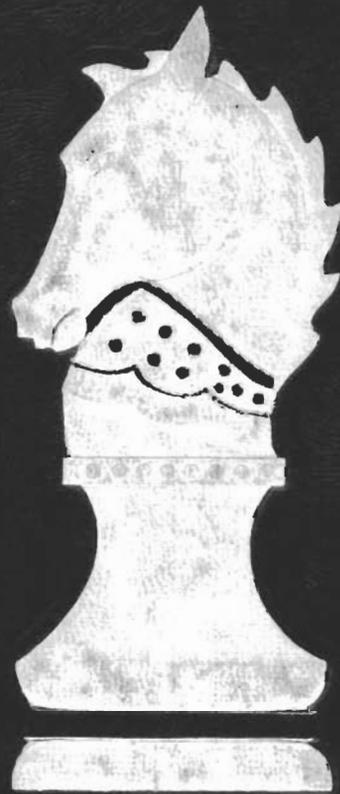




MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON
121



VIET NAM 67-68





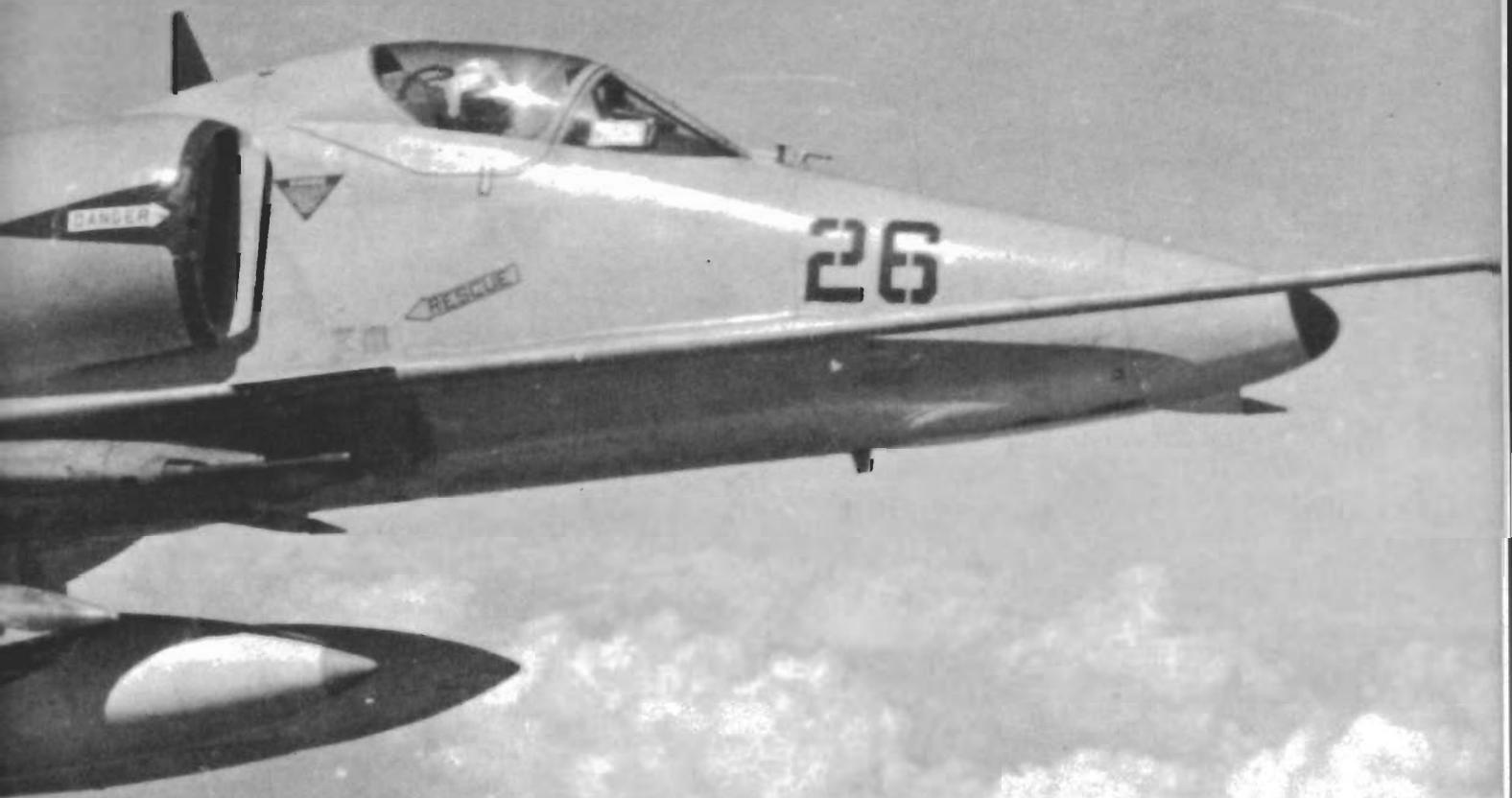
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VK

