

The Combat Corpsman

Torii Teller

Iwakuni Weekly

January 10, 1966



Editorials

Giving as Well as Fighting

From the time a Marine enters recruit training until the time he is separated from his Corps, he is conditioned to fight his country's battles — and fight them he does, with an indomitable spirit.

He becomes hardened from the rigors of war and honed to a keen edge of effectiveness.

But for all the battles he has fought, for all his toughness, there is no one any softer, more sentimental, more kindly, than a battle-hardened U.S. Marine.

His eyes are among the first to fill with tears at the sight of suffering wrought by war. And what is more important, he is among the first to try to alleviate that suffering.

The same spirit that carries him through the battles is the same spirit that helps him fight to ease war's by-products. And in that fight he is just as indomitable.

He is proving that now in Japan, on Okinawa and in Vietnam. He has become an American ambassador of good will, a father figure to thousands of children, and a Santa Claus to all.

In Japan, happy times were had once again by orphans adopted by Marines in "Operation Happy Face." The Marines made up for their own absence from home by being "fathers" and Santa Clauses to the parentless children.

The youngsters received dolls, building blocks, transistor radios and clothing. More important, they received the priceless gift of love.

In South Vietnam, more orphans and other underprivileged children basked in the Marines' affection. Nine-year-old Lee has, thanks to SSgt. Robert L. Rieve, a maintenanceman with MAG-16 in Da Nang.

The South Vietnamese boy and Rieve "adopted" each other, Rieve perhaps seeing his own children imaged in the lad. Now Lee has a new bicycle to ride the four miles to school he used to walk barefooted. Riding with him is the love of an understanding man.

In Da Nang, the traditional American holiday season gained new significance when Marines donated a considerable amount of money to a day school.

In short, all Marines overseas are demonstrating that their fighting spirit is rivaled only by their spirit of giving.

By **Sgt. W. D. Stone**

What is Japan?

Japan is a man in his field caressing the earth with a plow.

Japan is a person aloof in a crowd. Japan is a group of children happily skipping under the burden of their books.

Japan is a river of people flowing along a narrow street.

Japan is Fuji-san wearing a blanket of clouds.

Japan is the rain that washes the wooded hills.

Japan is small houses and rice fields sharing the land.

Japan is a flower reaching skyward. Japan is the rising sun.

Japan is the cloak of mist worn by the mountains.

Japan is a cup of tea.

Japan is green islands in a calm blue sea.

Japan is the unrevealing face of a Buddha.

Japan is a quaint little doll.

Japan is simplicity within complicity.

By **LCpl. J. T. Wells**

Torii Teller

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Courage Can Be Any Man's

Vietnam has put courage into the headlines as only war can do. Fearlessness is a common virtue for those who fly in combat, for those who fight the enemy on the ground. Courage is also needed by the village officials who side with the government, and expose themselves to the anger of the Viet Cong.

The face of courage shows best against a double background: known risk and a chance of success. That is, courage is present (1) when a man knows his efforts face a real and deadly danger — when he knows he may lose both the objective and his life — and (2) when his inspiration is the solid, though uncertain, hope of victory.

A Marine or corpsman may ennoble his life by valor beyond the call of duty, assuming providence places him in a hot war at the right place and right time. But what will make a man's life memorable if no such opportunity presents itself? Suppose his unit never meets the enemy under significant odds? Or perhaps his speciality keeps him in the rear echelons? And what about the civilians at home, including the man's wife and family? Does the regular routine of life deny the average individual the opportunity for courageous performance?

The answer is that any man's life can be courageous. Why? Because life, when lived at its best, is war! The objective is to achieve peace, the meaning, the ultimate significance to human existence which we innately know we ought to experience. The cynic has little chance of displaying courage, for he refuses to believe the fading voice of his heart. He acknowledges no imperative goal; hence, no war. Similarly, the fainthearted have little opportunity to display courage. They purchase shabby security, or drag their feet hoping someone else will fight their battle, rather than bear the stress of combat and risk defeat.

Jesus said: "...if any man will follow me..." That takes courage! Those who refuse are doomed to be with the damned, for "the fearful and unbelievers have their part in the lake of fire." So records the Book of Revelation.

Do you dare to be a Daniel? Dare to stand alone if necessary? Dare to have a purpose firm, and dare to make it known? God said to Joshua: "Only be thou strong and very courageous." Paul states in II Corinthians: "Act like men and be courageous!"

God grant that courage for God and country be a common virtue of us all!

