

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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2005



Vietnam

The Buildup

Years

MARINES' VITAL ROLE. . . MUSEUM BECOMES RECOGNIZABLE. . . DIVISION CHRONICLES VIETNAM
MARINE SNIPER RIFLE. . . TIGER STRIPES. . . REVITALIZED COMBAT ART PROGRAM
HELICOPTERS IN VIETNAM. . . FIGHT FOR FALLUJAH. . . STREET WITHOUT JOY

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FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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"We can only know who we are by being certain of who we have been."

Gen Leonard F. Chapman Jr.
24th Commandant of the Marine Corps

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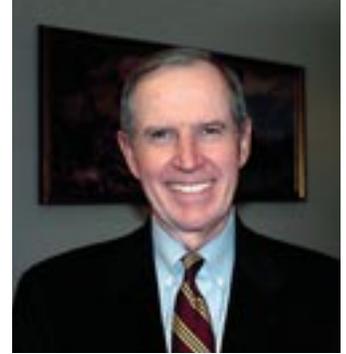
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ABOUT THE COVER



Cover Illustration: Swamp Rat, painted by Capt Edward M. Condra, USMC. A Marine infantryman sashes through a bamboo thicket during the heavy rains of a Vietnamese monsoon.
Condra 42-4-78

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.



Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)

Marines Continue Vital Role

I was the Infantry Monitor for captains and lieutenants in the late 1960s. Our business was very much the Vietnam War at the time and infantry officers fell into two neat categories; “those there and those going.” Just about everyone was in the same group Corps-wide, but especially company grade officers. We have now arrived at that same assignment tempo with roughly a third of our operating forces deployed in the Global War on Terrorism. Whereas this is not a new, or even unusual, situation in our Corps, it does seem surprising when one considers all of the varied assignments and duties Marines perform for their country. Small in nature, and by choice, we still manage to provide combat power well out of proportion to our size. Such has been the example seen by all Americans in the capture, cleansing and securing of Fallujah; heretofore a sanctuary for our terrorist enemies in Iraq. Even the non-military eye could see this was a brutally difficult mission, but a combined arms team seemed to make short work of it nonetheless.

During this battle the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, would capture a compound on 10 November, our 229th birthday, that was quite significant as well as shocking to even the most hardened veterans. In the Jolan District of the city they found a house and room where victims, mostly innocent civilians, were tortured, then beheaded, all while being video taped and broadcast world-wide. Blood spattered the walls, floors and even a wheelchair in mute testimony to what took place there. Also captured was the infamous “Black Banner” seen behind the terrorists on the wall at each execution. On a recent trip to Iraq this banner was given to the Commandant by the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, Major

General Richard F. Natonski. The banner is now held here at the Historical Center for future display. No doubt its former rogue owners attempted to legitimize their organization by this handmade banner. They succeeded only in producing an atrocious image instantly vilified throughout the world.

In this issue we also note another important date in the series of commemorations. In 2003, we concluded the final event in the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, and this year will be the same for the 60th anniversary of two great World War II battles; Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Our focus has been very much on these two great wars in our Corps’ history. It may, therefore, come as a surprise that around the time this issue is published

and read we will begin the recognition of the 40th anniversary of Vietnam. Specifically, on 8 March 2005 we commemorate the landing of 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade at Red Beach, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. Although Marines were there well before this date, it is nevertheless recognized as the official beginning of the Vietnam War with the first introduction of ground forces. The period preceding this, 1954 to 1964, is a period called the advisory and combat assistance era, and takes us back to the first Marine Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Victor J. Croizat, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Archie J. Clapp commanding Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 in Operation Shu-Fly at Soc Trang. □1775□



Gen Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, is presented with a captured insurgent’s banner by MGen Richard F. Natonski, 1st Marine Division commanding general. Marines in Fallujah recovered the banner during Operation Phantom Fury. It is approximately 3 feet by 6 feet with hand lettering that loosely translates to “Secret Islamic Military (of) the Black Flag.”

Museum Shape Becoming Recognizable

*by Col Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR
Deputy Director*

Despite an unusually wet year and the arrival of what has thankfully been a mild winter so far, the National Museum of the Marine Corps is assuming recognizable lines. Centex Construction is only slightly behind schedule in its march to finish the building by spring of 2006. (Exhibit installation will continue for several months after that.) The Central Gallery walls, rising 40 feet from the ground, are now complete. Workers also have poured the complete concrete ring beam that tops the Central Gallery walls. This “cap” contains the large bolts that will anchor a number of huge steel beams, which will in turn support the massive central mast of the skylight. One of the tall walls forming the wings of the entryway into the museum is in place, while work on the other is well along. Another similar wall forming the opposite end of the gallery space on the east side of the Central Gallery is

complete. Centex has laid much of the concrete foundation for the outer ring wall and begun forming and pouring that wall as well, so the galleries will soon become a visible enclosure.

Other major segments of the project underway include preparation of the below-ground shaft for the elevator in the Central Gallery, pouring of the slab on grade that will form the deck of the mechanical space, waterproofing the exterior walls, backfilling the earthen berms against the completed exterior walls, and preparations for raising the steel mast and its supporting beams. A 250-ton crane already is on site. An even larger, 350-foot-tall crane should be in place by the time of publication. These two monsters will work together to move the central mast into position by the end of February. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation will host a ceremony on the National Museum grounds on 18 February to commemorate the 60th

anniversary of the landing on Iwo Jima and the famous raising of the flag on Mt. Suribachi, which was the inspiration for the design of the museum building.

The Marine Corps History and Museums Division attained a major milestone in the project on 7 January when the Regional Contracting Office in Quantico, Virginia, finalized the main exhibit fabrication contract with Design and Production of Lorton, Virginia. Some of their previous military projects include the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina; the Price of Freedom and the Submarines in the Cold War exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum of American History and the National Guard Memorial Museum, both in Washington, D.C.; the U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Maryland; and the Frazier Historical



Photo: Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

This aerial photo shows the nearly completed outer ring wall of the Main Gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The wing walls jutting out on either side will soon be backfilled for support.



Photo: Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

This aerial photo of the back side of the National Museum of the Marine Corps shows the nearly completed outer ring wall of the Main Gallery and the wing walls jutting out on either side.

Arms Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. The company also has been selected as the exhibit fabricator for the expansion of the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. Their other recognized projects include the Rock and

Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York City.

Design and Production's \$10 million contract will encompass the building of internal walls within the gallery

spaces, the construction of exhibit cases, the production and printing of hundreds of images and illustrations (some in the form of wall-sized murals), the mounting of hundreds of artifacts, and the fabrication of dozens of tableaus setting large artifacts such as tanks, vehicles, helicopters and artillery pieces into replicated combat environments. They also will integrate the cast figures and media pieces produced by other contractors. Design and Production will be fabricating many of these elements off site until the first gallery spaces become available for exhibit work near the end of this year. The company's first work inside the new museum building will be hanging aircraft, followed by building partitions between the various era galleries.

With the selection of Design and Production, the entire National Museum of the Marine Corps team is finally on board and moving full steam ahead toward completion of this momentous project. □1775□

Mint Unveils Commemorative Coin

This artist's rendering depicts the new U.S. Marine Corps commemorative silver dollar, which the U.S. Mint plans to put on sale in May 2005. Coupled with a recent decision by the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp set honoring U.S. Marines during 2005, this will be a banner year recognizing the Corps. The four-stamp

group will depict John Basilone, Smedley D. Butler, Dan Daly and Lewis "Chesty" B. Puller. The Mint likely will sell a packaged set of the silver dollar and stamps. A portion of the proceeds of the sale of the coin will support construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

2002 Annual Chronology (Part II)

by Kara R. Newcomer
Reference Historian

The “Current Chronology of the Marine Corps” serves as a valuable source of information on significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history. Since 1982, the Reference Section at the Marine Corps Historical Center has compiled the yearly chronology by researching numerous primary and secondary sources each week. The following highlights entries from the second half of the 2002 Chronology.

5 July - AV-8B Harrier pilots assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 flew their first combat mission over Afghanistan as part of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit. The pilots conducted a reconnaissance mission using the new Litening II targeting pods, making this the first combat mission for the advanced targeting system. The Harriers launched from the amphibious assault ship USS *Wasp* (LHD 1).

5 July - Ted Williams, the baseball legend who served as a Marine pilot in both World War II and the Korean War, died of heart failure in Crystal River, Florida, at the age of 83. He spent 21 years, except for his periods of military service, with the Boston Red Sox after joining the team in 1939. Williams said the two things he was proudest of was being a Marine and being in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

14 August - The Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Chief of Naval Operations signed a broad agreement that laid the groundwork for further integration of the Department of the Navy’s fighter and attack aircraft. The memorandum of understanding completed a long-term effort to achieve greater combat capability in naval tactical aviation.