MARINES

VMA-121

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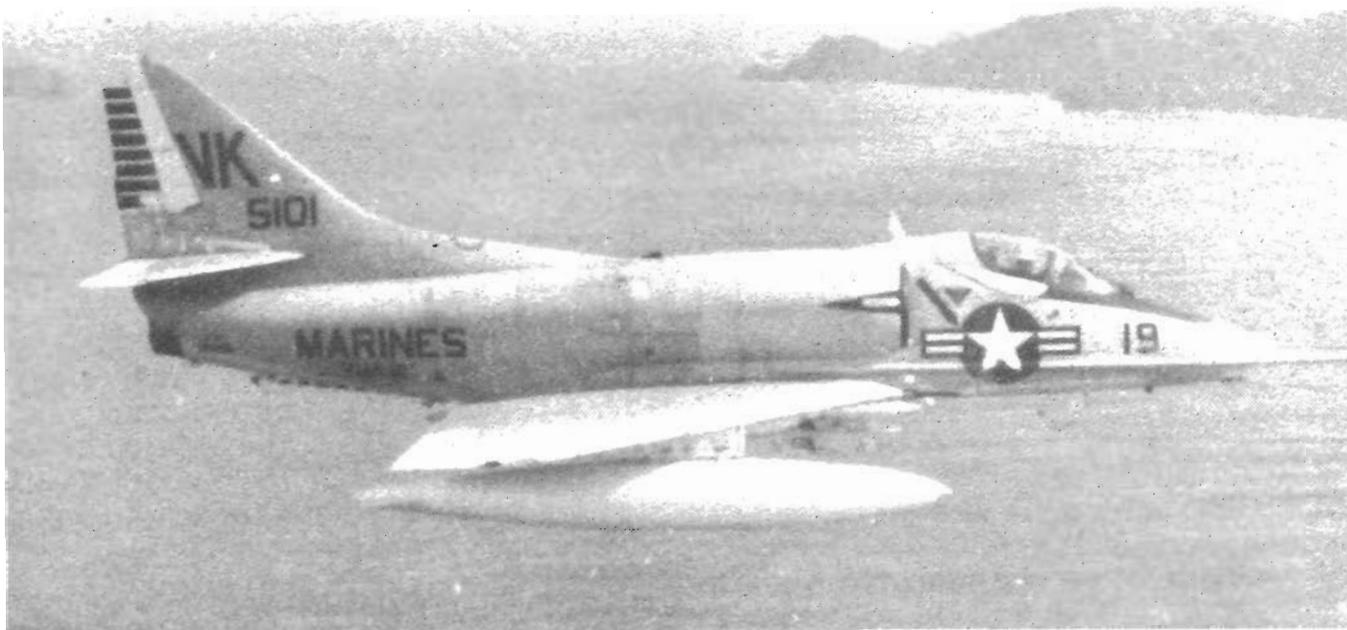


DANGER

RESCUE

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MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 121



This Cruise Book is presented to the officers and enlisted men of VMA 121. Working hand in hand, they have instilled the spirit so essential to the framework of such a fine organization as '121. This book has been put together with the hopes that it will serve as a memento for all who were privileged to serve with VMA 121's "GREEN KNIGHTS".

In Memorium

"It is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Major Donald Bruce CAMPBELL

Captain Dale Alan LUSTER

First Lieutenant James R. REESE

In Dedication

First Lieutenant Walter Roy SCHMIDT, Jr.
Prisoner of War

THE KNIGHTS OF OLD

Marine Attack Squadron 121 was originally commissioned a fighter squadron on June 24, 1941. Four days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the "Green Knights" moved to San Diego for intensive combat training, and left the states in August of 1942 to participate in the Marine Corps' first offensive of World War II--Guadalcanal.

The first step in the Pacific was New Caledonia, where VMF-121 remained until Henderson Field on Guadalcanal had been secured. Flying Grumman F4F's, the first echelon touched down at Henderson on September 25, 1942, and from then until almost 2 years later, pilots were entangled in a bitter struggle for air superiority. Captain Joe Foss, then XO of 121, and other great Marine Aces of the war made their marks in history during this period. Captain Foss, the second leading ace in Marine Corps history, scored 26 enemy kills and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. While on Guadalcanal, 121 was awarded both the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Citation.

After completion of three tours in the Solomen's, the squadron moved to MCAAF Mojave in October of 1943, to be reoutfitted and retrained. Again, in July, 1944, 121 entered the Pacific Theatre, flying strikes against enemy installations at Pelilieu and Yap until the end of the war. The squadron returned to the states with an impressive record of 208 enemy kills, a record that was unsurpassed by any other Marine Squadron.