By **Chaplain Peter J. Bakker**

Torii Teller

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Iwakuni, Japan

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Local News

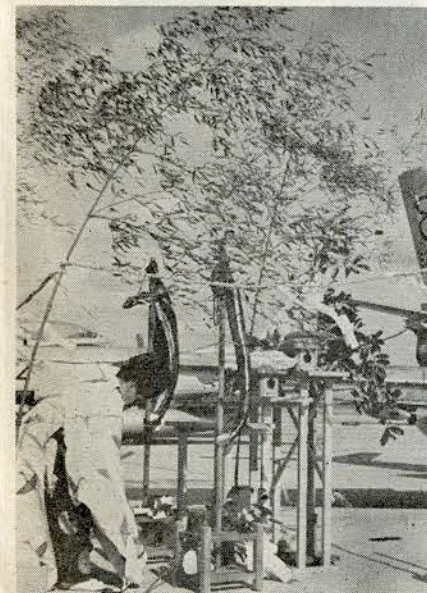
The Rite Start

In most parts of the world New Years is celebrated in a gala of parties, dancing and an overall good time. But the people of Japan begin their New Year with an informal visit to the local shrine or temple. They pray for health and safety during the coming year.

In a simple ceremony last week, the officers and men of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force's 82d Fighter Group started their next working year.

Shinto Priest Yoshitaka Imagi, from the Shirasaki Shrine near Kintai, performed the rites on the JASDF flight line. He started with a prayer and a blessing for the New Year, then waved a sacred tree branch over the squadron's flight line and men.

The priest continued his ritual by breaking the sacred branch and giving a small piece to each of the senior officers. He then presented a piece to Col. James T. McDaniel, commander of the air station, to LtCol. Henry W. Horst, operations officer for the air station, and Capt. Thomas C. Andrew, aviation safety officer of the air station. In turns, each man went before the altar and laid down his portion of the



PRIEST & RITES

Beginning the New Year: a Shinto prayer, a sacred branch and clapped hands for a safe and healthy '66.

branch, clapped his hands to help attract safety for the coming year of operations.

After the priest was finished, 20 pilots of the Japanese unit, led by group commander LtCol. Yasuo Matsui, climbed into their aircraft to make the first flight of the year.

Drive Starts Saturday

The 1966 overseas National Health Agencies fund drive will start Saturday, and, although the collection of monies for the 12 participating organizations will last for a full month, Iwakuni officials are hoping to make as big a dent as possible in their 100 per cent participation goal on Monday's payday.

Rather than set a dollar mark for this campaign, fund drive organizers have asked that each man give — as much as possible to be divided among the 12 participants anyway he wishes.

The 12 agencies are: the Arthritis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, National Association for Mental Health, National Association for Retarded Children, National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation, National Foundation (March of Dimes), National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Society for Crippled Children and Adults (Easter Seals), National Society

for the Prevention of Blindness, United Cerebral Palsy Associations, American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

'Poopy Suits' & Cool Pool

Flying has been defined as hours and hours of boredom punctuated by moments of stark terror. The minutes of emergency are planned for as best as possible, but the matter of hours of self-survival that follow before rescue last week led VP-17 to the air station swimming pool in the middle of winter.

Everyone from commanding officer Cdr. L. A. Holdren down to his relief crews jumped into the icy water in anti-exposure suits, otherwise known as "poopy suits".

The tests were conducted to check every suit worn by VP-17 personnel. Leaks were found and quickly patched by aviation equipment personnel, but the main reason for the experiment was to build confidence in doubters that the suits would work.

There was no aircraft ditching to simulate the real thing — but the swimming pool water was only a few degrees above freezing, the outside air was below freezing and the snow that was falling was real enough.

With the squadron's flight surgeon on hand the group filed into the pool.



JASDF PILOTS HEADING FOR YEAR'S FIRST FLIGHT



VP-17 IN STATION POOL

Reassurance is a "poopy suit".

A few, who discovered leaks, came out much faster than they went in. It was soon discovered, though, that even with minor leaks the suits kept the body floating and warm.

It was a reassuring fact that in a moment of trouble the uncomfortable, one-piece "poopy-suit" would keep personnel alive in adverse weather conditions.

Teaching the Teams

A new school was opened last week to teach the fundamentals of coping with a nuclear, biological or chemical attack on the air station to teams of Marines who would stand ready to handle the situation in case it ever occurred.

For three days the first class of 30 students, under the supervision of GySgt. P.E. Champagne, received lectures on decontamination, the different nerve gases and ways to aid persons who become victims of one of these attacks. The third day was also spent in simulated situation training.

Another class on area decontamination will follow next week. From there, chief instructor Champagne plans to hold his Wingside school every week until he has trained enough Marines to form the necessary teams.

Grads at JACFA

Japanese students of the Japanese-American Cultural Friendship Association-sponsored English conversation night classes for the last three months recently received their diplomas upon completion of the course.

