

HANOI *

DMZ

CHU LAI

SAIGON *



THE "EAGLES" AIRBORNE OVER VIETNAM



DEDICATION

To the Officers and Men of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, who have given of themselves with the utmost sacrifice and dedication in combating aggressive Communist Forces in Southeast Asia:

To the waiting wives, parents and loved ones who have shared in this sacrifice and effort:

This Cruise Book of the Silver Eagles is hereby dedicated.

OUR MISSION

Intercept and destroy enemy aircraft and missiles under all weather conditions, attack and destroy surface targets, and conduct such other air operations as may be directed.

HISTORY OF MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK SQUADRON 115

VMFA-115 was first organized as VMF-115 in July, 1943 at Santa Barbara, California under the command of Major J. S. MacLaughton. He relinquished command sixteen days later to one of the most famous Marine Corps Aces, Major Joseph Foss, who holds a World War II record for shooting down twenty-six enemy aircraft. The Squadron trained at Santa Barbara until February, 1944, when it deployed to join in the Pacific Campaign actions on Rabaul, Leyte, Mindanao, Subic Bay and Zanga Zanga. On 23 February 1945, pilots of VMF-115 sunk the first enemy submarine utilizing a skip bombing technique at an altitude of twenty-five feet, releasing one thousand pound bombs from their F-4U Corsairs.

After the war, the Squadron was transferred to Peiping, China where it was on alert status to protect United States interests in the event of attack by Communist forces. From China, the Unit was transferred to Ewa, Hawaii and later to Edenton, North Carolina. There it became the first Marine squadron to receive a complete complement of F-9F Panther jet aircraft in December, 1949. The early months of 1950 were devoted to jet check out, training operations in the Puerto Rican area, transfer to Cherry Point, North Carolina, and culminated in a flight demonstration for the President of the United States and his Joint Chiefs of Staff at Quantico, Virginia. October of the same year found VMF-115 aboard the U.S.S. Roosevelt, where it became the first Marine Panther Squadron to qualify and serve aboard a Navy aircraft carrier.

In 1951, the Squadron was deployed to Pohang, Korea to serve in Marine Aircraft Group 33. There VMF-115 flew 15,350 combat hours on 9,250 individual combat sorties, most of them in marginal flying weather. More ordnance was delivered by VMF-115 than any other Marine jet squadron in the conflict.

After Korea, the Squadron was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California where, in the Spring of 1957, it received the first all weather F-4D Skyrays and was redesignated VMF(AW)-115. February, 1958, found 115 at Atsugi, Japan. During that September the Squadron sailed aboard the U.S.S. Windham County for temporary additional duty at Pingtung (North), Taiwan. There 115 reinforced the air defenses of the Island during the crises over the Formosa Straits. After returning to Yokosuka, Japan in March, 1959, VMF(AW)-115 executed a series of reassignments between Japan and the United States finally being stationed with Marine Aircraft Group 24, Second Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point in July, 1961.

After phasing out the Marine F-4D Skyrays, 115 transitioned to their present Mach II, F-4B Phantom II aircraft on 1 January 1964 and were redesignated VMFA-115, indicating the diverse capabilities of the Squadron. After an intensive Stateside training program, VMFA-115 was once again deployed to the Far East and arrived at Atsugi, Japan in July, 1965. They then moved to Iwakuni, Japan in preparation for combat deployment to Danang, South Vietnam, arriving there in October, 1965.

The "Silver Eagles" served in Marine Aircraft Group 11 until January 1966, when they withdrew to Iwakuni. That April, the Squadron returned to Danang remaining in combat until February, 1967. At that time, 115 again withdrew to Japan for four months, and in May it redeployed to South Vietnam joining Marine Aircraft Group 13 at Chu Lai. Currently operating there, the Silver Eagles have flown in close support of Marine, Army, Korean and Vietnamese forces in such memorable areas as Asau Valley, Con Thien, Khe Sanh, the Rockpile, "Arizona," Hue and many others. Prior to the bombing halt, direct air support and interdiction were flown in North Vietnam and continue to be flown by 115 along the western frontier of South Vietnam.

Throughout late 1969 and early 1970, the professional ability and aggressive spirit of the Officers and Men of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 have continued to distinguish it as one of the finest fighting outfits in the Vietnam Conflict.

SQUADRON



LIEUTENANT COLONEL E. C. PAIGE, JR.
1 July 1969 to 1 January 1970

We both agree that having had the privilege of leading the officers and men of the "Silver Eagles" has been the most memorable experience of our respective careers. Our paramount feeling regarding this service is one of sincere appreciation for the dedication to

E. C. PAIGE, JR.
Lt. Col. USMC

COMMANDERS



LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. P. BOWEN
2 January 1970 to 2 March 1970

duty and professionalism of each of you who has served so well under the arduous condition of combat in the Republic of Vietnam. To each of you from both of us, a hearty "well done" and best wishes for your future in or out the Corps.

D. P. BOWEN
Lt. Col. USMC



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAJOR L. A. WHIPPLE

Counter Clockwise:

S-1: CAPT. L. A. STULTS

S-2: 1/Lt L. E. AMICK III

S-3: MAJOR H. F. SHARP, Jr.

S-4: CAPT. F. J. MEIER, Jr.

AMO: MAJOR C. W. HEINZERLING, Jr.





COL. MURPHREE



LT. COL. VINCENT



LT. COL. COX



MAJ. HEALD



LT. COL. DETROY



MAJ. LEWIS



EAGLE LEAD

Lt. Col. Don Bowen

CWO-2 Jack Bardon



SLY CHICKEN

Maj. Larry Whipple

Lt. John Brewer



FALCON

Lt. "Skip" Bartel

Maj. "Spud" Heinzerling



AJAX

Lt. Steve Silver

Maj. "Skip" Sharp



SABRE

Capt Larry Stults

Lt. Les Amick



SHARK

Capt. Charlie Tutt

Capt. "T.J." Stanford



ZEUS

Lt. "R. R." Raithel Capt. John French



LOBO

Capt. Fred Meier Lt. Paul Hayes



DAGGER (or SCALPEL?)