Reactivated at MCAS El Toro in 1946, after a brief period of decommissioning, 121 conducted routine training until the outbreak of the Korean Conflict. Redesignated VMA-121 and flying AD-2's, the squadron earned fame as the "Heavy Haulers" of Marine Aircraft Group 12 by dropping more tonnage of bombs, rockets, and napalm on enemy targets than any other squadron. After the Korean Armistice the squadron flew the AD Skyraider and the F-9 Panther in Korea, Japan, and MCAS El Toro. In the fall of 1958, VMA-121 received the new A4D-2 Skyhawks at El Toro.

From 1960 to 1965, VMA 121 served in five Far Eastern countries and aboard the two carriers, USS TICONDEROGA and USS CORAL SEA. They also deployed to NAS Cecil Field, Florida, during the Cuban Crisis of 1962.

The squadron returned to El Toro in April, 1965, and began re-forming that same month. VMA-121 trained extensively in conventional weapons delivery in preparation for their deployment to the Vietnam war zone. In August of 1966, the "Green Knights" flew their A4E Skyhawks across the Pacific to Iwakuni, Japan. They made their final preparations and completed extended training prior to 121's deployment to Chu Lai, Rvn, and assumed combat operations on 1 December, 1966. Vma-121 made its mark on the record books of the Vietnam War when, in May of 1967, its last month of combat operations before deploying to Iwakuni for training, 121 dropped ordnance in excess of 1700 tons, shattering all previous records.

Returning to Chu Lai in September of 1967, the "Green Knights" continued their impressive record as a top Marine Attack Squadron.



COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel William D.
SHIPPEN

Lieutenant Colonel SHIPPEN was born in Osceola, Arkansas on 29 January 1929. After completing high school he entered Georgia Tech, and in June, 1951, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management. It was through the NROTC program in college that LtCol SHIPPEN earned his regular commission in September 1951 as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. After completing the Officer's Basic School, he attended the Army's Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

During the Korean conflict, LtCol SHIPPEN served with the 11th Marines in Korea as an artillery forward observer, battery liaison officer, and later, as executive officer. After Korea he entered flight training, and was designated a Naval Aviator on 1 April 1955. LtCol SHIPPEN's first tactical squadron was VMCJ-2 at Cherry Point, North Carolina from October 1955 to June 1957. He then moved to Beaufort, South Carolina to serve in the S-2 section of H&MS-32 until January 1958.

Back flying tactically again with VMF 122 through May 1959, LtCol SHIPPEN flew the FSU Crusader. This tour was immediately followed by a tour as aviation safety officer of VMCJ-2 at Cherry Point.

Moving into the attack field of Marine Aviation the Colonel flew the A4 Skyhawk with VMA-332 from October 1960 to October 1962.

Returning stateside from Japan, LtCol SHIPPEN was a flight instructor in VT-25 at Beeville, Texas until July 1965. He then served on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific at Pearl Harbor, where he assisted in the organization of the CINPAC Airborne Command Post.

In September 1967 LtCol SHIPPEN deployed to Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam serving with MAG-12 as its S-4 officer until March 1968. At that time he accepted command of the VMA 121 "GREEN KNIGHTS", the top Marine A4E squadron in Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel SHIPPEN has received the Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (Combat V), Naval Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Expeditionary, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, and the Vietnamese Campaign Medal.

The Skipper and his wife, Lin, have three sons, Bill, Jr. 16, Frank 14 and Alan 1. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, golf, and photography.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS



LtCol G. H. BARLOW
Mobile, Ala.
25 Feb. 68-26 May 68



Major R. E. BRIGHT
Port Arthur, Texas
27 May 68-4 Aug. 68



Major D. A. LERPS
Eastchester, New York
5 Aug. 68-14 Oct. 68



Major J. G. MORGAN
Montgomery, Ala.



Major N. L. DERICKSON
Philadelphia, Pa.



Major G. G. KEMP
Moscow, Idaho



Major H. R. WARFIELD III
Riviera Beach, Fla.



Major J. D. INGRAHAM



Major F. C. REGAN
Dorchester, Mass.



Major S. M. HORTON
Pageland, South Carolina



Major T. R. DURHAM
Kailua, Hawaii

OFFICERS



Major L. D. TYRRELL
Moscow, Idaho



Major R. T. WARD
Belleville, New Jersey



Capt. R. L. CRANE
Honolulu, Hawaii



Capt. R. J. STOCKING
St. Louis, Missouri



Capt. D. W. MUIR
Huntsville, Ala.



Capt. E. R. MOORE
New Bern, North Carolina



Capt. S. F. LANKFORD
North Wilkesboro, North Carolina



Capt. R. GNAZZO
Torrington, Conn.



Capt. J. D. ELMORE
Gordo, Ala.



Capt. J. C. BUFFINGTON
Minneapolis, Minn.



Capt. D. L. WALTON
San Antonio, Texas



Capt. R. J. RAUENHORST
Easton, Minn.



Capt. T. W. CARTER III
Riverhead, New York



Capt. T. C. FLANAGAN
New Cumberland, Pa.



