
R.D. 1
Weedville, Penn. 15868
15
* * *
- Donna Guernsey
Box 51
Dorloo, New York 12099
* * *
- Leslie Edelstein
92 Fairview Avenue
West Orange, N.J. 07252
17
* * *
- Marvena Lash
521 E. Hendrix St.
Brazil, Ind. 47834
18
* * *
- Vicki Munsch
708 Jones St.
Grand Ledge, Mich. 48837
* * *
- Rita Kirby
2 Pine St., Box 245
Pacolet Mills, S.C. 29373
* * *
- Dolley Ballard
4647 Harrison St.
Gary, Ind. 46408
* * *
- Carol Horan
3658 Tyler St.
Gary, Ind. 46408
* * *
- Marty Giebelhausen
240 Allen-URH
Urbana, Ill. 61801
* * *
- Billie Thorndyke
2137 W. 3rd St.
Davenport, Iowa 52802
* * *
- Cathy Ziska
2124 East 21st St.
Bremerton, Wash. 98310
* * *
- Erlene Thomas
425 Willow Street
Waterbury, Conn. 06710
13
* * *
- Lynn Kirby
Box 487
Pacolet, S.C. 29372
* * *
- Louise Oravec
RD 1, Box 80
Nanty-Glo, Penn. 15943
17
* * *
- Rosie Madey
P.O. Box 3449 U.S.L.
Lafayette, O La.
* * *
- Janice Lawrence
5711 South Sacramento Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60629
* * *
- Michele Mackaros
8 Rodney Street
Clymer, Penn. 15728
20
* * *
- Alice Bradley
3619 Fillmore Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234
* * *
- Doreen Semon
2918 Sprague Dr.
Orlando, Fla. 32807
16
* * *
- Donna Semon
2918 Sprague Dr.
Orlando, Fla. 32807
18
* * *
- Nellie Mabe
Lake Pickett Rd.
Orlando, Fla.
18
* * *

(Cont. On Page 11)

3 Medevac Crewmen Hand-lift Wounded Recon Into Chopper

By SSgt. P. L. Stacy

QUANG TRI — Any helicopter emergency medical evacuation (medevac) mission at night has a certain amount of danger involved; but when there is no landing zone, the chopper's hoist selects that time to break down and there is heavy enemy ground fire, the danger increases ten-fold.

These were the circumstances when a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 161 Sea Knight launched to pick up a member of a 3rd Marine Division reconnaissance team casualty in northern I Corps.

"When we arrived over the team's position and made radio contact, we found out that there wasn't an LZ large enough for us to sit down," said LCpl. Raymond K. Boyd (Rt. 5, Rogers, Ark.), crew chief of the helicopter.

Boyd explained that they decided to hover over the position and lower a cable from the hoist in order to pull the Marine up through the cargo hatch in the floor of the transport.

"I lowered the cable and after the casualty was put into the sling by his teammates, I hit the switch to raise the hoist—but nothing happened," he said.

Due to an electrical failure the hoist could be lowered but not raised.

Although they couldn't land and the hoist was inoperative, the crew chief was determined to get the casualty aboard the chopper.

"I left one gunner at the window and the other gunner, the corpsman and myself began pulling the Marine up by hand," explained Boyd.

With the pilot hovering the aircraft at about 100 feet from

the ground, the crew managed to pull the Marine up and place him inside the cabin, where he was given first aid treatment by the corpsman.

"Our aircraft didn't take any hits from the enemy ground fire," said Boyd, "but there was heavy firing all during the

medevac. Of course the rest of the recon team had laid down a heavy volume of protective fire for us, which I think kept the enemy pinned down.

"I've flown a lot of medevacs but this was the most unusual and hazardous I've seen. I'm just glad we got him out."

Plan-of-the-Day

NVA Plan Found

By SSgt. Bob Jordan

AN HOA—Ever wonder how the average North Vietnamese soldier spends his day?

Leathernecks of the 3rd Marines participating in Operation Taylor Common got an insight as to what the NVA troops do, when they captured a chart listing the daily schedule of the communist soldiers.