Capt. Dick Larson

Lt. (MC) Duffy Hughes, USN



FRODO

Capt. Mike Wholley

Lt. Tom Johnson



BEAR

Lt. Chris Telge

Lt. Pat McGill



FOX

Lt. "Mac" McCormick

Lt. "Mac" Campbell



Lt. Don Tibbs

Lt. Wayne Surgent



Lt. Mike Sandberg

Lt. Scott Panchison



Lt. Rich Rissel *JERSEY* *Lt. Jim Goett*



Lt. Tony Scheüller *PUNCHY* *Lt. Ralph Goodman*



Lt. Stan Wright

Lt. Dick Grbac



Lt. Ralph Wise

BIG RED

Lt. Bill Dibble



Lt. Glenn Monesmith

Lt. Jim Askins



Lt. John Brooks

Lt. Stan Mysliwiec



*If God isn't my co-pilot, at least the chaplain is my RIO
"Skipper" Chaplain Cleveland*



*NEW GUYS
Lt John McGaughey Lt. Paul Callaban*



Lt. "Gentle Ben" Tebault



Lt. John Fogg



Lt. Jeff Spoon Capt. Jim Redmon



Lt. Chris Anderson



*Capt. Jim Milne
Maintenance Control Officer*



*Lt. Tom Johnson
Materiel Officer*



*Lt. Vic Dietz
Ordnance Officer*

SCRAMBLE

What is a scramble? The dictionary definition is "a disorderly struggle." Yet the immediate reaction of a fighter squadron answering an urgent call for air support is the ultimate in coordinated teamwork.

For minutes, even hours, the entire Squadron has been a force in readiness, cocked for explosive response to that one word: "SCRAMBLE!" The Pilot/RIO teams are in the Hot Line in full flight gear, procedures pre-briefed, planes fully loaded and preflight checked. These captains and trouble-shooters are near the aircraft, ready to strap in the crews and start engines.

The Hot Line rings! While the ODO copies and then RIO's grab the mission assignment, the pilots are already cranking engines. RIO's climb in, chocks are pulled, pilots are briefed on the intercom during taxi. Burners light and the Phantoms are flying! Ten minutes from a ringing phone to an airborne combat flight racing to it's target. The urgency: save the lives of allied troops with airborne firepower. SCRAMBLE!



Alert . . .



Scramble



Strapping in



Standing by



Air flowing



Engines cranking



Unplugging



Clearing the way!



Chocks pulled



Just clearing the revetment



Taxi



Secured from scramble

THE MISSION

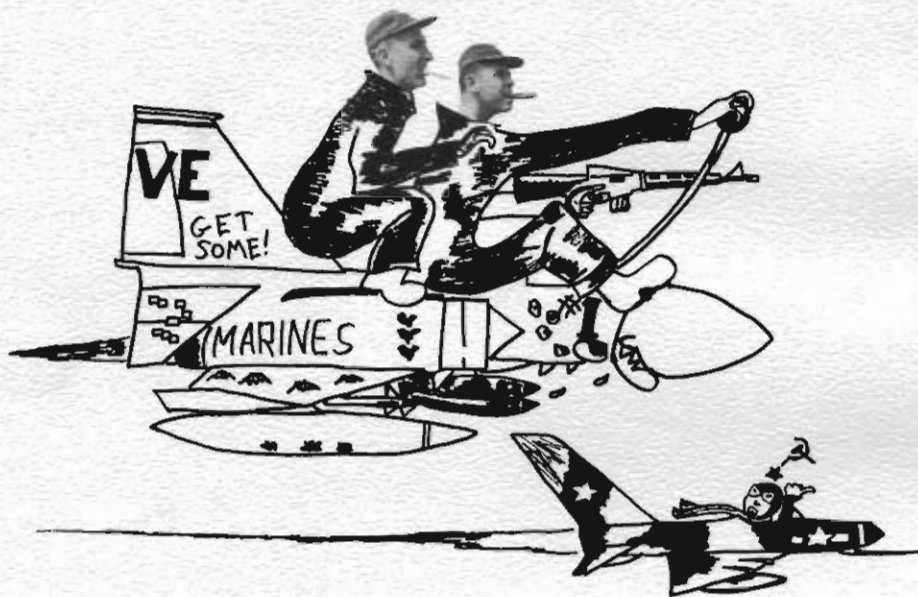
We've all seen our crews on a hot scramble, but few know the intricate procedures taking place within the cockpit on these exciting missions. The following radio commentary is typical:

Lead: "Tower, Eagle One, Scramble Two, Priority."

Tower: "Roger, Eagle, Taxi Runway 14, Wind 150/10, Altimeter 30.02, Temperature 95, Time 10; Cleared for immediate take off."

Lead: "Roger, 002, On the Roll!"

Two: "Two's up!"



After take off, and rendezvous, both RIO's switch to Tactical Air Control Channel.

Lead: "Fail Safe, Eagle One, Two Phantoms Scrambled from Chu Lai to work with Big Red, squawking ident."

TACC: "Roger, Eagle, Rendezvous over Charlie Ridge, cleared direct, contact Big Red on Heliotrope."

At this time both planes switch to the assigned frequency while enroute to the target at max speed.

Lead: "Big Red, Eagle One inbound for your control with 6D2A's, 7D9's and a Pistol ready for words."