Capt. H. A. HAMILTON
Dover, Ohio



Capt. L. K. STEPHENS
Paris, Illinois



Capt. M. P. GREEN
Cashmere, Wash.



1/Lt. J. J. JONES
Sprague, Wash.



1/Lt M. D. WILLIAMS
Seattle, Wash.



1/Lt T. M. ALTON
Fort Worth, Texas



1/Lt C. F. PURVIS
Albuquerque, New Mexico



1/Lt R. W. COOP
Burbank, Calif.



1/Lt R. E. MUSSER
Philadelphia, Pa.



1/Lt J. W. FILICKO
McKees Rocks, Pa.

PICTURES NOT AVAILABLE

Major R. W. DIENER
Boca Raton, Fla.

1/Lt J. J. HAWKINSON

Capt. T. R. IRVINE
Bishop, Calif.



THE RINGMASTER



Cpl PERRY - Most important man in the squadron



"Francis, what was our take-off time?"



"No, I'm not getting a hair-cut."



"Darn! Who hid my toupee?"



"This guy guarantees we will gain fifty pounds in a week."

FIRST SERGEANT



NORMAN L. ENGSTROM

First Sergeant ENGSTROM joined the Marine Corps in 1948 in Los Angeles, California. After completing radio telegrapher training he served at various posts and stations to include duty in the Fleet Marine Force with infantry, amtracs, and radio and communication battalions. In 1957, he was the initial course writer for the 2500 field at the Marine Corps Institute.

1st Sgt. ENGSTROM's overseas assignments have included Korea, Germany, Republic of the Philippines, Dominican Republic, and two years aboard a heavy guided missile cruiser.

First Sergeant ENGSTROM joined the VMA 121 "Green Knights" on 16 June 1968 from the 5th Marine Division.

The 1stSgt is married and has three children who reside at their home in Vista, California.

ADMINISTRATION



S/Sgt. D. Chastain
Admin Chief



Sgt. R. A. Garton
Chief Clerk



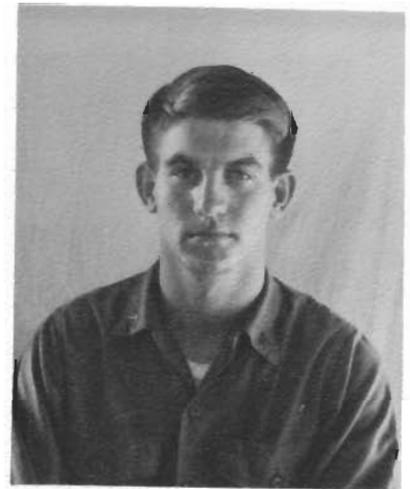
Cpl. P. M. Scholle
Files Clerk



L/Cpl. J. F. Riggs
Correspondence S & C



PFC L. E. Gottschalk
SRB Clerk



L/Cpl R. Young
Unit Diary Clerk



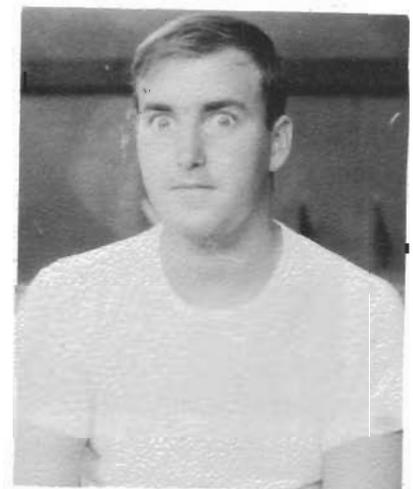
L/Cpl E. D. Montgomery
Mail Clerk



GySgt. E. Blevins
Admin Chief (Old)

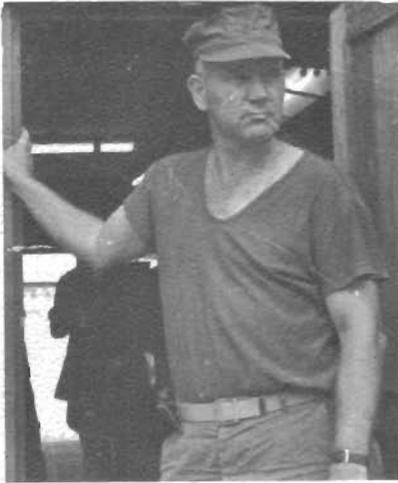


Sgt. E. A. Simmons
Career Advisor



Sgt. W. W. Baumbeck
Career Advisor (Old)