15 August - Twenty-two Marines were the first to move back into the Pentagon’s outer E Ring offices that were demolished by the terrorist



Photo: DoD 2002112419930

Armed with GBU-12 Paveway laser-guided munitions, an A-V8B Harrier II of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 (Reinforced), the aviation combat element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), waits to launch from the flight deck of the USS Wasp (LHD 1) to conduct a mission over Afghanistan in July 2002.

attacks of 11 September 2001. The offices of the Counsel to the Commandant of the Marine Corps were rebuilt from the ground up with the construction following the same floor plan as the original 60-year-old design. By the first anniversary, 600 military and civilian personnel were scheduled to be back in their reconstructed offices.

30 August - The Marine Corps decided to keep the M16A4 as the preferred infantry rifle after nearly two years of testing and re-evaluation. The M16A4 was found to be more reliable than the lighter, shorter M4 carbine. The A4 variant had relatively few changes from the M16A2 rifle used by Marines for decades. The only substantial change was the military rail system added to the upper receiver, which allowed scopes and night-vision equipment to be attached to the weapon. More than 30,000 of the M16A4s were to be fielded around the world.

11 September - Flags were lowered to half-staff at Marine bases around the world to honor those who fell in

the prior year in the terrorist attacks at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. Acts of remembrance by Marines included a memorial service at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, a 25-mile commemorative march by 2d Battalion, 23d Marines, at Camp Pendleton, California, and the burying of a piece of the World Trade Center on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, by members of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) who were serving on guard duty there since its reopening in late fall 2001.

13 September - The Marine Corps expanded its stop-loss policy to retain about 500 Marines needed to guard U.S. bases and stations during the war on terrorism. The new policy allowed commanders to keep any Marine in any military occupation specialty they deemed necessary and affected Marines whose active-duty service was scheduled to end 15 October or later. The policy allowed commands to keep Marines six months past their scheduled separation date.

20 September - Task Force India, comprised mostly from Company I, 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, returned to Camp Lejeune after spending months providing security at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. The Marines were part of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) Battalion and were relieved by Company L, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines.

1 October - Lieutenant General Michael W. Hagee’s nomination as 33d Commandant of the Marine Corps was confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He would replace General James L. Jones, whose nomination as Chief of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, was also confirmed.

8 October - Lance Corporal Antonio L. Sledd was killed and Lance Corporal George R. Simpson was



Photo: DoD 200286151932

"The Commandant's Own" Marine Drum and Bugle Corps performed in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2002 as part of the annual Edinburgh Military Tattoo that was also part of the Golden Jubilee celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 50th year of rule.

wounded when two Kuwaiti nationals in a pickup truck opened fire on Company L, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, who were taking a break during the training exercise, Eager Mace. The assailants then drove to another group of Marines and opened fire again. No Marines were injured in the second attack but both Kuwaitis were killed by return fire. The incident occurred on the island of Failaka, 10 miles from the Kuwait mainland, and was labeled as a "terrorist act" by Kuwaiti officials.

16 October - President George W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq if that nation did not comply with United Nations resolutions calling for it to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction. The resolution granted the President the most far-reaching authority for the use of military force since the Tonkin Gulf resolution was passed in 1964, which allowed the expansion of military operations in Vietnam.

28 October - The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit sailed through the Suez Canal enroute to the East African nation of Djibouti as the hunt for Al-Qaida moved into the Horn of Africa region. Approximately 800 Marines were deployed to Djibouti to prepare

for contingencies in the region.

6-11 November - The 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, better known as The Wall, was commemorated in Washington, D.C. The activities included the reading of all 58,229 names that grace the black granite memorial, only the third time such a reading has occurred in the memorial's history. The reading took 65 hours to complete.

13 November - The command element for a Marine-led task force against terrorism in the Horn of Africa departed for Djibouti. Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa was led by Major General John F. Sattler, commander of 2d Marine Division from Camp Lejeune, and had no scheduled return date. The command element linked up with U.S. forces already in the region to help disrupt terrorist cells that traditionally used the region as a transit route.

14 November - Less than a month after deploying to Afghanistan, an AV-8B Harrier aircraft from Marine Attack Squadron 513 joined an Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt attack jet in engaging enemy forces during a firefight near a U.S. special operations base near Lwara. The attack was the second of two firefights that occurred overnight.

21 November - The headquarters element of I Marine Expeditionary Force deployed to the Middle East from Camp Pendleton, California, in preparation for a possible war with Iraq. The headquarters element included several hundred planners and commanders whose job was to prepare for the movement of troops, aircraft, supplies and equipment in the region. Lieutenant General James T. Conway, who took command of the force only a week before the deployment, was among the departing troops. A small contingent of Marines from the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing and support units from Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, also deployed with the headquarters element.

13 December - The Department of Defense announced plans to reinstate the smallpox vaccination program for some members of the Armed Forces based on their occupational specialty. The military stopped routine smallpox vaccinations in 1990, but in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks and the anthrax letter attacks, the Department of Defense reassessed the overall potential to use smallpox as a biological weapon.

15 December - The Marine Corps took over the training of former Soviet Republic of Georgia troops from Army Special Forces units after the graduation of the first class. The Marine-led joint training team of about 60 troops picked up the next class that began February 2003. The Georgia Train and Equip Program commenced in May under Special Operations Command, Europe.

23 December - The Marine Corps formed a new 86-person unit. The Marine Corps Special Operations Command Detachment had no official name and consisted of volunteers. The detachment comprised 22 headquarters, 30 reconnaissance, 28 intelligence specialists, and 6 fire control members. The unit began training in June 2003 to be ready for deployments by April 2004.

31 December - The strength of the U.S. Armed Forces was 1,449,690. Of those, 174,018 were U.S. Marines.

□1775□

Division Chronicles Vietnam

by Charles R. Smith
History Writing Head

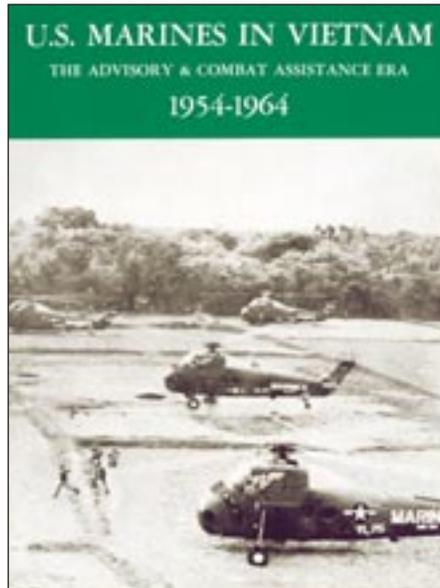
One learns through experience, and a large part of the experience of the Marine Corps in Vietnam is contained in the 12-volume official series *U.S. Marines in Vietnam*, produced by the History and Museums Division. Like the war it chronicled, the series had a tortuous history.

In 1964, at the request of then Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, the branches of the Armed Services were directed to prepare a series of classified studies covering the activities of their respective Service in Vietnam during the years 1954 to 1963. The writing section of the Marine Corps Historical Branch followed this study with a classified history of the Marines in Vietnam during 1964. In January 1966, a classified chronology of events for the period 1954 to 1965, entitled *Commandant's Vietnam Chronology*, was prepared and given limited distribution. The chronology was updated by the Vietnam unit of the writing section every month in keeping with the Chief of Staff's directive that the project continue "until the last combat unit deployed from Vietnam."

With the completion of the 1964 study, the writing section began work on a series of monographs covering six-month segments of Marine operations in Vietnam.

Work on the classified monographs continued until 1968, when the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History recommended the preparation of an unclassified, official single-volume history of the Marine Corps' participation in the Vietnam War through the May 1968 opening of peace talks in Paris. The committee noted several advantages to such an effort: it would tend to "moderate and influence the early post-war unofficial accounts;" stimulate comments and additional records; and "make the ongoing historical effort apparent and relevant to the participants."

The single-volume history was com-



pleted, but never published, and work resumed on the six-month sequential monographs and other special subject and professional studies such as small unit actions, the Marine Corps' civic action program, the battle for Khe Sanh, and the Seventh Fleet's special landing force.

In 1971, the director of the newly created Marine Corps History and Museums Division was given authority to declassify non-current records in his custody. With that authority, Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons directed that all future Vietnam monographs would be unclassified and that "those presently published as classified documents will be re-edited and declassified." Following the successful pattern established by the writing of the World War II and the Korean War histories, he laid out a program under which the preliminary studies and monographs would be completed in five years, and the case-bound histories would be completed within 10 years. A six-volume series was contemplated, covering the Seed Years: 1954-1964, Enclaves: 1965-1966, Battle for the DMZ: 1966-1969, Battle for the People: 1966-1969, Withdrawal: 1969-1971, and Reprise and Vindication: 1971-1973. But the war did not end.

Early in the 10-year period the

desire for immediacy sparked a re-evaluation of the two-tiered approach to first produce monographs and then finished histories. It was decided the format for the histories would fall somewhere between the two. The volumes would be considerably slimmer than the World War II volumes, but there would be more of them and they would be more heavily illustrated.