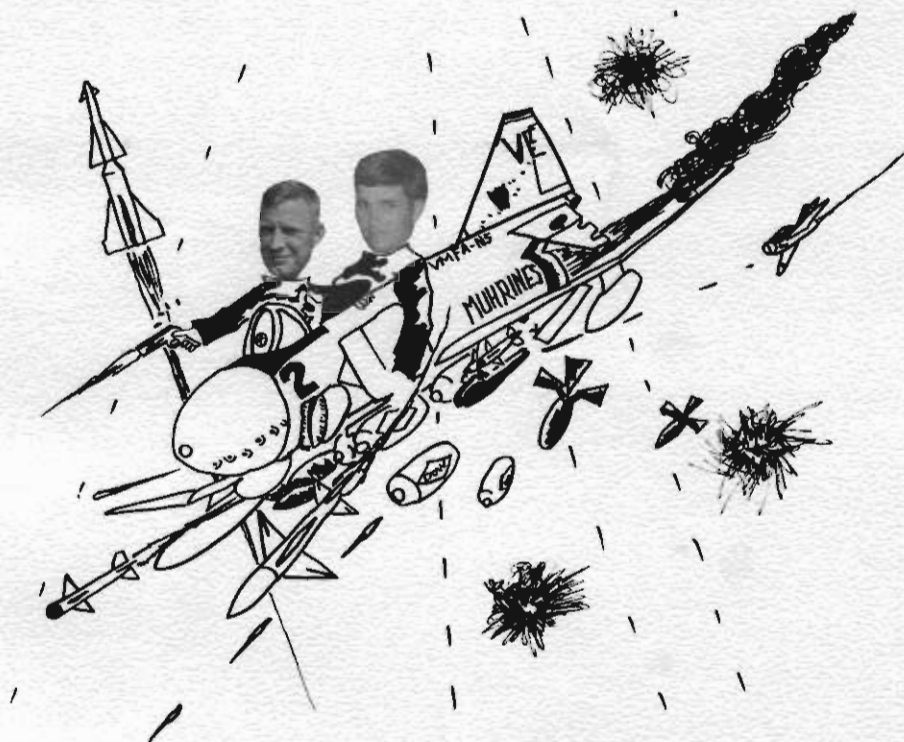
FAC: "Tallyho, I'm at your 2 o'clock low; Target is an active mortar emplacement, elevation 40 feet, run in 270, left pull, friendlies 3 o'clock 200 meters, expect small arms and automatic weapons fire; I'm in to mark."

Lead: "Roger, Big Red, I've got your smoke; rolling in HOT!"

Two: "Lead, your taking fire on your pull off."

FAC: "Good bit, Lead; Two, put it 10 o'clock 10 meters."

Two: "Roger that; in HOT!"



FAC: "That got it Two; BDA follows:

One enemy mortar destroyed, 2 automatic weapons silenced, and 4 bunkers demolished; coordinates TB 170750, in support of 1st Marine Division."

Off target, Eagle Flight rejoins and check each other for possible battle damage. The Phantoms return to base knowing that they again provided immediate, accurate close air support due to the fast reaction of dedicated men who proudly bear the name,

"Silver Eagles."