AVIONICS



M/Sgt. T. J. Roberts
NCOIC



Gy/Sgt. C. Smith
Asst. NCOIC



Gy/Sgt. B. F. Benton



S/Sgt. R. L. Center



S/Sgt. P. A. Mazzei



S/Sgt. A. A. Neipman



Sgt. W. C. Calhoun



Sgt. L. S. Jones



Sgt. R. L. LeValley



Sgt. R. J. Simonds



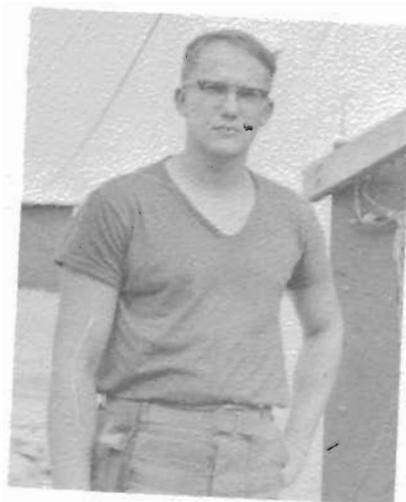
Sgt. M. C. White



Cpl. T. M. Anderson



Cpl. W. M. Atkins



Cpl. R. G. Bensle



Cpl. D. L. Brown



Cpl. R. Hoey



Cpl. C. W. Jackson



Cpl. R. R. Kendle



Cpl. J. A. Ready



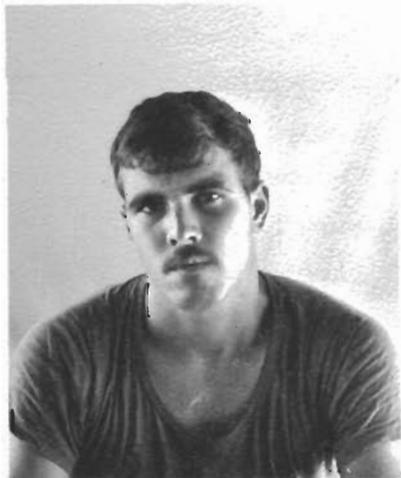
Cpl. J. C. Volker



L/Cpl J. L. Brantley



L/Cpl T. G. Klima



L/Cpl L. E. Lann

NO PICTURES AVAILABLE

S/Sgt. Luddeni, R.R.

Sgt. Cameron, W.E.

Cpl. Behling, G.R.

Cpl. Manginen, W.E.

Cpl. McMillan, H.M.

Cpl. Painter, E.R.

Cpl. Sherman, D.E.

Cpl. Stoll, F.E.

Cpl. Taylor, M.J.

L/Cpl. Atchison, R.D.

L/Cpl. Klein, G.P.

ORDNANCE



1/Lt C. F. PURVIS
Ordnance Officer
Albuquerque, New Mexico

ORDNANCE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The Ordnancemen in this shop have been magnificent to a man. By their untiring efforts, devotion to duty, and outstanding technical ability the following recognition has been awarded: one meritorious promotion to GYSgt., one meritorious promotion to Staff Sergeant, One to Sergeant, three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, three CGFMFPAC Certificates of Commendation, and eight meritorious masts. It has been a most gratifying experience to be associated with men of their caliber. Their efforts and undampened spirits have made this the most eventful and rewarding tour of my career. My sincerest thanks and appreciation to each and every man in the "GREEN KNIGHTS" Ordnance Shop. We have faced the ultimate situation together and persevered. "Well Done Men".



MSgt. M. L. Jones NCOIC
Newton, Mississippi



GySgt J. W. Garner
Ass't NCOIC
Jacksonville, Florida



GySgt E. D. Gordon
Matamoras, Penna.



SSgt R. F. Lewis
Taylor, Michigan



SSgt W. E. Porter
Norfolk, Virginia



SSgt J. C. Bean
San Diego, Calif.



Sgt C. C. Guetti
Citrus Heights, Calif.



Sgt. S. L. Lewis
Columbia, South Carolina



Sgt. R. W. Faris
Hornlake, Miss.



Sgt T. L. Workman
Girard Penna.



Sgt B. D. Hull
Sumter, South Carolina



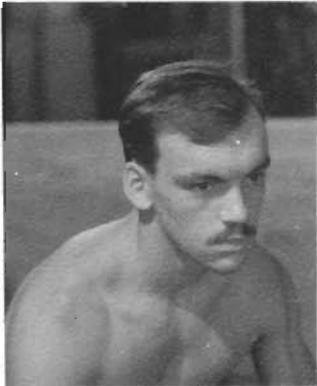
Cpl M. T. Gordano
Hamden, Conn.