Because the Vietnam War did not divide itself nicely into battles and campaigns, as was the case with the Marine Corps' march across the Pacific in World War II, or the march up and down the Korean peninsula, the final monograph histories followed a strictly chronological format and were divided into nine periods covering 1954 to 1975. The first volume, *The Advisory and Combat Assistance Era, 1954-1964*, by Captain Robert H. Whitlow, USMCR, which traces the evolution of the activities of Marines in Vietnam from the one-man advisory operation at the conclusion of the French-Indochina War in 1954 to the advisory and combat support activities of some 700 Marines at the end of 1964, was published in 1977. Although published out of sequence, the last and most definitive volume, *The Defining Year, 1968*, by Jack Shulimson and others, appeared in 1997. In addition to the nine operational histories, two functional histories, one on chaplains with Marines and the other on Marines and military law in Vietnam, as well as an anthology and bibliography, were published.

Much of the success and failures of the Marines in Vietnam have been recorded, but remain to be further exploited by both the professional historian and by the professional Marine. As the Commandant's Advisory Committee aptly stated: "History is the life-blood of the Marine Corps. Without a full understanding of the lessons of its past, the Marine Corps cannot know where its future lies."

□1775□

Marine Sniper Legend's M40 Rifle

by Dieter Stenger
Assistant NMMC Curator

The sniper rifle used by Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney was retired from active duty service 26 years after the Vietnam War. Peter R. Senich, the foremost authority on Marine Corps sniping, discovered the rifle at Weapons Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, in August 1996. The rifle was scheduled for a new barrel and general refurbishment until Senich convinced the Marine Corps to retire the historic rifle from service. Soon thereafter, the weapon was retrofitted to the configuration used by Mawhinney during the Vietnam War and accessioned into the Marine Corps Museum's collection.

Various individuals throughout the Marine Corps and across the United States donated parts to reconstruct the Remington M700 rifle, fitted with a Redfield 3x9 telescopic sight. After Mawhinney left the Corps in 1970, only the receiver remained unchanged. Mr. James Leatherwood provided a trigger housing mechanism and barrel; Mr. James Gannon donated a Redfield 3x9 telescopic sight; Mr. Senich provided a trigger guard and a set of scope rings and mounts; and retired Colonel Elliot R. "Sonny" Laine supplied a butt plate. Staff Sergeant Richard McCrary, of Weapons Training Battalion, was instrumental in rebuilding the rifle and locating other parts still in Marine Corps inventory.

As a 10-year-old, Mawhinney shot flies from fences with a BB-gun. The son of a former Marine, Mawhinney joined the Marine Corps on 10 October 1967. Following his training at the Scout-Sniper School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, he served with the 5th Marines scout-sniper platoon for more than 16 months at An Hoa, southwest of Da Nang, and ended the Vietnam War with the highest number of confirmed kills. During Mawhinney's service in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970, he was credited with 103 confirmed kills and 216 "probables."

Marine scout-snipers were employed



The restored 7.62mm M40 sniper rifle used by Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney during the Vietnam War will be one of many artifacts on display in the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

at the squad level and attached to each of the regimental battalions. The standard table of organization prescribed that each squad contained five 2-man teams. However, an average of only three teams were fielded due to casualties, leave, or training. The effectiveness of scout-snipers depended on the commanding officer of an infantry unit. The commander's knowledge of how snipers were best employed ultimately determined their effectiveness. Indeed, snipers themselves helped reduce the squandering of sniper assets through sniper professionalism, self-motivation and initiative.

During the Civil War, sharpshooters recorded hits at extreme distances after mounting telescopic sights on their muzzle-loaders. During World War I, Marine snipers used the .30-caliber M1903 Springfield rifle and Winchester A5 sight. In World War II, Marine snipers were issued the M1903A1 and Unertl sight, also known as the M1941. While the M1C, M1D, and M1952 .30-caliber rifles supplanted the M1903 in Korea, the M1941 was used throughout the war. During Vietnam, the M1C and M1D endured into the mid-1960s, despite being classified as obsolete. In 1965, the M70 became the sniper rifle for Marines. The following year, based on recommendations by the Director of Marksmanship, Colonel Howard A. York, the Marine Corps adopted a lighter, military version of the match-grade, bolt-action Remington M700 (designated M40) target rifle, fitted with a Redfield 3x9 accu-range vari-

able power scope. An improved model, designated M40A1, incorporated a lighter fiberglass stock that was resilient to changes in atmospheric conditions and withstood the hardships of combat and terrain. Moreover, the Redfield scope and mounting ring set was replaced with a custom 10x Unertl scope built for the Marine Corps. Upgrades to the M40A1 model were adopted in the late 1990s and are currently fielded in the M40A3 model that includes a new fiberglass stock with adjustable length of pull and cheek pad, a new custom built trigger and Unertl sight base assembly, and new scope mounting rings. The M40A3 also incorporates an accessory rail and is the first Marine Corps sniper rifle to use a bipod. The M40A3 sniper rifle has a total length of 44.25 inches, weighs 16.5 lbs., uses a match grade barrel, a magazine capacity of five rounds, and a maximum effective range of 1,000 yards. All Marine Corps sniper rifles are assembled by Marine armorers at precision weapons, Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico.

The Marine Corps sniper program took root by forward thinking Marine officers such as George O. Van Orden and Calvin A. Lloyd, who conducted detailed research on the art of sniping and equipment. As early as 1942, their study advocated adopting the Winchester M70 rifle with Unertl scope.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps will display Chuck Mawhinney's M40 sniper rifle. □1775□

The Tiger Stripe Utilities

by Neil B. Abelsma
Uniforms Curator

The South Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) was created 13 October 1954. Although its history would be short, it left behind a proud legacy. American Marine Corps advisors would take part in VNMC history from beginning to almost its end. One defining mark of that legacy was the distinctive tiger stripe uniform that was worn by Marines from both countries.

As part of the program to make the VNMC an elite organization and create *esprit de corps*, Senior Marine Advisor Lieutenant Colonel Frank R. Wilkinson, Jr., in August 1959 suggested the unit adopt an official emblem and distinctive uniform. The VNMC had been wearing a combination of the Vietnamese army and navy utilities. A board of Vietnamese officers selected an emblem similar to that of the U.S. Marines and a black and green camouflaged utility pattern. The emblem consisted of an eagle, globe and anchor similar to the USMC insignia, but with a map of Vietnam superimposed over a five-point star. The camouflage pattern chosen was developed for fighting in heavily foli-

ated jungle was similar to those worn by French commando units in Indochina in the 1950s.

Many of these uniforms were produced at the Vietnamese Clothing Production Center in Saigon with the Thuy-Quan Luc-Chien tiger-stripe camouflage fabric coming from off-shore sources such as Thailand, Okinawa, Taiwan and South Korea.

U.S. Marine advisors began wearing the distinctive South Vietnamese Marine utilities when assigned to Vietnamese units for personal camouflage so they would not stand out when they accompanied them on operations. The advisors were usually measured for uniforms upon arrival in Saigon and within two days received six sets of tailor made "tiger suits" with embroidered nametags and appropriate insignias. The uniform material was lightweight but strong, easily dryable and allowed one's skin to breathe.

Also issued was a green beret for garrison duty and liberty. The beret was the mark of an elite force in Vietnam and was highly prized. The beret was made of wool and on it was



The emblem for the South Vietnamese Marine Corps consisted of an eagle, globe, anchor and star over a map of Vietnam.

worn a brass or embroidered VNMC globe and anchor device. The tiger stripe utility cap or a helmet with a cover was worn in the field. Rank insignias were also sewn on the front of utility caps. VNMC rank insignia was the same as that used in the Vietnamese Navy, except army designations were used. These rank insignias were attached in the French fashion to a shirt button centered between chest pockets, while U.S. Marines pinned their rank on both collar points and frequently also had a Vietnamese rank insignia on their shirt button or sewn on their right chest pocket.

On the shirt above the left chest pocket was a non-standard "U.S. Marines" tape, and above the right chest pocket was a personal nametape with the background color being that of the different VNMC battalions. The 3d Infantry Battalion, for example, had white lettering on green tape. The VNMC insignia patch appeared on the right chest pocket below the flap and on the left sleeve was the major command. Unit patches were worn on the upper right shoulder. In the field, however, these patches were often omitted.

Black combat boots were originally standard with the utilities but were later replaced by jungle boots.

□1775□



U.S. Marine advisors in Vietnam 25 March 1972 included (from left) Capt James E. Johnson, Advisor 3d Battalion, VNMC; Capt John W. Ripley, Senior Advisor 3d Battalion, VNMC; LtCol Gerald H. Turley, and Capt William D. Wischmeyer, Advisor 6th Battalion, VNMC. Advisors adopted the tiger stripe uniforms so they would not stand out from their Vietnamese Marine counterparts during field operations.

Vietnam: Landing and Buildup

by Ronnie D. Alexander
Exhibits Specialist

Marines were the first of the U.S. Armed Services to deploy large ground combat units to South Vietnam in 1965. By the end of the year, more than 38,000 Marines made up the III Marine Amphibious Force under the command of Major General Lewis W. Walt.