TAKING THE DUTY



RUN-UPS



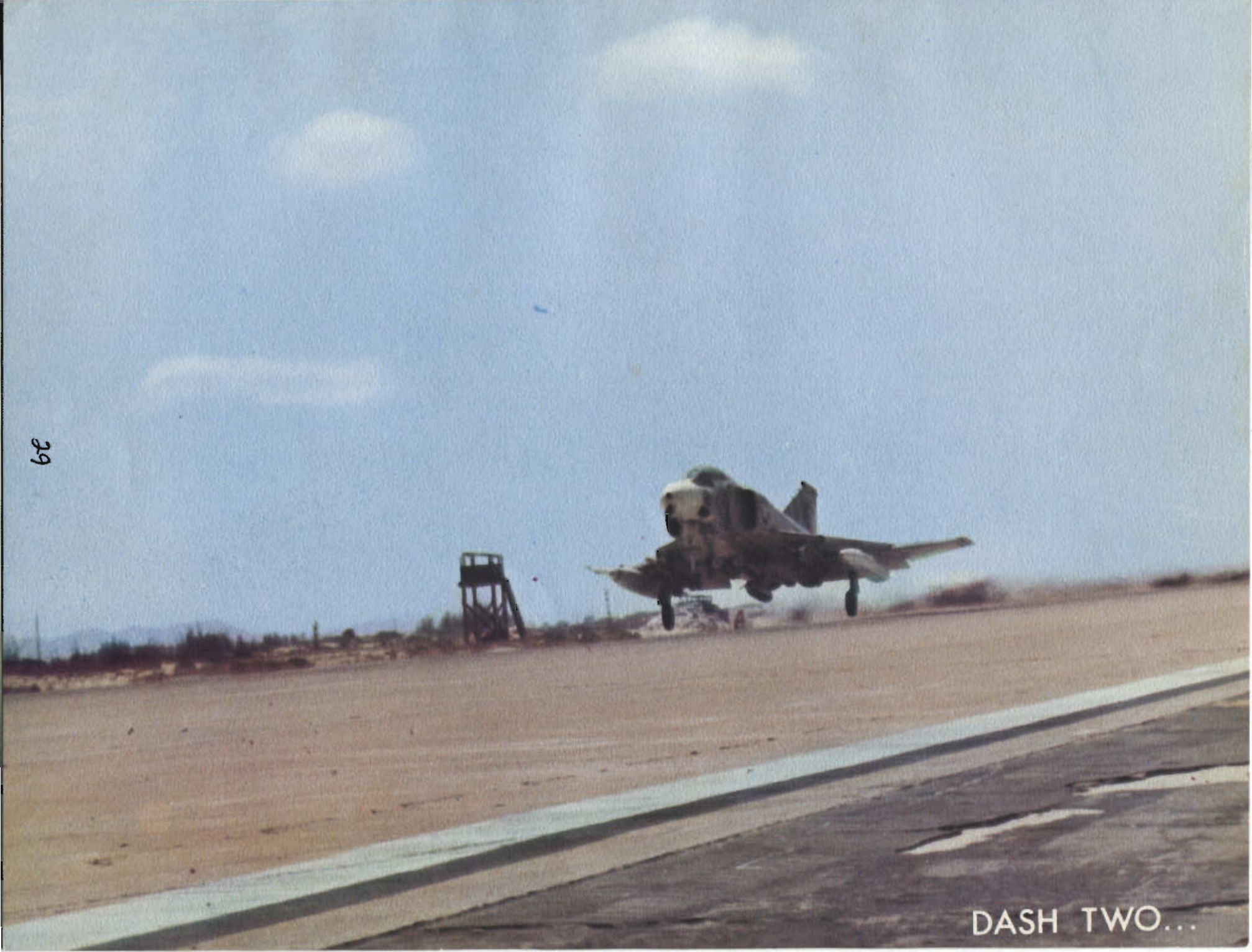
ROLLING

28



AIRBORNE

29



DASH TWO...





AIR TO AIR



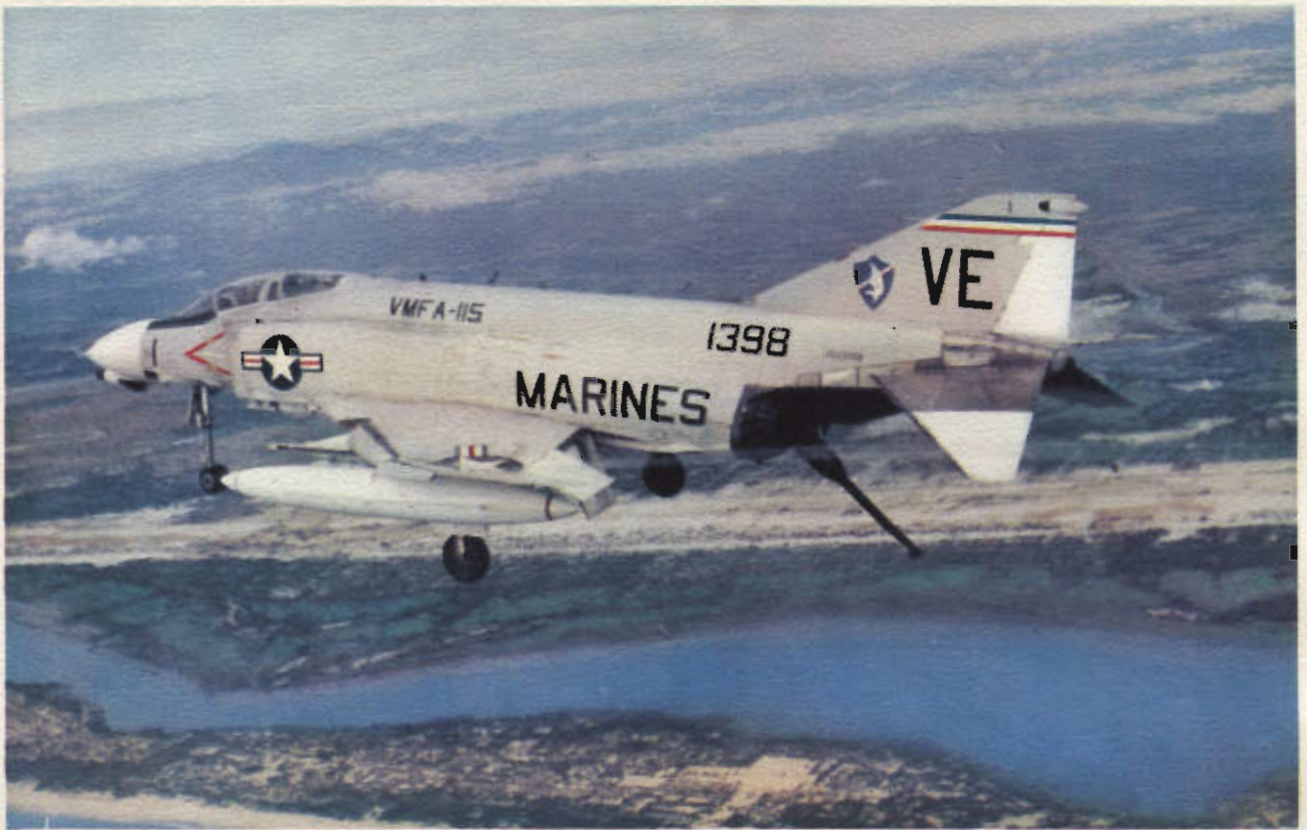
AIR TO GROUND



TARGET WEST OF DA NANG



"BOMBS AWAY"





IN THE ARRESTING GEAR



Sgt. Maj. W. F. Sears



Cpl. J. O. Pickens



Cpl. A. Garcia



Cpl. W. R. Thurman



Cpl. M. L. Johnson



LCpl. T. E. Morales



LCpl. P. L. Tapia



LCpl. J. E. Labor



Cpl. R. D. Mendez



Cpl. P. B. Zarko, Jr.



SSgt. L. F. Main



Short



*You guys see what that bird did
to my camera.*



Pvt. R. E. Knapp



LCpl J. Hayes



SSgt V. G. Killian



Cpl. R. C. Luther



LCpl J. S. Holmes



Cpl. G. H. Jacobsen



Ole!



Flight Line



Gy. Sgt. A. W. Kellogg



Cpl. W. N. Davis



Cpl. H. D. Holland

"E" Club



Sgt. Harvey



Cpl. Zelczak



Cpl. Frank



LCpl. Fein



Cpl. Neff



Cpl. Day



LCpl. Watson



Cpl. R. A. Boen



Two beers and a cheeseburger please!