The chart read:

- 0500- REVEILLE
- 0500-0515 EXERCISE
- 0515-0530 SHOWER, SHAVE, SHINE, ETC.
- 0530-0610 CHOW
- 0610-1110 READY EQUIPMENT
- 1110-1120 WASH HANDS
- 1120-1200 NOON CHOW & REST PERIOD
- 1200-1330 READ STATUS
- 1330-1700 WORK
- 1700-1710 WASH HANDS
- 1710-1730 EVENING CHOW
- 1730-1810 ACTIVITIES 3-3 (sic)
- 1810-1830 FREE TIME
- 1830-1840 ACTIVITIES
- 2100 TAPS

After the drubbing the enemy has received at the hands of the Marines it is doubtful the schedule is being followed very closely.

Over 600 pounds of enemy documents, including the NVA

plan of the day, have fallen into the hands of the Marines as the enemy retreated.

Hundreds of weapons, food caches, communications equipment and hospital supplies have been discovered by the 3rd Marines during the operation.



NOTHING NEW — The powerful Sea Stallion helicopters of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and their unusual cargos have become such a common sight that even one hauling another helicopter doesn't rate a second glance from this farmer. (Photo by GySgt. Dan Grady)

NVA Die In Own Ambush

By Sgt. Gary Clark

DA NANG—A North Vietnamese Army (NVA) squad that tried to ambush a Marine patrol had no luck at all.

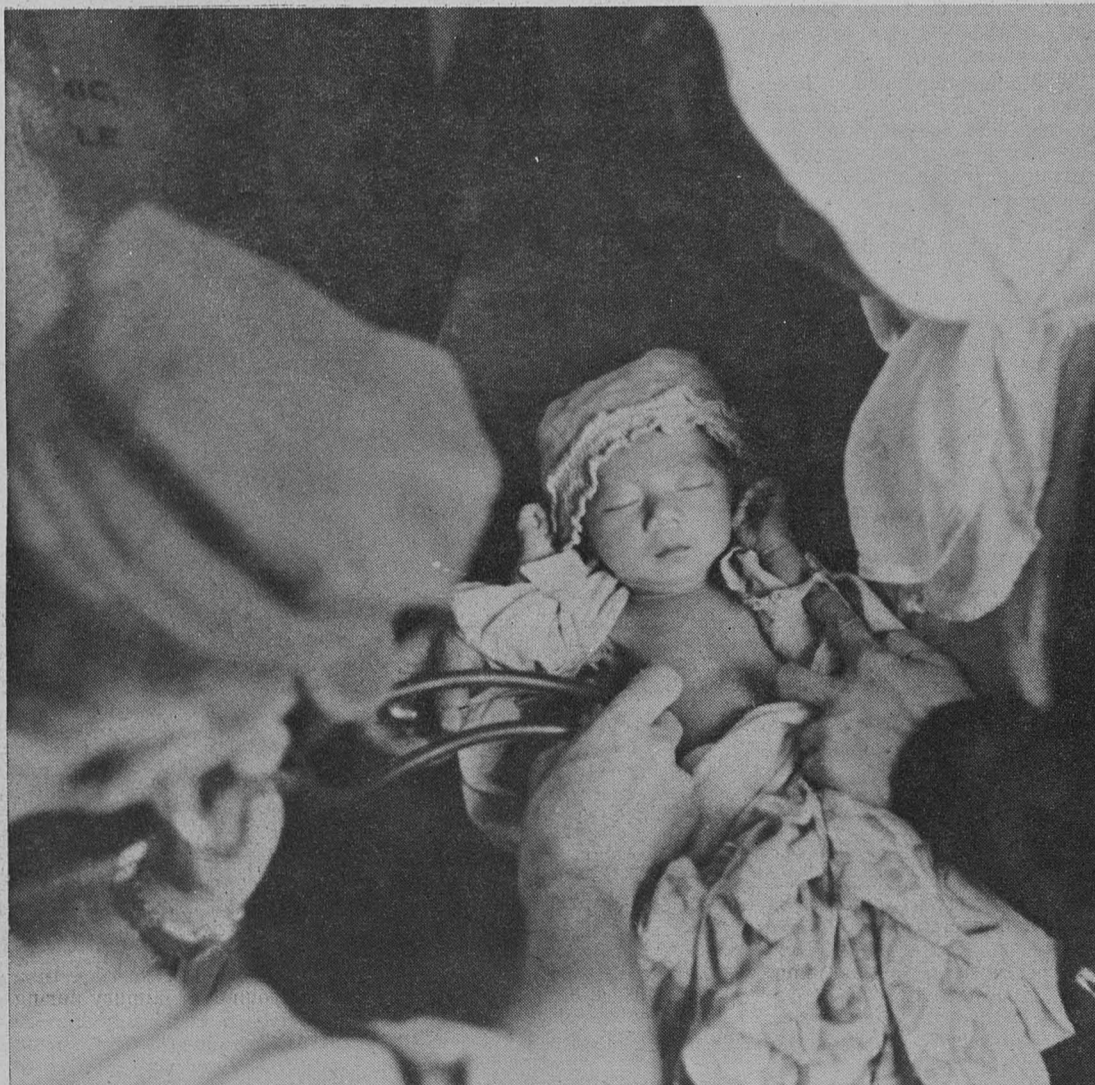
A squad from "A" Co., 1st Bn., 7th Marines was running a patrol along a river near Hill 42, 13 miles southwest of here.