As 1965 began, the Viet Cong entered a new phase of their insurgency against the South Vietnamese government. The Communists departed from their usual hit and run guerilla tactics and engaged the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam near the village of Binh Gia, 40 miles east of Saigon, in a pitched battle that lasted from 28 December 1964 to 1 January 1965. During the struggle for Binh Gia, two regiments from the 9th Viet Cong Division ambushed and virtually destroyed two battalions of South Vietnamese troops, including the 4th Battalion, Vietnamese Marine Corps, and inflicted heavy casualties on relieving armored and mechanized forces.

At the new National Museum of the Marine Corps' Vietnam Gallery, visitors will view exhibits consisting of photographs, maps and videos showing that Marines were deployed around the world in the late 1950s and 1960s. The first Marines were deployed to Vietnam during those years. Few envisioned this course of action would be the beginning of America's longest war.

Through a variety of exhibit and graphic interpretations, artifacts and audio-visual presentations, visitors will learn about the vast resources and capabilities the Marines provided in the years of U.S. involvement in Vietnam ranging from advisors, who preceded and succeeded Marine units, to specially training groups such as the Special Landing Force and the air, naval gunfire liaison company known as ANGLICO. The role Marine aviators played in providing air support

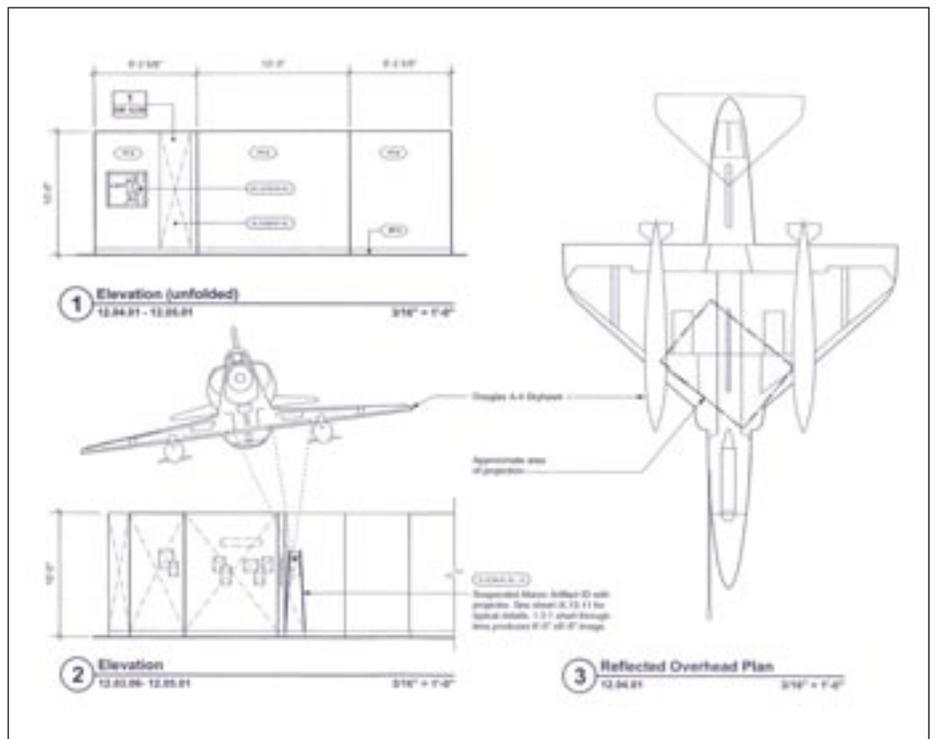
throughout the war will also be highlighted in the gallery.

Visitors will learn in the Marines' own words about the combined action program. As visitors proceed into the immersion gallery they will find themselves in a tropical setting with the sounds of explosions and cries of battle in the distance. Weapons on display will range from standard issue M16 combat rifles, bayonets, .45-caliber pistols, K-Bar fighting knives to a host of weapons used by the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong. Progressing through the gallery, visitors will have the opportunity to view combat images from both the U.S. Marine and North Vietnamese point of view.

In the "Out of Nowhere" exhibit, for example, visitors will learn about Marine close air support. How Marine pilots flying in supersonic Phantom or Sky Hawk aircraft often created the war's most electrifying moments for

Marine riflemen and the nearby enemy. The sleek jets popped out of nowhere, streaking low overhead in a heart-stopping, ear-splitting blaze of firepower, dropping bombs or napalm canisters among enemy positions. Other pilots, launching from carriers in the South China Sea, took the war into North Vietnam against a daunting array of surface-to-air missiles.

Another interpretation may include Operation Starlite. In mid-August 1965, the 7th Marines surprised and destroyed a major Viet Cong force on its home ground near Chu Lai. In helicopters, from ships at sea and by river crossing, three columns engulfed the enemy. The Viet Cong resisted tenaciously from fortified villages, caves and fighting holes. Marine air and artillery delivered overwhelming close support to attacking infantry and tanks. The sweeping tactical success killed nearly 1,000 Viet Cong at limited cost. □1775□



Museum planners have prepared detailed schematics of nearly all of the exhibits that will be in the National Museum of the Marine Corps, including this section in the Vietnam gallery.

Vietnam Revitalized Languishing Combat Art Program

by Charles G. Grow
Art Curator

The Marine Corps' Combat Art program formally started under Brigadier General Robert L. Denig's direction in July 1942 as part of the Corps' department of public relations. After World War II the program languished, enjoyed a temporary return during the Korean conflict, and ebbed once again. In 1966, one of Denig's original "Demons" rekindled the Combat Art program at Commandant Wallace M. Greene Jr.'s insistence. Colonel Raymond "Ray" Henri recruited established civilian artists and talented Marines from the reserve and active duty ranks and began sending them to Vietnam in late 1966. Consequently, the bulk of Vietnam-era combat art in the collection dates from 1966 on.

Most of the pre-1966 Vietnam-era artwork in the collection focuses on recruiting or is the result of other efforts, such as Robert Arnold's sketches from a 1965 United Service Organizations (USO) tour in Vietnam. Arnold was a patriotic artist who closed his studio and served with the USO for 18 months. He served as a combat artist for the Marine Corps in Vietnam in 1968. Howard Terpning, a former Marine infantryman who served in China, produced a patriotic painting for the collection in 1965. Terpning later served as a civilian combat artist in Vietnam and went on to become an internationally recognized painter of western scenes whose paintings have fetched as much as \$800,000.



Condra 42-1-60

Bicycle Vendor, painted by Edward M. Condra. Small watercolor sketch portrays a young bicycle vendor selling produce in the streets of Saigon, Vietnam, in 1965.

Moving Up, painted by Howard Terpning, portrays a grenadier and a rifleman moving toward better firing positions in an effort to spoil a Viet Cong ambush near Hoi An, South Vietnam, in 1968. Terpning repeated this visual motif in his work titled, *Sharpshooters Closing on the Herd*.

Terpning 44-4-7





Flight Line (MAG-16), painted by Edward M. Condra. Marine engineers of Marine Air Base Squadron 16 prepare to pour cement in a culvert drain near the flight line at Chu Lai, Vietnam, in June 1965.

Condra 42-1-56

One young officer produced a body of artwork in Vietnam during 1965. Captain Edward "Ed" Condra, III, served as an engineer and utilities officer with Marine Air Group 12 during the effort to construct a short tactical

Sting Ray Patrol, drawn by Edward M. Condra. Marines patrol their sector in I Corps, Vietnam, in June 1965.

Condra 42-8-36



Terpning 44-9-11

Portrait of a Marine, drawn by Howard Terpning on 20 December 1967.

airfield and a camp to house 3,000 warriors at Chu Lai, Vietnam, from May to December 1965.

In addition to the sketches required of his engineering duties, Condra also drew daily life around Chu Lai. Condra helped to retrieve a plane downed during Operation Starlight in July 1965. Although most of Condra's drawings were given to fellow



Terpning 44-4-10

Always Ready, painted by Howard Terpning in 1965.

Marines and family, 121 of his sketches and paintings are part of the Marine Corps Art Collection.

After returning from his first tour in Vietnam, Condra met with Colonel Raymond Henri and began an informal relationship with the Marine Corps' Combat Art program that continues today. In the ensuing years, Condra was dispatched to the USS *Boxer* (LHD 4) to document the test phase of riverine operations during 1968. Colonel Condra also documented operations, such as Beirut in 1983 and NATO exercise Bold Guard 86. After retiring as a colonel in 1986, he documented events in Haiti in 1996 and in the Amazon in 2000.

When drawn from firsthand experience, art serves as an authentic record of historical events. □1775□

You Have Cigarette, G.I.?, sketched by Edward M. Condra, portrays young Vietnamese children interacting with a Marine on liberty in Da Nang, Vietnam, in July 1965.