Cpl. D. H. Boyte



Sgt. G. H. Spabr.



Cpl. K. E. Frederich



Cpl. E. R. Pierce



*I take a bath once a week if
I need it or not*



Sgt. J. A. Garcia



SSgt. G. L. Welch



LCpl. R. B. Yabner



LCpl. R. L. O'Connor



LCpl. R. E. Fry



LCpl. K. C. McGuire



*Are you sure that's the Hawaiian
good luck sign, Poncho?*



Sgt. M. A. Giordano



Sgt. G. A. Haines



Pvt. Kelly



Cpl. R. N. Carnes



It's too late to go wee-wee, sir!



Cpl. T. J. DiDonato



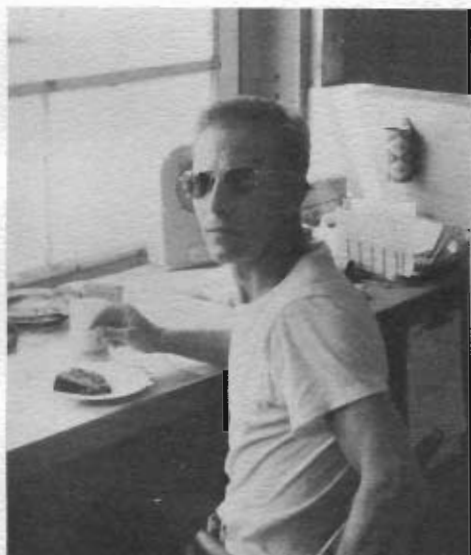
Cpl. R. R. Banta



Cpl. R. W. Tidwell



You can come out now Lieutenant the rocket attack is over.



What do you mean a T.P.Q. every 10 minutes



Cpl. R. P. Sweeting



Cpl. M. J. Mausbach



LCpl. R. V. Neely



SSgt. J. L. Jones



Cpl. R. R. Thompson



One of these days, I'll make the scramble.



"Say luv, may I help you with your purse?"



Ya, you're right, it's wet.



If I'm good, they let me out for lunch



Listen I'll hit the nutcracker if you squeeze the trigger.



Com/Nav



Cpl. R. M. L'Heureux



Sgt. M. B. Love



Cpl. B. E. Johnstone



Cpl. E. D. Lee



Skipper, you wouldn't really send me FAC!



LCpl D. R. Savage



LCpl. R. M. Brown



Cpl. L. J. Freitag



Cpl. D. V. Burns



Cpl. J. D. Wenrich



LCpl. S. R. Klein



LCpl. D. L. Kelly



Cpl. J. D. Somdahl



Sgt. B. Runnels



Cpl. L. C. Bint



Gy Sgt. M. R. Coyle



Cpl. ~~L. U. Godejohn~~

MIKE TOZZI



Sgt. R. J. Zani



Cpl. D. L. Sparks



Not a great way to get a tan.



Cpl. G. P. Schneider



LCpl. M. E. Simonds



LCpl. A. P. Gameraota



Cpl. K. E. Holmes



What time are the rockets, honey?



Sgt. R. C. Greenlee



Cpl. W. F. Morris



Cpl. V. J. Chute



Cpl. E. D. Milligan



Skipper's been gripin' 'bout bent fins.



How d'ya spell "maintenance"?



Gy. Sgt. J. A. Chiebo



Cpl. R. P. Roberts



Gy Sgt. E. R. Hagen



Cpl. J. R. Goldsmith



Sgt. A. G. McLellan



SSgt. R. W. Gauld



I've got it all in one bag!



Cpl. W. L. Taylor



Cpl. L. D. Hern



SSgt. J. A. Inman



Cpl. T. C. Brown



Cpl. J. D. Krussel



Cpl. P. J. Mitas



Cpl. C. D. Ewing



LCpl. W. S. Kirk



LCpl. D. L. Kelly



Cpl. J. K. Morrow



Three weeks more and I'll have enough to build my own jeep.

Cpl. R. W. Flewelling



Cpl. J. D. Hanson



Pvt. M. V. Watson



Sgt. F. H. Folley



Hey, what's the fuze setting for this big white bomb?



Cpl. R. L. Griffin



Cpl. M. R. Stephens



LCpl. T. J. Jones



Cpl. B. J. Blasko



Gy. Sgt. M. K. Craw



You volunteered to go what?



Pfc. K. W. Maylender



LCpl. R. C. Brant



Cpl. N. C. Jessup



Cpl. R. A. Lapenta



Sgt. J. I. Little



Ordnance



You say the bomb dump blew up?!



Cpl. J. M. Lewis



SSgt. F. J. Kruger



Cpl. D. A. Jenins



Sgt. J. H. Langston



Cpl. M. R. Pond



Cpl. J. W. McGinnes



Administration



Oou! That sucks!



Cpl. J. W. Klatt



Cpl. D. F. Fausett



SSgt. E. K. Aki, Jr.



Pfc. K. W. Pennington



Cpl. K. E. Decker



Cpl. P. A. Muscarella



No more remarks about my date



Short! 365?



Duty NCO



*SSgt. R. S.
Hostetler*



*Sgt. S. T.
Brown*



*Cpl. E. R.
Glass*



*Cpl. J. E.
Hilley*



*Sgt. C. R.
Bazzell*



*LCpl. D. O.
Aliff, Jr.*



Cpl. J. A. Hays



Cpl. A. J. Divilich, Jr.



Cpl. J. H. Massie, Jr.



Cpl. W. A. Collins



He "re-upped" to fly with me?!



Maintenance Admin.



A truly puny 'stache.



