

LAAM Marines Save Village

By Cpl Dupe Snyder

CHU LAI, Vietnam—Eight Marines of "C" Battery, 2nd LAAMs, helped save a village from burning to the ground south of here.

The missilemen, enroute from the village of Ly Tin, had just crossed the river into An Tan (near Chu Lai) when they saw a large column of smoke pouring out of a local shop.

"We were only a stone's throw away from the scene," recalls PFC C. S. Sanborn (Bellflower, Calif.) "But, by the time we got there the fire was already threatening to destroy half of the village."

There was no fire-fighting equipment, so the Marines began restricting the blaze to the immediate area.

Working with combat knives, bayonets, and Vietnamese tools, the HAWK men tried to tear away the adjoining structures to make room for the fire to burn itself out.

"But the fire spread too fast," said PFC J. L. Moe (Walnut Creek, Calif.) "in fact, within a period of five minutes, as many as three structures would be ablaze and we'd have to start all over."

"By this time," commented Sanborn, "more Marines had arrived so we tried the old water bucket line approach. While a group of men were doing this, others began salvaging things from the structures which had not yet caught fire. Others tore down more huts in another attempt to stop the blaze from spreading." "Finally," concluded Sanborn, "after about 19 structures had burned, we got the thing under control."

Although no official reports were available, the LAAM Marines are confident that injuries were very slight. Several persons were overcome by smoke and one elderly Vietnamese man was shaken when a roof caved in on him while attempting to flee from his burning shop. The man suffered no apparent injuries.

The other LAAM Battalion

Marines that helped save the village are: Sgt F. M. Luckie (Lockheed, Texas); Cpl M. W. Kerns (Richmond, Calif.); Cpl D. A. Versailles (Detroit, Mich.); LCpl R. A. Lotshaw (Billings, Mont); LCpl J. N. Blackwell (Jasper, Ga.); and PFC E. W. Sweeney (Des Moines, Iowa).

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Marines' Gift: A New School

By SSgt C. B. Simmons

DA NANG, Vietnam—The one thing the Tin-Lanh Christian School needed most was the gift they received from the men of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-11: a new school building.

The six-room structure will accommodate the four lower grades and replace two decrepit bamboo shacks. The new building was part of a four-month civil affairs program coordinated by the MAG-11 chaplain, Navy Lt Cecil R. Treadgill (Pilot Point, Tex.).

Chaplain Treadgill delivered the last payment for the construction at the time of the dedication. MAG-11 paid for 75 percent of the \$2,000 cost.

Most of the money was from donations by the individual squadrons in the group. The rest, \$500, came from the Protestant Chapel Fund.

Tin-Lanh school has more than 700 students. A private school controlled by the Evangelical Protestant Church of Vietnam, it is open to all faiths.

The chaplain's job isn't over yet. He is now converting discarded bomb containers to be used as desks and chairs for the children.