According to Hospitalman Robert Holland (140205 Hawes, Whittier, Calif.), corpsman for the squad, the Marines had just passed through a small village and were in a rice paddy when enemy rounds began snapping overhead. "The fire was coming from a tree line about 200 yards to our front, so we all took covered positions in a trench-line and waited."

As soon as the six enemy were in the middle of the paddy, the entire squad opened up with small arms fire. Holland noted that "two of the NVA were killed immediately and the other four took cover in a small group of tree nearby."

Holland's squad leader thought an attack on the enemy position would be too risky. "We radioed back to Hill 55 and requested supporting arms," added Holland. "It wasn't too long before a tank came out on one of the fingers projecting from the hill and fired directly down into the enemy position."

"We got two more with that tank," said Holland, "and then we called in artillery. Needless to say, we didn't catch any more sniper fire from those NVA. That was a real 'no luck' group!"



VIET BABY—A month-old Vietnamese baby is examined by a Navy doctor during a MEDCAP visit to the infant's village. (Photo by SSgt. J.J. Tolarchyk)

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

(Cont. From Page 10)

Phyllis Luskin
163-25 130th Ave.
Jamaica Queens 11434
23

Dale Le Blanc
1442 Choctaw St.
Metairie, La. 70005

M. Jeanes
8, Hillbrow Road
Southbourne, Bournemouth BH6,
5nT
Hampshire
England
17

Dale Monacell
3812 N. Plainfield Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60634

Angela Lee Starn
8214 Woodyard Way
Citrus Heights
Calif. 95610
17

Claudette Coderre
4275 Acushnet Avenue
New Bedford, Mass. 02745

Jane Leonard
227 Sip Ave.
Jersey City, N.J. 07306
20

Sharon Oakes
541 Morningside Ave.
Union Beach, N.J. 07735
22

Winnie Dackery
512 Cross St.
Harrison, N.J.
24

Dale Helen Zale
2117 W. 3rd St.
Mesa, Ariz. 85201
18

Debbie Ansell
176 Ramblewood Road
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
16

Cindy Myers
Route 1, Box 16
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Barbara Le Page
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Boulder, Colorado 80302

Terry Bigane S.N.
LCM School of Nursing
2800 W. 95th St.
Evergreen Park, Ill. 60642

Karen Kerns
3760 West Sprague Road
Parma, Ohio 44134

Kathleen Kudlesky
319 Center Ave.
Jim Thorpe, Penn. 18229

Ann McGavin
510 Center St.
Jim Thorpe, Penn. 18229

Kathy Lienhard
87 W. 7th St.
Jim Thorpe, Penn. 18229

Dianne Meatz
R.D. 2
Lehigh, Penn.

Lynn McGavin
510 Center St.
Jim Thorpe, Penn. 18229

Joyce Gabrielson
402 Highland Rd.
Willmar, Minn. 56201

Mary Kelk
2605 Majestic Drive
Wilmington 3, Dela. 19803

Mrs. M. Averitt
G.I. Mail Lady
P.O. Box 674
Newman, Calif. 95360

Mary Owca
2945 N. Springfield Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60618
16

Debbie Parker
R#8 S. 13th St.
East Moline, Ill. 61244
15

Jeanne Hant
14 Vita Rd.
Totowa Boro., N.J. 07512
20

Lonna Davis
Rt#3 Old Maryville Pk.
Knoxville, Tenn. 37920

Mitzi Belich
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Sacramento, Calif.
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Betty Christini
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Dearborn, Mich. 48124

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Kansas City, Mo. 64131

Mary Stillman
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Bloomington, Minn. 55431

Jim Stillman
4120 West 108 Street
Bloomington, Minn. 55431

Marilyn Nagel
5024 S. Wolcott
Chicago, Ill.