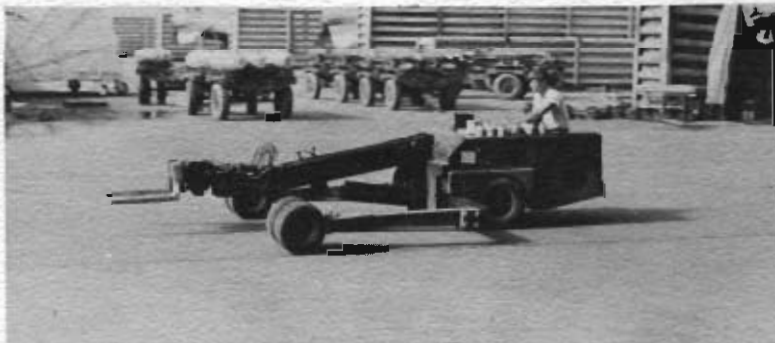
How about R & R at Baldy?



*Jack, you grab him when he goes
for the bread*



*Ever alert, serious, professional
Marine bubble blower.*





*We've got to repaint it before
122 notices the switch.*



Hydraulics



I think it would make a great can opener.



Have you got your green?



Listen, we've got 5 minutes to fix the skipper's jeep.



LCpl. R. B. Benson



LCpl D. R. Forrow



LCpl. R. C. Johnson



Cpl. B. H. Shortsleeve

*Cpl. R. L.
Lehman*



Cpl. L. J. Wentz



LCpl. R. Geneeba



...and in the Port Intake I found...



Loaded for Bear.

Sgt. E. W. Jenson



LCpl. J. M. Ditch



Cpl. R. J. Bardner



LCpl. S. J. Eslinger



Eagle Lead doing his thing.



13 D-2's per aircraft?



Sgt. D. S. Jordan



Sgt. R. F. Conover



Pvt. R. F. Lanham



Cpl. C. L. Jackson



*Not a great guitar....,
but a good guitar.*



LCpl. R. Schmit



Cpl. V. N. Muniz



Look, Ma; this is my "stick."



Who starched my skivies?



Metal Shop



I'd rather switch than fight.



Who wanted to see the chef?



Cpl. T. J. Guntbrie



LCpl. J. R. Ackley



LCpl. D. A. John



LCpl. M. D. Reagan



'vette rally

Big Ziggy



Sgt. R. L. Stremlau

LCpl Gould



Sgt. T. L. Mayrhofen



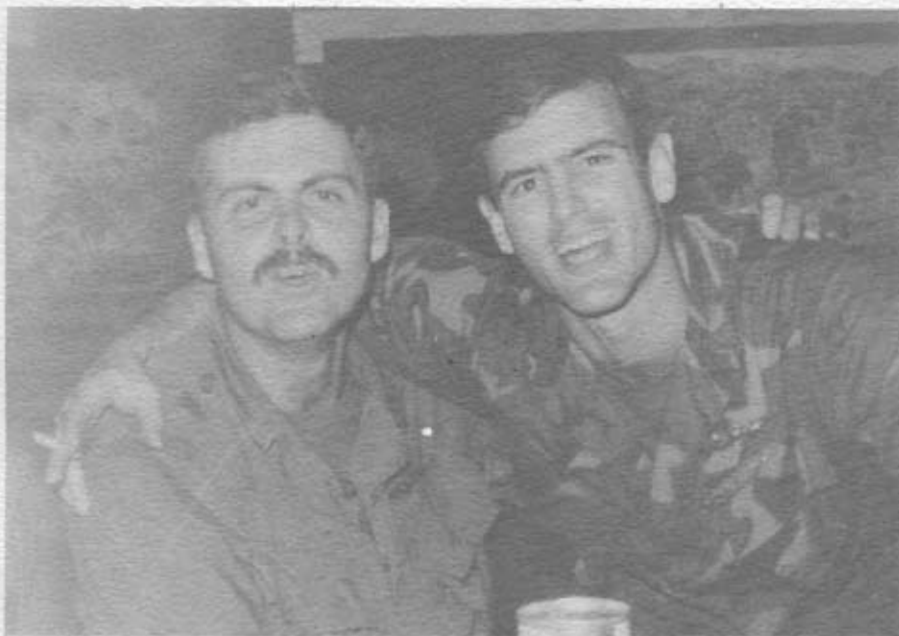
Cpl. R. E. Labrmer



Cpl. G. B. Romero



So where's your scramble?



Ernie Kovacs and friend



LCpl. R. W. Dillard



*LCpl. D. C.
Heskett*



Where's that wind-up key?



*Cpl. R.
Torres*



You should see them after the hop.



*You with the camera, how 'bout a
night ODO?*



Radar Shop



Electric Shop



Quality Assurance



Hey Jim, I thought you had Chu Lai on the tacan!



Goett, was in the front seat!!



Flight equipment



View from the rear





My pins are out, how about yours?



When he kisses me, I just go to pieces.



I wonder what it's like in Ubon?



Are you sure that the plane is up Major?



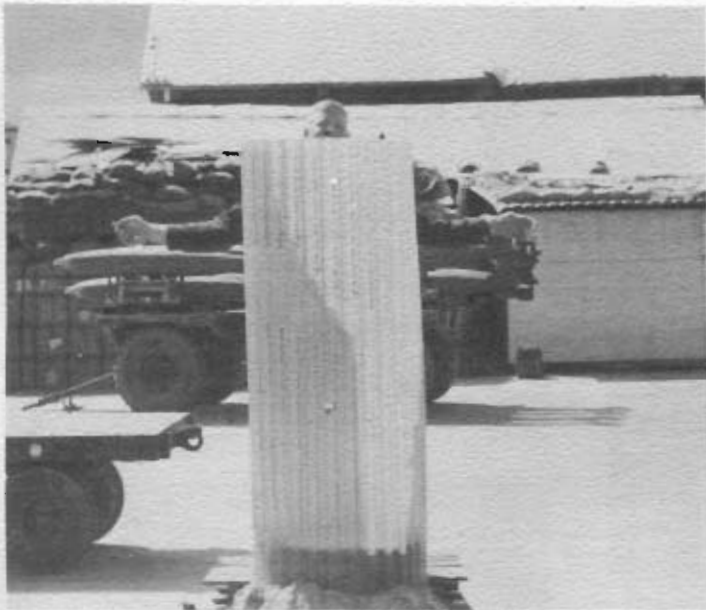
Honest Colonel, I just touched down and the damn thing fell off.