Cpl D. C. Harp
Baltimore, Maryland



Cpl R. L. Studer
Belleville, Illinois



Cpl P. Kenneally
McDonald, Ohio



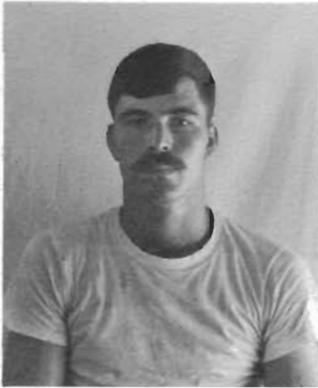
Cpl D. K. Johnson
Poole, Nebraska



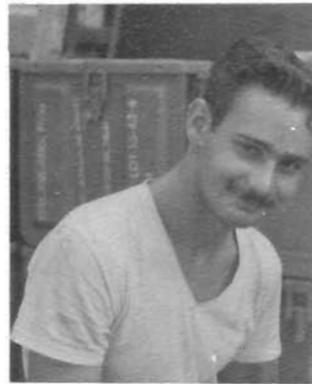
Cpl M. W. Perry
Stopsylvania, Virginia



Cpl R. P. Roundtree
Greeley, Colorado



Cpl E. A. Scibelli
Tumwater, Washington



Cpl B. G. Timlick
Flint, Michigan



Cpl D. T. Wilson
Hollywood, Florida



Cpl M. E. Andre
New Bedford, Mass.



L/Cpl E. P. Airwyke
Newton Falls, Ohio



L/Cpl R. A. Brunkow
Portland, Oregon



L/Cpl E. Bruton
Jacksonville, Florida



L/Cpl R. E. Whitley
Fort Wayne, Indiana



L/Cpl D. C. Carlisle
Santa Anna, Calif.



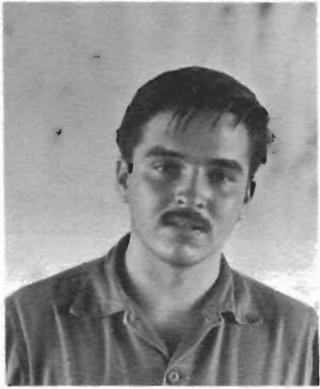
L/Cpl R. L. Ellis
Fullerton, Calif.



L/Cpl J. P. Johnson
Bayonne, New Jersey



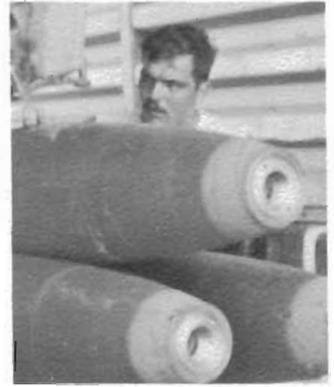
L/Cpl T. H. Malcolm
Jacksonville, Florida



L/Cpl P. L. Pepin
Berlin, N. H.



L/Cpl W. W. Seaburg
Feura Bush, New York



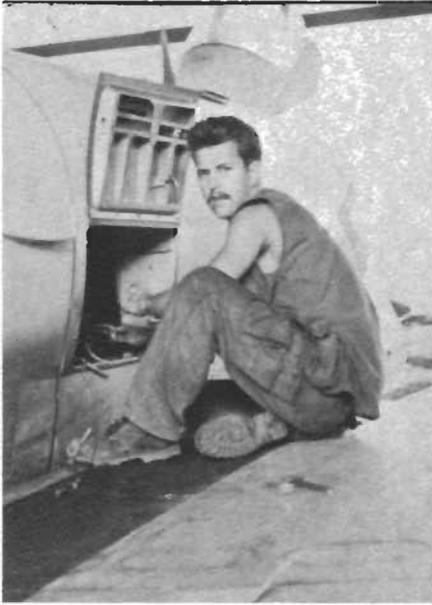
L/Cpl W. J. Teagle
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio



PFC J. Bunevicius
Scranton, Penn.



CHECK CREW



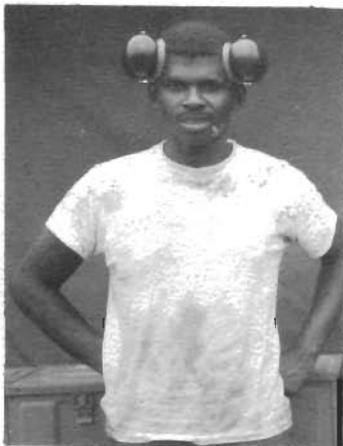
Cpl. R. J. Ramos
El Cerrito, Calif.



Cpl. A. D. Rogers
Baltimore, Md.



L/Cpl. M. W. Larimore
Louisville, Kentucky



L/Cpl. K. G. Shavers
Farrell, Penn.

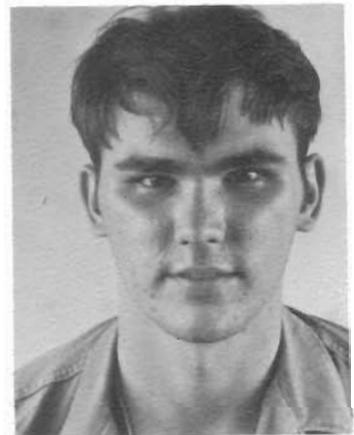


L/Cpl. K. G. Shular
Sevierville, Tenn.

FLIGHT LINE



S/Sgt. C. R. Knapp
NCOIC
Erie, Pa.



Cpl. M. A. Mason
Rossville, Ga.



Cpl. D. L. Radder
Bellingham, Wash.