Anita Hernandez
720 N. Hancock
Gary, Ind. 46403

Ida Louise Laquatra
432 W. Belmont, Apt. 405
Chicago, Ill. 60657
26

Meat...

(Continued from Page 6, 7)
SSgt. Jack W. Russell (Nashville, Ark.) filled in the rest of the story.

"We have an average of 55 Marine Corps, Army and Navy units to support, along with Republic of Korea troops," said Russell. "These range in size from 50 men to as high as 2,400."

Russell pointed out that in addition to perishable food, Rations Co. in December issued 173,000 cases of C-rations and the new individual long range patrol rations. Also shipped out were over 2,000 cases of 'sundry packs.' These are packets of items normally purchased in post exchanges that front line troops do not have access to such as razor blades, cigarettes, soap, shaving cream.

First Lt. Charles A. Burr (Kailua, Hawaii), commanding officer of Rations Co. said, "We here, in FLC's Rations Co., would like to assure the American housewife and mother that their husbands and sons are being provided for better than any fighting man in history — and we mean to keep improving."



BRASS RANCH CULTIVATES BUMPER CROP—Shell casings are reusable. Marines of Supply Co., Force Logistic Support Group Bravo, have the task of returning brass casings for salvage. (Photo by LCpl. Roger K. Nystrom)

Pilot Quits Flying, Becomes Chaplain

By Sgt. Bob Morris

DONG HA — Navy LtCmdr. Lowell W. VanTassel spent nearly 15 years and two wars looking at the earth from a bird's eye view.

Today, involved in another conflict, he is seeing Vietnam from the vantage point of a Marine infantryman, while he serves as chaplain for the 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines.

This is a big change for the chaplain, who, at the beginning of World War II began a career as a Navy pilot, flying dive bombers and torpedo planes.

He continued to fly until the spring of 1955, involving himself in many areas of aviation, such as the aerial mapping of Alaska, and the flying of priority cargoes. He was wounded during the Korean war.

"My decision to enter the clergy was not based on any blinding revelation or miracle such as St. Elmo's fire on the wings of my aircraft," states VanTassel (Pittsburg, Kan.), "It was mostly due to the slow process of maturation."

The heavy-set, 45-year old chaplain continues, "I finally realized that I had one lifetime to accomplish the thing that I felt was most important."

Chaplain VanTassel can be found doing what he considers most important in the remote area of northern I Corps where his Leathernecks are serving.

"These men are operating in widely scattered areas," the chaplain says. "They can't come to church, so I have to take it to them."

This can mean holding religious services atop lonely wind-swept fire support bases overlooking the Demilitarized Zone or in tangled jungles, using stacks of ammo boxes for an altar, and a bomb crater and the sky for his cathedral.

When not in the field with his Marines, he usually can be found in his combination office and living quarters, which consist of a metal shipping container. Made of corrugated iron, the box measures roughly 8 ft. by 6 ft. by 6 ft.

This unique innovation of the chaplain's offers him the privacy he needs for individual counseling of Marines with problems.

"A lot of people thought that I was a little crazy when I first moved in," he chuckles, his imposing frame wedged in the small cubicle, already crowded with his cot, desk, books and other effects, "but I've found it to be very comfortable and cozy."

Although the chaplain is well satisfied with his work, he says that he still misses flying and when he gets the chance likes to "get behind the stick."

VanTassel resigned from the Navy in 1955, with his present rank of lieutenant commander, to enter the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Although not ordained until 1958, his first assignment as minister to the First Presbyterian Church of Oswego, Kan., began in 1955 due to the need for clergymen of his faith in the area.

According to the chaplain, he didn't leave the Navy with the intention of returning to the service as a member of the Chaplain Corps. Acquaintances he had made while he was a pilot were influential in his return to the Naval service.

"It was like coming home," he says.

Every Day's A Washday

DONG HA COMBAT BASE — Force Logistic Support Group Bravo's combat laundry personnel washed and dried more than 300,000 pounds of laundry during December, a task requiring 620 pounds of detergent. The Marine Corps has laundry facilities at the Vandegrift, Quang Tri and Dong Ha combat bases to serve all American forces fighting in the northernmost sectors of Vietnam's I Corps.