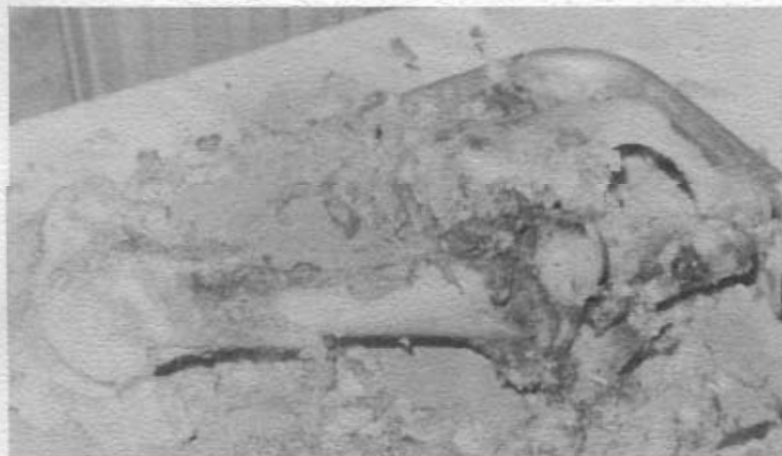
Peek-a-boo, I see you.



My girdle is killing me!



Look, Ma; no bands!



Breakfast



That'sa my Tony!



Show us your t...!



Alright; who spilled all the milk?



Better get your "sierra" together!



I tend to disagree with your position on that matter, Sir.



I'm serfectly pober.



30 SILVER ASSUMES PAD. ODO, JUST BACK FROM PAD LAUNCH. IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, LOGO(AW) RESUMES ODO WITH OUT. EVENING SHOW DO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT. PAD AT THIS MOMENT ~~OF~~ OF ZEUS, LOGO(AW) AS ODO, AND ONE AT SITUATION AERIAL.

35 LOGO(AW) SLIPS OFF TO CHOW. PAD IS NOW ZEUS, VE-DE, AND ONE CHECKER ALL OF LOW VIBRITY.

5 BOCKRACH ZEUS ASSUMES ODO. ONE LARK RAT ARRIVES IN THE VAN AND IS TOLD TO HANDBY ~~AT~~ PD FOR POSSIBLE THE GOOD TEAM!

5 THERE REMAINS TO HAVE THE DAY. ART DELIVERED, ROCKROACH VA. 1 SECTION OF PRINCE AND 1 A-10 IN AIRWINGS.

2 AIR TO AIR SECTION UP. A ROUND OF APPEARS FROM THE ODO, AIRCREW, AND COCKROACH. LOGO(AW) REMINDS OF SOFT PAD 'A'.

H



The ODO WILL log all events!



What's that ticking sound?



and now for a one armed chin up.



Not exactly muscle beach.



No Dibs, I've never been to FAC school, why?



No, ma'm, this isn't the China Beach U.S.O.

*Good schedule —
wall to wall ODO's
and three hops apiece
for Big and Little Larry*





War's Hell!



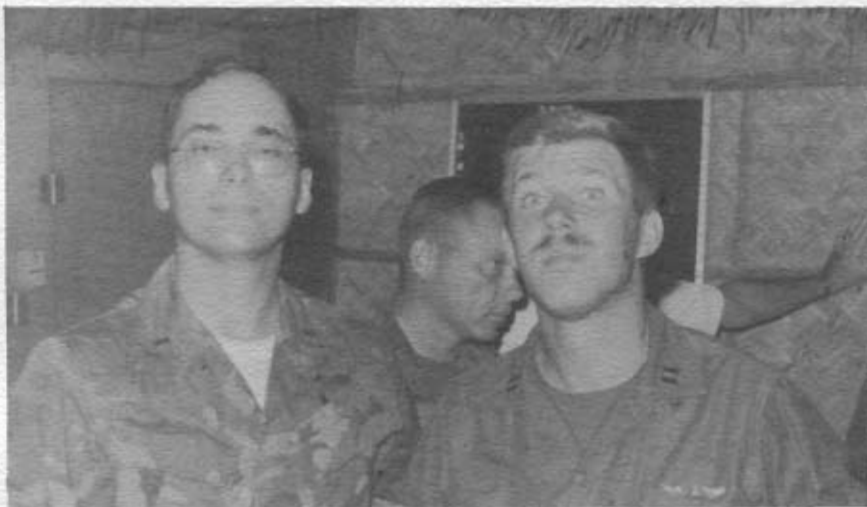
Hey, let's sandbag the CO's hootch!



Che-e-e-se—Burger!



Now wrap this around the turbine shaft and pull real hard!



One must maintain a proper attitude at these affairs.