Condra 42-21-15



Vietnam: The Beginning of the Oral History Program

by Fred H. Allison, Ph.D.
Oral Historian

The genesis of the Marine Corps Oral History Program coincided with the initiation of large-scale involvement by the Marine Corps in Vietnam in 1965. This was not a coincident. When Benis M. Frank pioneered the Oral History Program it was called the "Historical Interview Program for Vietnam Returnees." This was when the History Division was physically and organizationally close to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. The Commandant, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., supported the initiative. He wanted "living history," provided by Marines "who had been in service in Vietnam in an advisory or combat capacity who could give their eyewitness impressions, observations and lessons learned." Another important reason for collecting oral history was to supplement the official reports, command chronologies and photos; all the materials the History Division writers would need later to write the official history of the Vietnam War.

The oral history effort picked up steam over the next year and evolved into a full-blown effort to fully document the Vietnam War through oral histories, although Frank's oral history unit at this time did not contain a fire team's worth of full-time employees. Marine Corps Order 5750.3A directed Marine Corps units to conduct their own oral history interviews and forward them to the History Division. Within the year, 11 "interview centers" had been established at major commands in the U.S. manned by information services people or spare operations officers who conducted interviews of Vietnam returnees.

The effort spread to deployed Fleet Marine Force units in 1966 and teams of Marines with training in historical collections techniques flowed into Vietnam. They filtered into III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF) units and collected oral history interviews from a broad spectrum of Marines about their duties, their experiences and



Benis M. Frank was a key player in the development and growth of the Marine Corps' Oral History Program, originally called the Historical Interview Program for Vietnam Returnees. During the Vietnam War, an estimated 9,000 oral histories were recorded that range from commanders in the field to privates on the front line.

lessons learned. Because of this effort, we currently have interviews with Marines in Vietnam talking about recon operations, close air support, aircraft maintenance, convoy operations, command and control, leadership and more. The topics are almost endless and provide a detailed perspective on the Vietnam War from the III MAF commanders to the privates manning firebases, flight lines and supply dumps. This effort continued throughout the U.S. involvement in the war and netted some 9,000 interviews.

The Marines who conducted the interviews were often combat cameramen who, in some cases, were quite close to the action and conducted interviews with Marines who had been in combat literally only minutes before. Indeed, some combat cameramen were wounded while carrying out this mission. Efforts to document the historic Khe Sanh battle highlight the oral history documentation of the

Vietnam War. Here, along with documenting the war itself, the essence of the combat experience is captured. For example, in the midst of the siege at Khe Sanh, tapes were made on the spot while under fire. Nearly 60 interviews of varying lengths and security classifications were conducted there. A seven-hour-long tape entitled "Defense of the Khe Sanh Combat Base" holds interviews with 70 key defenders, including Colonel David E. Lownds, commander of the 26th Marines, who directed the defense. The value of such recordings will grow as time separates us from the Marines at Khe Sanh. They represent a unique sound bite of what was one of the Marine Corps' most historic battles.

The Vietnam War oral history project, besides being a priceless historical resource, established the priorities the Oral History Program has stuck to ever since: operational interviews. Oral history is uniquely suited to capture this experience. It provides a means to capture the personal experience and perspective of those enveloped in combat. Essentially, it provides the flesh and blood perspective of military operations that cannot be captured in official written reports and command chronologies.

The Vietnam War interviews were indeed used by Marine Corps writers as source material for the Vietnam official histories and countless researchers have queried them. Interestingly, some Marines, veterans of Vietnam, vaguely recall that they had been interviewed in Vietnam and call the Division seeking out their interviews. To hear their own voice from a time and place that is undoubtedly shrouded in unique memories and emotions must be quite an experience. Of course, some Marines who were interviewed never made it home from that war and the depth of feeling their families experience upon gaining a copy of their loved one's interview must be beyond comprehension. □1775□

The Development of Strategy in Vietnam

by Frederick J. Graboske
Archives Head

General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., was Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1964 to 1967, which gave him a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Organized notes from these meetings existed until 1974, when the Joint Chiefs of Staff ordered them destroyed rather than having them subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The intent was to ensure discussions during the meetings were open and frank, without fear of a comment being taken out of context and appearing in the news media. General Greene kept his own notes from these meetings, along with key documents. Using those documents and notes he created a self-memoir in 1974, commenting on the policies and personalities. This body of material provides a unique and detailed look into discussions of military strategy in the highest councils of the government. The primary focus of these discussions was, of course, Vietnam. In the General's own words from his memoir: "I feel that this is a rich source of material for not only American historical analysts but also for the record that the Marine Corps and the Commandant played in these years of the Vietnam and

Southeast Asia conflict." It has value not only for the study of the unfolding conflict in Vietnam, but also for the study of the relationship between the military and civilian leadership, especially in wartime.

The original security classification of these materials was Top Secret. The passage of time has diminished, if not completely eroded, the necessity to protect this material. We have downgraded it to Secret and have had it reviewed for Department of the Navy equities, which were declassified. We are awaiting review by other agencies.

The self-memoir was never transcribed completely, and the quality of the existing transcript declined precipitously after page 500. We have completed the revisions and are working on completing the transcription, after which it will be reviewed for accuracy and security.

A few of these documents have been declassified. They were provided to Major Herbert R. McMaster, USA, as part of the research materials for his book, "Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam," published in 1997.

The memoir covers many topics, some at the national policy level and some specific to the Marine Corps. As an example of the latter, General Greene records: "I made every effort to keep [Lieutenant] General [Victor H.] Krulak informed, even sending very very sensitive papers by special messenger to his headquarters to make sure that he had all the information that I had regarding problems and proposed actions. General Krulak did the same thing with me, and I feel that our liaison in contact with each other was highly successful."

The Commandant's views on the personalities and process of policy-making are summarized in the following quotation from the memoir:

The President [Lyndon B. Johnson] was a cunning, ruthless, devious, and secretive individual, an expert in domestic politicking As a result he relied on Secretary of State [Dean] Rusk as a crutch to get him over the foreign policy problems, and likewise relied on Secretary of Defense [Robert S.] McNamara to advise him on military policy. It is interesting to note that, for six of the critical months of 1965, the President failed to confer with the Joint Chiefs, relying solely on his meetings with Secretary McNamara and General [Earle G.] Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The Joint Chiefs, in my opinion, had not been aggressive enough in making their views known and in insisting on their rightful participation in the making of national security. Consequently, Mr. McNamara was continually attempting to ride roughshod over them and generally held them in contempt, often trying to get them to rubberstamp his own versions of proposed military action.

□1775□



Photo: DoD (Marine Corps) 65-72-8

Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1964 to 1967, inspects troops at the flight line in Da Nang, Vietnam, in April 1965.

Shu-Fly Marine Helicopter Operations Vietnam 1962-1964

by James T. D'Angina
Assistant Aviation Curator

The U.S. Army in 1961 had committed three companies of Piaseki H-21 Shawnee helicopters in support of South Vietnamese forces, but needed one additional company to fulfill the mission requirements. Fleet Marine Corps Force, Pacific (FMFPac) offered to send Marine pilots to alleviate the problem. Instead of the original plan of augmenting the Army's force by having Marine pilots fly the Army H-21, the commanding general of FMFPac, Lieutenant General Alan Shapley, offered to send an entire Marine squadron, an approach with many advantages. First, the pilots would be properly trained in their aircraft. Second, the H-21 had considerable drawbacks at high temperature, where the Marine's Sikorsky helicopter was not as susceptible to these conditions. But the greatest advantage was deployment time. The Marine Corps had a squadron in the Philippines and additional squadrons based in Okinawa, so the Army would not have to transport a helicopter company from the United States.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMM-362) was the first Marine squadron to participate in Operation Shu-Fly. The squadron comprised 24 Sikorsky HUS-1 (later known as UH-34D Seahorse) helicopters, three Cessna OE-1 (O-1B) observation aircraft and one Douglas R4D (C-117) transport. The squadron was based near Soc Trang on a landing strip built by the Japanese during World War II.

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Archie J. Clapp, the squadron quickly adapted their machines to unexpected conditions and situations. From the outset, the weight of the Sikorsky helicopters made them prone to sinking into the muddy terrain of Vietnam. The squadron devised ways to keep their helicopters from sinking, such as carrying pieces of wood to



Photo: DoD

A Sikorsky UH-34D Seahorse of HMM-261 puts down in the landing zone to pick up South Vietnamese troops.

slide under the tires before they touched down.

The initial Marine UH-34Ds were neither armored nor armed, with the exception of submachine guns carried by both the copilot and crew chief. They had fixed-wing escorts on the early missions flown by the South Vietnamese Air Force. But Shu-Fly squadrons discovered that fixed-wing aircraft, regardless of their loiter time, could not perform the escort mission for helicopters. What the Marines needed was "fire for effect" without a delay, something the fixed-wing aircraft was not capable of providing.

HMM-163 took over Shu-Fly operations on 1 August 1962 and the squadron moved its base of operations from Soc Trang to Da Nang. HMM-163 was the first of the Shu-Fly squadrons to arm their helicopters using a door-mounted M60 machine gun. The UH-34D was vulnerable to small arms fire in the immediate area of its engine cooling system. Without

armor to protect this vital area or sufficient armament to suppress the fire, it was necessary to use Army gunships as escorts. The Army's UH-1B Huey's soon escorted the majority of Marine assault missions and medical evacuations. The effectiveness of the Army UH-1B gunships inspired the Marine Corps to procure helicopter gunships of their own in the form of the UH-1E.