Bullets In Marine's Pack Hit

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG — Nine M-16 rifle rounds detonated inside a Marine's pack — and saved his life!

LCpl. John E. Carnahan (166W. Lemon, Arcadia, Calif.), a 20-year-old fireteam leader with "E" Co., 2nd Bn 1st Marines, was on a seven-man night patrol when it happened.

The patrol was in "Indian country," and had just spotted five North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers. As they prepared to move out to intercept the NVA, enemy machine gun fire broke loose from three different positions.

Carnahan said, "I was just moving up to the top of this rise when they opened up. During the first burst of machine gun fire I felt myself get hit. At the same instant I was diving for the ditch to our direct front. I started thinking that it sure didn't hurt very much, considering I'd been shot. Then I realized I wasn't hurt. If there's no pain, you're not hit, right?"

"But then my squad leader, who was right behind me, started yelling about my back. I was smoking! We couldn't figure out what was wrong because there was no holes or scratches on my flak jacket. We didn't think about it too much, considering the tight squeeze we were in."

Mortar fire finally drove off the larger enemy force and the squad returned to the battalion area the next morning with no casualties.

Still somewhat mystified as to what had happened, Carnahan began sorting through his gear to find some answers. He found three relatively small holes in his pack. Then he began wondering about the additional bandoleer of ammunition he usually carries in his pack.

Checking it out, the young Leatherneck discovered a shredded bandoleer and nine empty, burned and twisted cartridges that the enemy round had set off. In stopping the enemy round nine of his own had fired.

All Carnahan had to say about his find was, "I'm sure glad those rounds were pointed out away from me. Pointing in that direction, they saved my life."

Bravo...

(Continued From Page 3)
AUTOMATED PARTS STORE

Equipment breaks down. Vietnam's heat, dust and monsoon rains take their toll on combat equipment. To keep maintenance section supplied with parts — sparkplugs, transistors, firing pins and fuel pumps — Supply Co. mans an "automated" shop's store. More than 8,500 items complete its inventory. Because the store has the largest item inventory within Supply Co., it was the first to become computerized.

Presently, all paperwork is handled by Marine Data Processing Platoon (DPP 10) at Phu Bai. More than 2,000 requisitions are received during an average month. To provide fast, efficient service, automation is employed.

FOUND ONLY IN COMBAT

Supply Co. maintains the largest ammunition Supply Point (ASP) in northern I Corps. During an average month 22,000 tons of ammunition, consisting of more than 250 different types, (Continued on Page 12)



HORN OF PLENTY—Like the celebrated "horn," a 1st MAW CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter provides a net of supplies to Marine ground units at fire support bases atop the rugged mountains in northern I Corps. (Photo by Capt. Joe Collins)

3/7 Marines Spring Trap

By LCpl. R. L. Evankavitch
 DA NANG—A group of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers lost five men when they walked into a Marine position seven miles southwest of here. Elements of "M" Co., 3rd Bn., Seventh Marines were in a night

defensive position when Pfc. J. E. Northing (Cedar Hill, Tenn.) spotted approximately 15 NVA about 20 yards away. Northing told his squad leader, Cpl. R. J. Cosgrove (4107 28th Ave, Astoria, N.Y.) of the enemy movement and Cosgrove

passed the word to get ready. When the NVA were about 10 yards away, LCpl. R.E. Burkes (108 Wright Pl., Grand Prairie, Texas) opened up with his M-60 machine gun and the rest of the squad opened fire with small arms and M-79 grenade fire. Three NVA were hit on the initial burst.

A search team went into the area and one wounded NVA fired on the Marines with an AK-47 rifle. The Marines returned fire killing the NVA.

When the search team moved into the enemy area again, another wounded NVA started to throw a hand grenade. LCpl. R.A. Menard (160 Catherine St., Lafayette, La.) killed the enemy soldier.

The grenade exploded near Cpl. Cosgrove wounding him slightly.

The Marines, searching possible hiding places, found one more dead NVA.

A search of the five dead enemy revealed three AK-47 rifles, nine Chinese communist grenades, three packs of sealed documents, one diary and a map showing a local guard tower.

Dewey Canyon...

(Continued From Page 1)
 timated two platoons of NVA, the Marine unit, supported by artillery from nearby fire support bases and Marine air strikes, killed 39. Four Marines were wounded.

The NVA apparently thinks highly of his jungle sanctuary, previously unexplored by allied forces, and has made desperate attacks on two Marine fire support bases that provide the artillery punch for the 9th Marines' drive.