Cpl. D. L. Risner
Litchfield, Minn.



Cpl. R. L. Trejbal
St. Louis, Mo.



L/Cpl. R. M. Doty
Long Island, N.Y.



L/Cpl. H. R. Foster
Troy, Ohio



L/Cpl. R. D. Gonzalez
Miami, Fla.



L/Cpl. R. Kirk



L/Cpl. K. R. Moore
Madisonville, Ken.



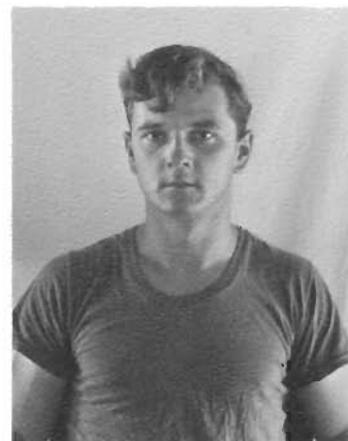
L/Cpl. L. R. Malone
Mt. Galiad, Ohio



L/Cpl. T. E. Palmer
Oceanside, Calif.



L/Cpl. J. C. Rush
Sparks, Nev.



L/Cpl. D. L. Stephenson
Easley, S.C.



L/Cpl. P. W. Sullivan
Austin, Texas



L/Cpl. R. A. Wilken
Clintonville, Wis.



PFC S. E. Webb
San Francisco, Calif.

GROUND SUPPORT



S/Sgt. R. L. Henn
NCOIC



Cpl. P. G. Redmond
Detroit, Mich.



L/Cpl. A. E. Davis, III
Philadelphia, Pa.



L/Cpl. S. B. Lay
Stonefort, Ill.

OPERATIONS



GySgt. R. C. James
NCOIC



S/Sgt. R. J. Jacobson
Seattle, Wash.

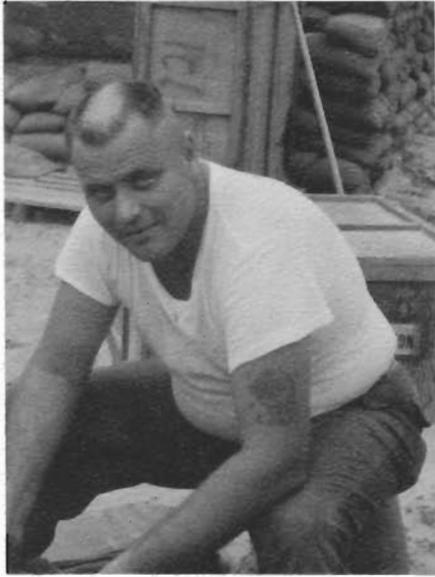


Cpl. J. T. Phillips
McAdenville, N. Car.



L/Cpl. W. R. McDonald
Detroit, Mich.

MATERIEL



GySgt. R. J. Pinaire
Worland, Wy.
NCOIC



Cpl. D. Bingham



Cpl. R. A. Vanim



PFC B. R. Gilbert

METAL SHOP



Cpl. R. R. Grant
Wisconsin



Cpl. G. C. Hendricks
Columbus, Ohio



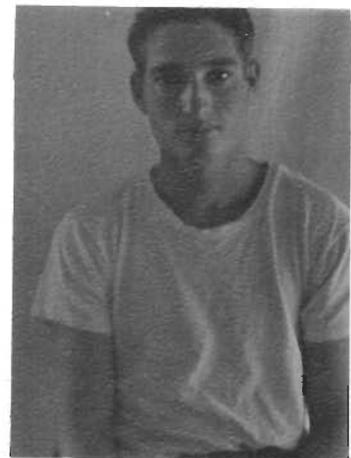
Cpl. W. W. Hunt
Pittsburgh, Penn.



Cpl. B. L. Standeford
Chelsea, Oklahoma



Cpl. J. G. Worthington
Montgomery, Alabama



L/Cpl. D. K. Stephens
Jamesville, Calif.



Cpl. R. W. Hall
La Mesa, Calif.



Cpl. L. A. Heffelfinger
Allentown, Penn.

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S/Sgt. C. M. Pepler
Hawaii



Cpl. D. F. Brooks
Hamilton, Ohio



Cpl. F. E. Bley
Summerville, Ohio



Cpl. R. M. Ellis
Duluth, Minn.



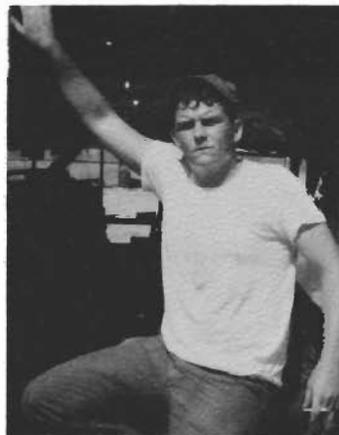
Cpl. A. W. Poltrock



Cpl. S. Villafranco
San Antonio, Texas



L/Cpl. G. W. Brugger
La Grange, Texas



L/Cpl. T. E. Creighton
Massachusetts



L/Cpl. R. J. Roche
Chicago, Ill.