It was not until the final Shu-Fly squadron arrived that Marines employed their own gunships. HMM-365 modified three of its UH-34D helicopters to carry a new weapon system designed and built by Marine Helicopter Squadron 1. The Temporary Kit One, or TK-1, was comprised of two 2.75 rocket pods, one on each side, and two M60 machine guns on the starboard side of the helicopter.

Shu-Fly operations lasted from 1962 through 1964. Multiple helicopter squadrons from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing participated. □1775□

Torture Chambers, Black Banners and the Fight for Fallujah

by Capt Stephen J. Winslow
Field Historian

Editor's note: This article was filed 10 Jan 2005 from Fallujah, Iraq, by Captain Stephen J. Winslow, one of the History Division's Field Historians currently deployed in that country to document the efforts of Marines in the field of battle.

U.S.-led forces were held at bay along the outer rims of Fallujah, Iraq, for months while politicians wrangled over how to regain control from insurgent forces that had taken over the streets and buildings of the city. While talks dragged on, insurgents dug in and escalated their increasingly violent operations with roadside bombings, kidnappings, and horrific executions that were videotaped and posted on the Internet.

But the seemingly free-reign the insurgency had in Fallujah came to an end in early November when combined U.S. and Iraqi forces stormed



Marines examine one the confiscated insurgent banners recovered during Operation Phantom Fury. The banners were found within torture chambers throughout the city. Most are approximately 2 feet by 4 feet and made of cotton cloth dyed black with hand lettering on them.

through the city during Operation Phantom Fury. Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Malay, commanding 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 1, one of the units involved in the operation, character-

ized the fighting his Marines encountered as on-par with those fought on the Pacific Islands during World War II. He added the insurgents in Fallujah were determined to fight to the death, battling Marines from within concrete homes as solid as bunkers, from trenches along dark alleys and from spider holes.

As they advanced, young Marine infantrymen cleared homes in Fallujah one room at a time and often came upon scenes of murderous crimes committed by the violent people that were holed up there. In small dark enclosures, hidden away from public view, Marines frequently approached cells to find the bodies of mutilated hostages: legless, armless remains as well as barely living hostages. Sergeant Elmer Navarro, a squad leader with Company K, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, said he would rarely just "find them," but rather would hear them, explaining that Marines heard the crying and moaning of the hostages long before they visually found the chambers.

An estimated 20 torture chambers, or "atrocity sites" as they are also known, were uncovered in Fallujah. These were sites where people had been held, beaten, or killed. False



Photo: Capt Stephen J. Winslow

Members of 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 1, recovered this insurgent banner during Operation Phantom Fury. The banner, found within one of many torture chambers discovered during the operation, is approximately 2 feet by 4 feet and made of cotton cloth dyed black. The hand lettering translates loosely to "There is only one God, and his Prophet is Mohammed. United Jihad Group, Friends Battalion." The term "Friends" most likely refers to foreign fighters recruited to fight within Fallujah.



The heated fighting during the battle to retake Fallujah, Iraq, from insurgents left much of the city in ruins. This street provides a glimpse of the heavy fighting that left holes in buildings and turned the area into a virtual ghost town. Most of the civilian residents of Fallujah were evacuated prior to the operation.

entrances and switchbacks were common features to the Fallujah sites. Without exception, all the sites were hidden deep within basements, down twisting alleys, or tucked away in homes and business in much the same manner as those where Anne Frank and her family lived during World War II to evade capture by Nazi soldiers. When found in homes, the Fallujah sites were often storage spaces. Insurgent military uniform gear, medical supplies and food were usually found near the hostage holding areas. Nothing remains of these sites today as most of them were also weapons caches and were subsequently destroyed by explosive ordnance disposal teams.

Perhaps the most disturbing feature of these sites was the manner and condition in which the hostages were held. In one instance, the hostages were merely chained to the stairs and left standing against a wall. The walls the hostages were forced to lean against for what may have been months at a time were soiled and dirty. In some of the basement holding areas Marines found small, pitch black cells with iron gates as doors. The Marines often found holes dug at the base of the walls within these types of chambers, hand dug by the prisoners in a desperate bid for freedom. Human fingernails were sometimes embedded in the plaster.

During their clearing sweeps of the

numerous atrocity sites, Marines captured several of the black insurgent banners that were seen on the walls behind hooded insurgents in the execution videos made by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad group. Commandant General Michael W. Hagee recently presented one such recovered banner to the Marine Corps Historical Center. The banner was found within one of the described torture chambers. It is approximately 3 feet tall by 6 feet wide and made of cotton cloth that had been dyed black. Across the banner is hand lettering, which has been loosely translated as "Secret Islamic Military (of) the Black Flag." In the center of the banner is a logo that includes a representation of the Koran flanked by a rifle on the left and sword on the right, all superimposed on a rising sun around which is a yellow banner with writing upon it.

These banners are significant for several reasons. They are consistently seen in insurgent propaganda material and are often shown in the background of the numerous "beheading" videos that have been widely distributed. Also, they have provided significant motivation to the determined insurgent fighters.

The black banner will inevitably play a role in illustrating the Marine Corps saga in Iraq when it is included in an appropriate exhibit in the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. □1775□



This photo shows what used to be a building in one of the battle-torn areas of Fallujah, Iraq. U.S. Marines and Army soldiers, together with U.S. trained Iraqi forces, assaulted the city from several directions to reclaim the insurgent stronghold in November.

First Marine Tactical Commander in Vietnam Passes

by Robert V. Aquilina
Reference Assistant Head

MajGen Harold Mashburn, Jr.

Major General Harold Mashburn, Jr., USMC, died 20 November 2004 at Bethesda, Maryland, at the age of 57. At the time of his death he was the commanding general of Marine Corps Logistics Command, Albany, Georgia. A native of Seminole, Oklahoma, he graduated from Seminole High School in 1966, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1970. General Mashburn also held a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. His previous major command assignments included duty as Commandant, Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics (Plans), and later, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Facilities and Services) at Headquarters, Marine Corps; and Commanding General, 2d Force Service Support Group. He was a graduate of The Basic School, Basic Engineer Officers Course, Engineer Officers Advance Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His personal decorations included the Defense Superior Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



MajGen Raymond L. Murray

Major General Raymond L. Murray, USMC (Ret), died 11 November 2004 in Oceanside, California, at the age of 91. The Los



Angeles, California, native was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps on 9 July 1935, following graduation from Texas A&M College. Prior to American entry into World War II, he served with the 6th Marines in Iceland. By the fall of 1942, he was embarked with the 6th Marines for the Pacific, and later received his first Silver Star Medal for heroism on Guadalcanal. He received a second Silver Star for gallantry on Tarawa, and was awarded his first Navy Cross for heroism on Saipan. Following World War II, he entered the Command and Staff School at Quantico, Virginia, and served in a variety of assignments. During the Korean War, as Commanding Officer, 5th Marines, he was awarded his third and fourth Silver Star Medals, along with a Legion of Merit. He was later awarded the Army's Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in the 1st Marine Division's historic breakout from the Chosin Reservoir, and later received a second Navy Cross, which was awarded for heroism in Korea. His assignments following the Korean armistice included tours of duty as Commanding Officer, Basic School, Quantico; Chief of Staff at Camp Pendleton, California; and Chief of Staff, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. General Murray commanded Camp Pendleton from 1961 to 1962, and then began a two-year assignment as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. He later served as Inspector General of the Marine Corps, and his last tour of active duty was as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force. He retired from active duty on 1 August 1968.

MajGen Clayton L. Comfort

Major General Clayton L. Comfort, USMC (Ret), died 14 October 2004 in Lawrence, Kansas,



at the age of 74. The Ottawa, Kansas, native was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in February 1953 upon graduation from the University of Kansas. On completion of The Basic School at Quantico in August 1953, he entered flight training at Pensacola, Florida. He served at a variety of duty stations following his designation as a Naval Aviator in December 1954, including tours at Atsugi, Japan; Monterey, California; Cherry Point, North Carolina; and Point Mugu, California. During the Vietnam War, he served first with Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Saigon, and later was appointed as Commanding Officer of Marine Air Base Squadron 11 at Da Nang. Following his return to the United States in 1971, he commanded Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 332, until he was later reassigned as Executive Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 14. Upon promotion to brigadier general on 9 June 1978, he was assigned duty as Assistant Wing Commander, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and later served as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation, Headquarters, Marine Corps. He was advanced to major general in May 1982, and was assigned duty as Commanding General, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. He later served as Chief of Staff, United States Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. His last assignment, from June to October 1987, was as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, and Commanding General, II Marine Amphibious Force/Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Europe (Designate). General Comfort retired from the Marine Corps on 1 October 1987.