On one unsuccessful attack on Fire Support Base Erskine, the enemy left behind 25 dead as Marine infantrymen defending the hilltop position threw back the enemy assault.

In the early hours of Feb. 17, failing to keep their own Tet truce, NVA troops attacked Fire Support Base Cunningham just northwest of the Ashau Valley. The enemy launched the attack with sappers penetrating the perimeter wire and rushing toward the Marine artillery positions. Near hand-to-hand fighting resulted and some of the enemy were slain within three feet of the Leatherneck's guns.

At least 37 NVA bodies were counted in the wire and on the artillery positions when the attack was hurled back. Four Marine defenders were killed and 47 wounded.

On Feb. 18, the 9th marines again encountered a determined enemy force as they continued their offensive thrust just north of the Ashau Valley.

A company from the regiment's 1st Bn., encountered a platoon of NVA dug-in on a ridgeline. Said the company commander, "They appeared to want to hold the ridge at all costs." The Marines assaulted the hill, killing 20. One Marine was slightly wounded in the encounter.

In addition to the enemy killed and weapons captured, Marines on Operation Dewey Canyon are also unearthing large NVA am-

munition caches. The 9th Marines have uncovered more than 10,000 rounds of enemy small arms ammunition, nearly 600 rocket-propelled grenades, 500 lbs of TNT, 5,000 lbs of rice and a large quantity of medical supplies.

Bravo...

(Continued From Page 11)
 are handled at the ASP.

During the latter months of 1968, Supply Co. not only changed its name, but also moved to a new area. Force Logistic Supply Unit One, nicknamed and pronounced "Floosey-1," was the company's original name. Its former base of operation was Dong Ha Combat Base. Now, more than half of its sections are located here at Quang Tri Combat Base, eight miles south.

"We've moved to provide better and more efficient service for the 3rd Marine Division," Col. Dolan said.

Diver...

(Continued From Page 4)
 was assigned directly to FLC and his present job of providing underwater security for the III MAF bridge.

Recalling his earlier experiences, Ellis said, "The difference between diving in the murky waters of the Han River and the clear blue of the Mediterranean is tremendous. The tides, monsoon rains and muddy water in the 'Han' make it very difficult to see at certain depths."

Currently serving on a six-month extension, Ellis plans on returning to the field of fashion upon completion of his tour in Vietnam.

Arms Cache...

(Continued From Pages 6-7)
 as Marines moved down the hillside to their helicopter pick-up point.

A series of loud explosions told the Marines that the enemy's bunker complex was now only a big hold filled with twisted pieces of metal.

As the Marines waited for helicopters to pick them up, an aerial observer overhead spotted two enemy soldiers trying to sneak up on the Leatherneck positions. A volley of M-60 machine gun fire and grenades put a damper on Charlie's intentions and drove them away.

The helicopters arrived and the Marines were picked up.

The complete cache discovered by the team included 8,000 rounds of 12.7mm anti-aircraft ammunition, 800 rocket-propelled grenades, 1,350 mortar rounds, 10,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 10 cases of TNT, 11 cases of Chinese communist grenades and 1,100 assorted mortar fuses and other equipment. All were destroyed.

The four enemy anti-aircraft guns, discovered by Killian, were returned to Quang Tri Combat Base.

5th Marines Linked To Families Via MARS

By Cpl. Dave Allen
 AN HOA — Leathernecks with the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, have the opportunity to hear the voices of their families and friends because of the new Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) installation located near the regimental headquarters here.

Open for business since Dec. 31, the MARS station has already handled nearly 200 "phone patches," the name given the long distance calls to the U.S. In addition, approximately 400 "in country" messages have been made by the Marines at An Hoa.

GySgt. Benjamin F. Brooks

(2813 31st Ave. N., Birmingham, Ala.), NCOIC, has four men working two hour shifts daily to keep the station on the air.

Sgt. Brooks has been in the MARS business for 15 years.

"As far as I know, this is the only MARS station at a forward combat base in Vietnam," Brooks said, "and naturally we've had our problems.

"We operate with only two radio frequencies, and at times have had problems getting patches to the States. But things are improving and I expect the show to be running smoothly in the near future.

"I'm real happy with the situation," Brooks concluded.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM:

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3rd Class 8¢

Airmail 20¢

1st Class 12¢

.....

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

TO: _____

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