SES

FLIGHT EQUIPMENT



Sgt. R. W. JOHNSON
Kingsford Hts, Ind. NCOIC



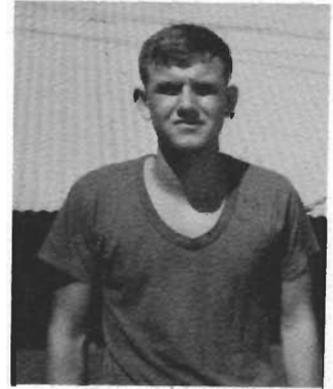
LCpl G. H. M. ESELL
Cherry Tree, Penn.



LCpl G. E. BENTZ
St. Paul, Minn.



LCpl T. C. FITZGERALD
Bethlehem, Conn.



LCpl D. R. COLYER
Toledo, Ohio



LCPL C. B. PATTON
Franklin, N. Carolina



LCpl D. E. KERNS
Upper Darby, Penn.

NOT PICTURED

Sgt. R. H. BARRETT
Lakehurst, New Jersey

Cpl. D. J. CEDRONE
Memphis, Tenn.

LCpl. B. E. KERRON
Portland, Ore.

MAINTENANCE CONTROL



M/Sgt. W. A. Marsh



Gy/Sgt. J. D. Simerman



Gy/Sgt. R. E. Reid



S/Sgt. J. A. Blaicher



S/Sgt. H. McKinzie

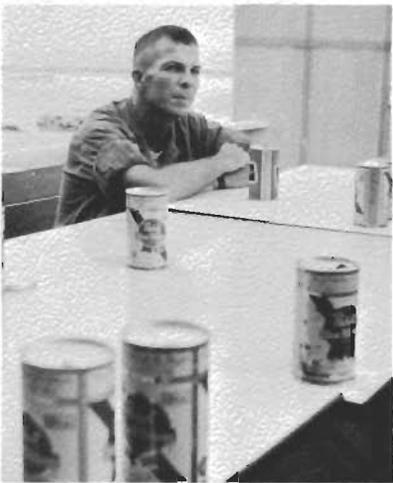


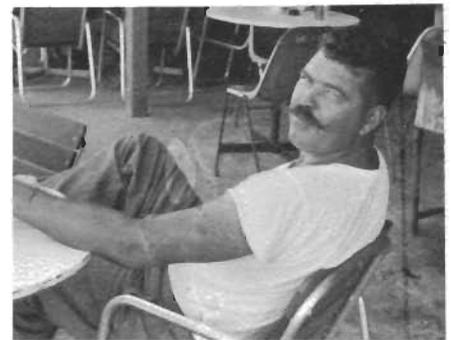
S/Sgt. J. F. Gratton



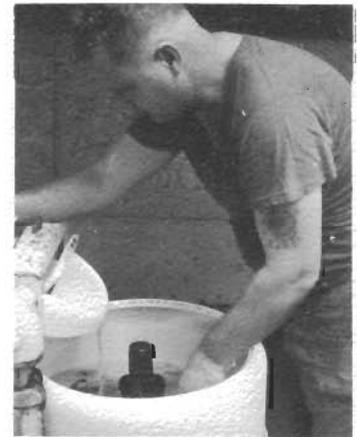
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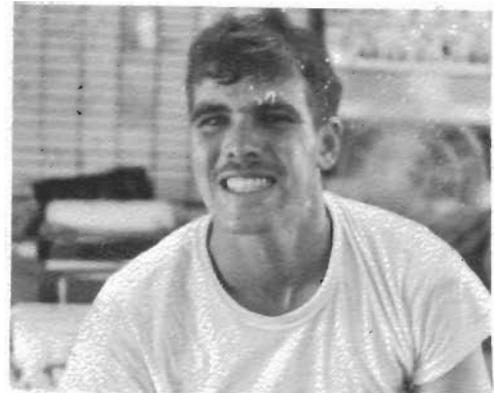
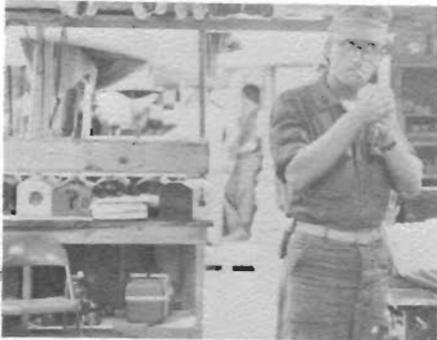












CIVIC ACTION







1/Lt. T. M. "The Bull" Aiton

CO-



Cpl. Roger L. Studer

EDITORS



L/Cpl. John L. "Short" Brantley

WALSWORTH
Marceline, Mo., U.S.A.

MONGOLIA

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