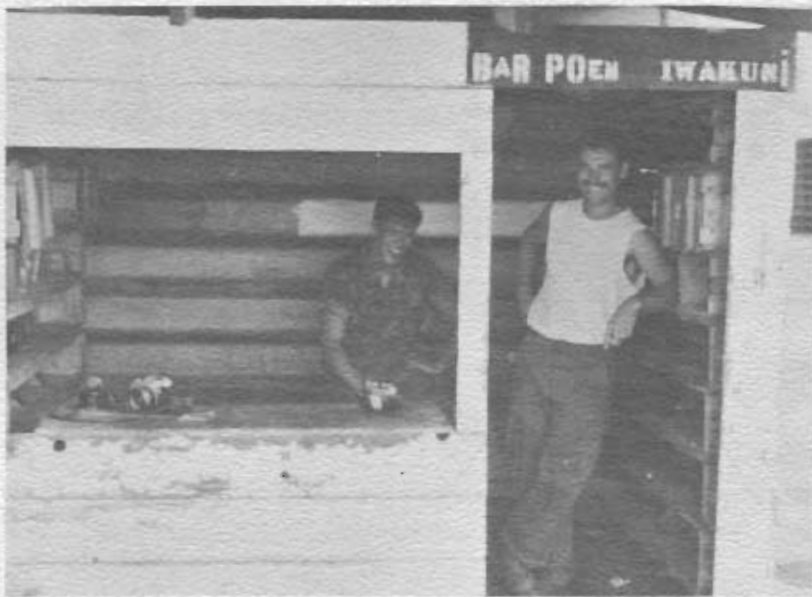
I'll just fake it for another year and a half, then home!



Like I told the Wright Brothers, 16 will never fly!



My Ban has yet to fail.



This ain't really a bar Buddy!



Frown, please!



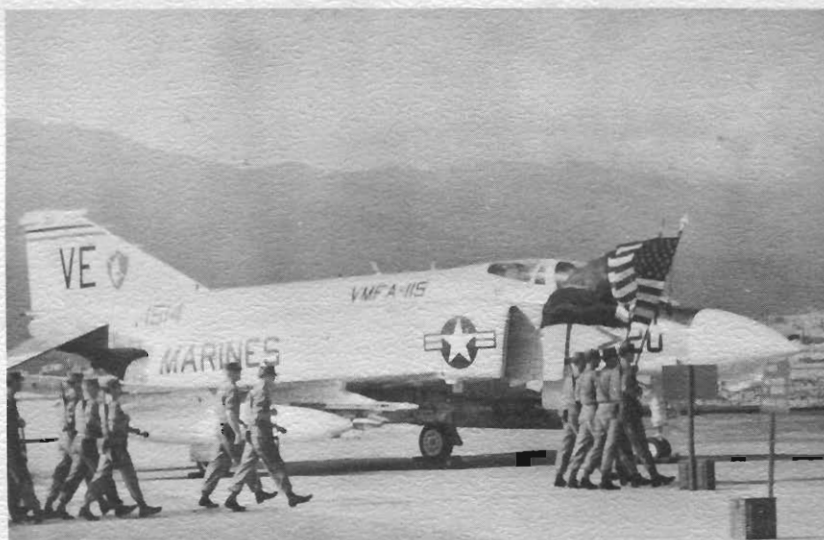
This isn't the new head?

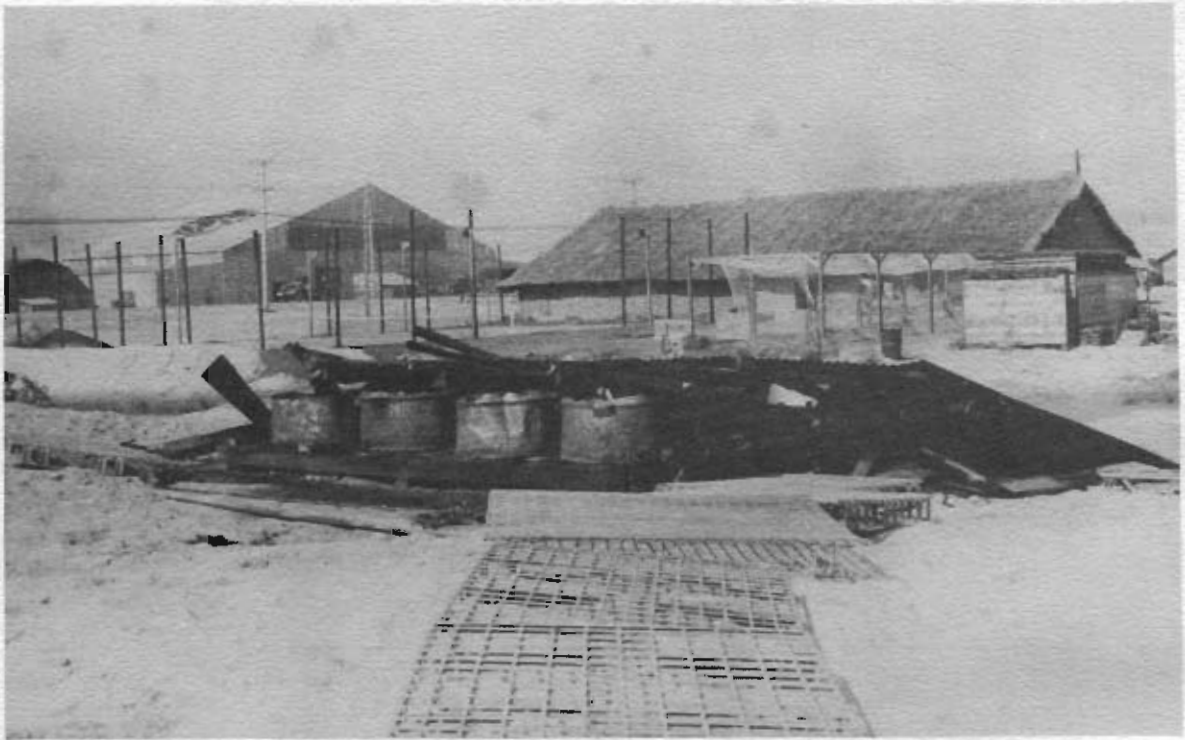


Go to your room Jeff!



*Home is where
the heart is.*





AND THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!