BGen Edward B. Meyer

Brigadier General Edward B. Meyer,



USMC (Ret), died 15 November 2004 in San Diego, California, at the age of 82.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and enlisted in the Marine Corps on 14 August 1940. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1943, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps following his graduation in 1946. General Meyer served with the 1st Marine Division in Korea from 1953 to 1954. Following his return to the United States, he served in a variety of assignments. From 1963 to 1964 he served in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C. During the Vietnam War, he was assigned to the Delta Military Assistance Command in the Republic of Vietnam, and later served with I Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa. As a general officer, he served as the Director of the Personnel Procurement Division at Headquarters, Marine Corps, and his last assignment was as Commander, Landing Force Training Command, Pacific, San Diego. He retired in November 1976.

Col Archie J. Clapp

Colonel Archie J. Clapp, USMC

(Ret), a Naval Aviator and commander of the first Marine tactical unit to be committed to Vietnam, died 15 May 2004 in Norfolk, Virginia, at the age of 80. The Glenwood, North Carolina, native was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and designated a Naval Aviator upon completion of flight training at Pensacola, Florida, in July 1943. He participated in combat operations on Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II. Following the war, he served with several fighter squadrons and attended a number of military schools. During the Korean War, he flew combat support missions as a helicopter pilot with Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron 161, and as an attack aircraft pilot with Marine Composite Squadron 1. Upon his return from Korea, he held a variety of assignments, including command of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 at Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana. In October 1962, he took this squadron on board the USS *Princeton* (LPH 5), where it constituted the air element of



the Seventh Fleet's Amphibious Ready Group. On 15 April 1962, Lieutenant Colonel Clapp and his squadron were ordered ashore in the Republic of Vietnam to provide combat support to the South Vietnamese government in its struggle with Communist Viet Cong insurgents. He received his first Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct for his command of HMM-362 during this period. Upon his return from Vietnam later in 1962, he held a variety of assignments at Headquarters, Marine Corps, and received a second Legion of Merit for outstanding service as the Marine Corps member of the Short Range Branch, Strategic Plans and Policy Division, Plans and Policy Directorate, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Colonel Clapp retired from the Marine Corps on 1 August 1969. He was a member of "The Golden Eagles" of The Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association. □1775□

Correction

In the last issue, the age of MGySgt Richard E. Bush was incorrectly reported. His age at death was 79.

Historical Quiz

Marines in Vietnam, 1965

*by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian*

1. Who was Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1965?
2. Upon landing at Da Nang on 8 March 1965, this unit became the first U.S. ground combat unit to land in Vietnam.
3. In May 1965, the 3d Marines cleared this village, liberating it from more than two years of Viet Cong control. The village became a pilot model of the Marine Corps civic action program.
4. In June 1965, a Short Airfield for Tactical Support was used in a war zone for the first time, after Marines laid down a new airstrip at this location. The airfield officially opened with the arrival of eight A-4 Skyhawk fighter jets from Cubi Point, Philippines.
5. This four-day operation in August 1965 was the first regimental-sized U.S. battle since the Korean War. Thousands of Marines made airborne and amphibious landings in an effort to close off all enemy escape routes inland from the Van Tuong Peninsula.
6. In an effort to process the 30,000 additional men authorized for the Marine Corps without an increase in instructors and existing facilities, the original 12-week recruit training time was reduced to how many weeks in September 1965?
7. On 1 September 1965, the 9th Marines began this operation, which was designed to prevent the rice harvest from falling into Viet Cong hands. All subsequent operations by the III Marine Amphibious Corps to protect the rice harvest were given this same name.
8. This famed war correspondent and photographer was killed near Chu Lai while covering the Marines during Operation Black Ferret on 4 November 1965.
9. This operation was conducted from 8 to 20 December 1965 by units from the 1st Marine Division and three South Vietnamese battalions. The Marines and South Vietnamese accounted for more than 300 enemy deaths and captured 50 tons of rice.
10. The first Medals of Honor awarded to Marines for heroism in Vietnam were presented for actions in 1965. How many Marines received the Medal of Honor for their gallant actions in this year?

(Answers on page 23)

Street Without Joy

by Charles D. Melson
Chief Historian

By the early 1960s, U.S. Marines developed more than a passing interest in the conflict in Southeast Asia, and at a certain point paid attention to the real possibility of serving in South Vietnam. Looking for background on the war lead them to the only book written in English at the time about the French experience, *Street Without Joy* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 1961). According to the publisher: "What the French faced in Indochina was a new kind of conflict—a revolutionary war fought without fronts in the heavy jungle against a mobile enemy that had an active sanctuary, a sympathetic neighbor offering support and supplies. French soldiers also faced a carefully orchestrated and highly effective campaign of psychological terror." All of this became part of the American experience, as the conflict

continued during the next decade until Vietnam was left to its own devices.

The author, Bernard B. Fall, was a professor of international relations at Howard University. A scholar respected by the military and media, Fall believed in doing his own research in the field (including the photographs that appeared with his work). He wrote "with knowledge, insight and personal experience" about a subject few Americans had information on. Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1926, his family moved to France in time to be caught up in resistance to the German occupation. He served with Free French Forces and then as a researcher for the Nuremberg war-crimes trials. He studied at the Sorbonne and the University of Maryland and was a Fulbright Scholar at Syracuse University, where he

earned master's and doctorate degrees. He first went to Vietnam in 1953 for research and made six trips in more than a decade to get at the story of the American conduct of the war.

The editorial board of the *Marine Corps Gazette* included Fall's views in several journal issues and an anthology dealing with "the guerrilla and how to fight him." Commandant General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. invited him to speak at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, on this topic, a presentation that is still part of the Historical Division's oral history collection. Between his 1954 dissertation and posthumous publications, Fall wrote seven books and numerous articles about the conflict in Vietnam. The two most popular were his account about the Indochina War in *Street Without Joy* and about the battle of Dien Bien Phu with *Hell in a Very Small Place*.

Fall returned to Vietnam the final time on a Guggenheim research scholarship and died there on 21 February 1967. An "improvised explosive device" killed him along with Gunnery Sergeant Bryon G. Highland near the "street without joy." Observed journalist Neil Sheehan: "Had he lived, there is little doubt that he would have written equally fine books about the American war."

Street Without Joy (the title taken from the coastal region between Hue and Quang Tri along Route 1) described the eight-year French experience in fighting a conflict that included Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. When the fighting ended, some 172,000 French Union Forces were killed or wounded. The book focuses on events and fighting in the 1951 to 1954 period. Interspersed with the research for Fall's dissertation was a series of diary chapters taken from letters to his wife, Dorothy, who also did the artwork for the book to compliment the maps and charts used. A series of photograph sections complete the documentation in the volume. □1775□



Photo: DOD (USMC) 9-181-67

Dr. Bernard B. Fall takes a break with Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, during Operation Chinook in the I Corps Tactical Zone. This photograph was taken the day before Fall died.

Vietnam Reading

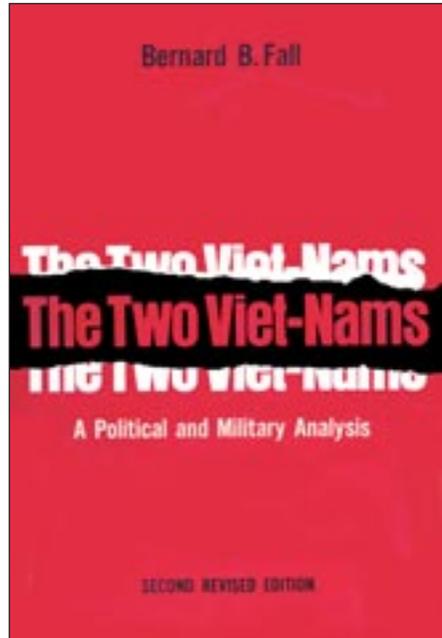
by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

This is a selection of commercially published books about Marines in Vietnam through 1965 and the landings in Da Nang and Chu Lai and Operation Starlite. Most of these books are available through brick-and-mortar and online bookstores, or through your local library and its inter-library loan program.

Vietnam 1945: The Quest for Power. David G. Marr. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1995. 602 pp. An analysis of the August Revolution of 1945 when Viet Minh communist forces took control and declared Vietnam's independence. The first five chapters cover events from 1940 to 1945 from the point of view of the different nations involved: The French (French Vichy), the Japanese, the Vietnamese (Viet Minh and royal government forces), China, the United States and Great Britain. The last three chapters describe events in August and September 1945. The year 1945, as described here, was the first act in a difficult drama, which extended over the next 30 years. Thus, this book provides valuable background and insight into the years that follow.

The Guerrilla and How to Fight Him. T.N. Greene, editor. New York, NY: Frederick A. Praeger, 1962, 310 pp. Of value as an introduction to guerilla warfare, this book covers a wide range of doctrines and techniques used by Communist guerrillas and the forces fighting against them in different parts of the world in varying conditions. Included are articles about Greece, Malaya, Indochina, Russia, Cuba, Cyprus and Algeria with overall sections on the theory and the threat from guerilla warfare and small unit fighting in small wars. Also included is the writing of General Vo Nguyen Giap with an excerpt from his *People's War, People's Army*, entitled "Inside the Vietminh."

The Two Vietnams: A Political and

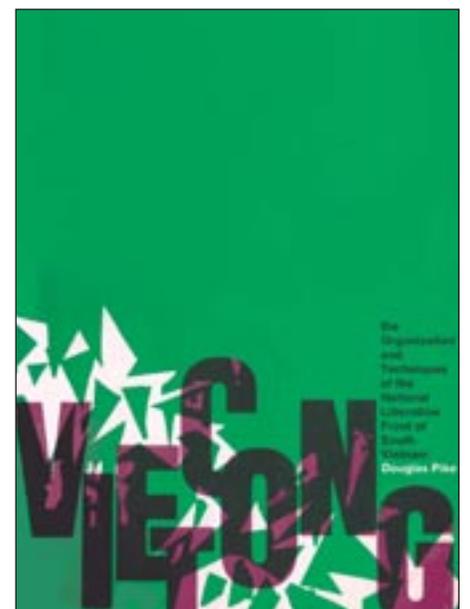


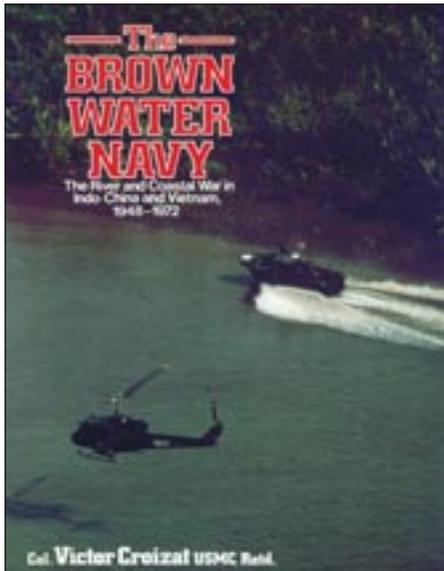
Military Analysis. Bernard Fall. New York, NY: Frederick A Praeger Publishers, 1963. 507 pp. Before his death in South Vietnam in 1967, Bernard Fall, a professor of international relations at Howard University, had become one of the United States' most noted authorities on Vietnam. In *The Two Vietnams*, Fall explains there was no peace on the Indo-China peninsula since the end of World War II. For the South Vietnamese, the essential fact of the Communist insurgency had been unrelenting. Fall saw the war in South Vietnam that spilled into North Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos as threatening not only the stability of Southeast Asia, but of the entire world. In this book he also explains the full range of Vietnamese history and politics.

Viet Cong: The Organization and Techniques of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Douglas Pike. Cambridge, MS: the MIT Press, 1966. 440 pp. The author, at the time a United States Information Agency foreign service officer in Saigon, provides an analysis of Vietnam and its insurgent movements. His focus was the National Liberation Front and its

method of communicating its ideas, as well as on the ideas themselves. He also describes the Viet Cong, what they were and why they were, thus providing an analysis of the forces facing the U.S. military in Vietnam.

Strange War, Strange Strategy: A General's Report on Vietnam. Lewis W. Walt. New York, NY: Funk & Wagnalls, 1970. 208 pp. General Walt commanded Marine forces in the northern segment of South Vietnam from 1965 to 1967. Here he begins by describing how the U.S. assistance to South Vietnam in 1965 resulted in a dramatic turnaround in the situation and a shift in strategy by the North Vietnamese forces. He goes on to tell how U.S. Marines met and overcame the challenges of fighting limited warfare. He also focuses on the mid-1965 Battle of Chu Lai. This was the first major Marine Corps action in Vietnam and one in which both sides learned many lessons. He also provides an analysis of civic action and its implications for the conflict. The book has a chapter on Vietnamese history that provides insight into the struggle. He goes on to tell of the year 1966, the Tet offensive of 1968 and the siege at Khe Sanh.



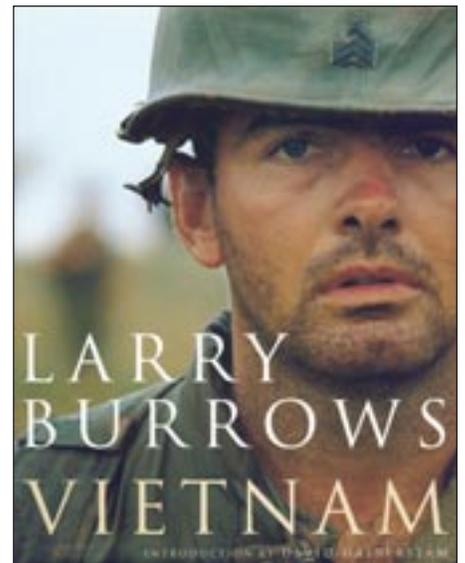
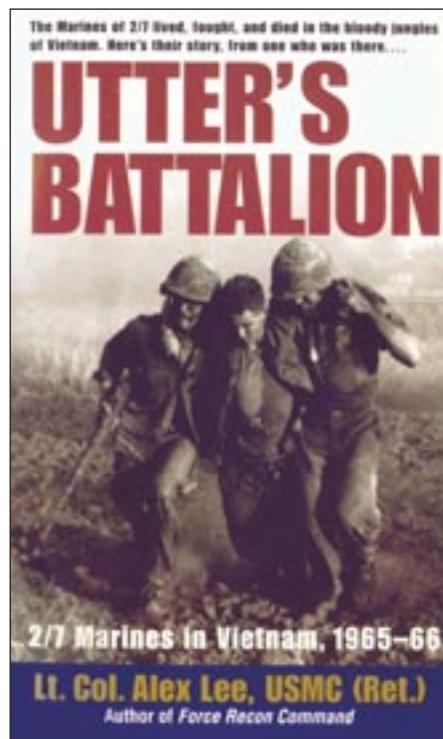


The Brown Water Navy: The River and Coastal War in Indo-China and Vietnam, 1948 - 1972. Victor Croizat. Poole, Dorset, United Kingdom: Blandford Press, 1984. 160 pp. (Distributed in the United States by Sterling Publishing Co.) Colonel Croizat had more than 14 years of experience in Southeast Asia, including serving as military advisor to the newly created Vietnamese Armed Forces in the years following 1954. The book details the French, South Vietnamese and American organizational development of naval forces specially suited to fighting on the rivers, canals and coastal waters of mainland Southeast Asia. For instance, he traces the wartime evolution of the French inshore naval forces from 1946 to 1954. Similarly, he describes the creation of the Vietnamese Navy in 1953, telling of the establishment of the separate river, sea and coastal forces and Marine Corps components. Colonel Croizat shows that the French experience in Vietnam influenced the composition of the Vietnamese Navy and the U.S. Army and Navy Mobile Riverine Force, with this Mobile Riverine Force representing the full flowering of the riverine warfare concept. The many photographs in the book compliment the text and include photographs of the varied craft used in riverine warfare. As current articles state, these riverine warfare concepts are the same being used today on the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers.

Utter's Battalion; 2/7 Marines in

Vietnam, 1965-66. Alex Lee. New York, NY: Ballantine Books, 2000. 355 pp. By the author of *Force Recon Command: 3rd Force Recon Company in Vietnam, 1969-70*. In May 1965, the 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, embarked for Vietnam. Then a captain, the author was a member of the unit. Here he details the full tour of 2/7, from the search and destroy missions to sudden violent ambushes. Lee describes how he and fellow Marines fought there. After paving the way for the arrival of more American military at Qui Nhon, 2/7 was assigned to Chu Lai where they went on to fight their most deadly battles. In his introduction, the author credits the efforts of Mr. Frederick Graboske and the Historical Division archives staff for their help in the writing of his book.

Larry Burrows, Vietnam. Larry Burrows, with an introduction by David Halberstam. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002. 243 pp. This book has photographs of Vietnam from 1962 to 1971. It includes a chronology and a selected bibliography. Larry Burrows photographed the conflict from 1962, from the earliest days of the American involvement until 1971, when he died in a helicopter that was shot down on the Vietnam-Laos border. His images of Vietnam, published at the time in *Life*



magazine, brought the war home to the American public. His photo essays allow the reader to experience both the war itself and the effect and range of Larry Burrows' gifts. In his introduction, David Halberstam said that Larry Burrows was as much historian as artist and photographer, and that because of his work, those born after him will be able to understand and feel the events he recorded. □1775□

Answers to the Historical Quiz

Marines in Vietnam, 1965

(Questions on page 20)

1. General Wallace M. Greene, Jr. (1 January 1964 to 31 December 1967)
2. 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade
3. Le My
4. Chu Lai
5. Operation Starlite
6. Eight weeks
7. Operation Golden Fleece
8. Dickey Chapelle
9. Operation Harvest Moon
10. Four: Colonel (then 1st Lieutenant) Harvey C. Barnum, Jr.; Sergeant (then Corporal) Robert E. O'Malley; Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul; and 1st Lieutenant Frank S. Reasoner.