At graduation exercises held in the Matthew C. Perry School, the 61 students were presented their certificates by LtCol. Vernon J. Peebles, deputy station commander.

Vietnam

The Corpsman

On a battlefield in Vietnam .30 and .50 caliber weapons sing a duet of death. Mortars and rockets are symbols in the discord. The scene appears to be one of complete pandemonium. And out of the din is heard the cry, "Corpsman!"

Everyone who hears the call knows, for certain, two facts. One is that a Marine is wounded; the other is that within moments there will come running across the explosive battlefield a Navy hospital corpsman to tend the wounded man.

'Leave Ammo.' Affectionately called "Doc" by the Marines with whom he serves, the corpsman is a vital, integral part of every Marine infantry platoon in combat. Perhaps his highest endorsement is that the Marines don't even think of him as being a sailor.

"If I had to choose between the two," one case-hardened sergeant said, "I'd take the doc along and leave the ammo at home."

To his Marine platoon, the corpsman is Albert Schweitzer, the Mayo Clinic and Florence Nightingale, all rolled into one. Back at the base camp he passes out aspirin, takes temperatures and leads the patient into the doctor's office. But on a patrol or other operation, he is a grizzly among bears.

Instantly, Coolly. For some inexplicable reason, he is presumed to be heroic—although that word would embarrass both him and his platoon. In the midst of a fire fight the

Marine rifleman is firing from whatever protected position is available or, if an advance is indicated, moves under the covering fire of others. Not so with the corpsman.

When the cry for a corpsman comes, he leaves his position instantly and dashes across the bullet-rent hill or rice paddy to find the wounded man. He kneels, coolly, and disregards the ever-present dangers while he tends the wound. He then passes the word back to radio for a Med-Evac (medical evacuation) helicopter and, picking up his medical kit, runs to the next casualty.

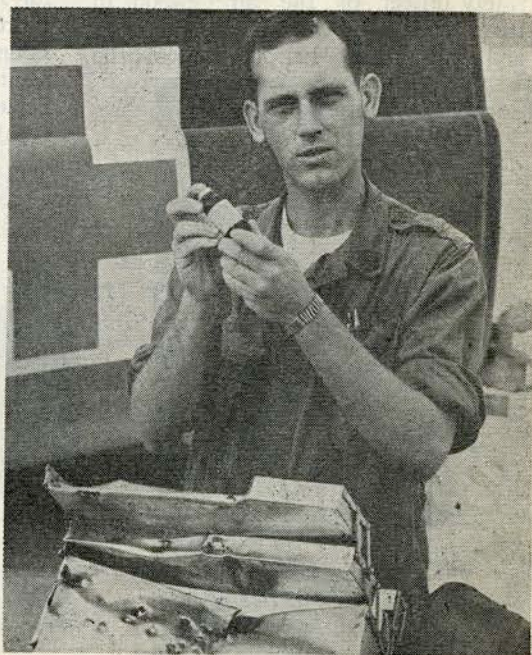
'No Game!' He is expected to disregard his personal safety, to expose himself to enemy fire in the pursuit of his profession. If he were less than heroic in combat he would be unwelcome in the outfit.

"Sure, the docs have a dangerous job," a rifleman said. "War ain't no game, you know! Matter of fact, they ought to give every one of them a decoration the first time he comes off a battlefield. It's for sure he's earned it."

But if all are not decorated, each is given something just as tangible and much more valuable: respect. If the corpsman thinks a man should be evacuated due to a wound or illness, the company or platoon commander usually says, "Well, if the doc thinks we should, we'll do it."

True Identity. Not uncommon is the corpsman who has served his entire Navy career with the Marines. Sometimes he is even the most "gung ho" Marine in the outfit, and would be appalled at the thought of duty in his own branch of service. Normally, he wears Marine utilities or forest green garrison attire. He receives an issue of both Marine and Navy uniforms, but he has to see his rarely worn blue uniform to remind himself of his true military identity.

Any combat Marine in Vietnam is confident of several things, each immensely comforting to him. One is that if he gets hit he will not be left behind, no matter how pressing the circumstances. Another is that weather permitting, and regardless of the dangers involved, a Med-Evac helicopter will soon be there to pick him up. And, finally, he knows that neither hell nor high water will prevent an immediate response to his cry of "Corpsman!"



CORPSMAN & KIT AFTER ACTION

Exposed in the pursuit of a profession.

Washington

83 for VRB

Commanding officers were authorized last week to award the new variable reenlistment bonus, in varying degrees, to Marines in 65 occupational specialties. The Corps headquarters message which announced the list also said those men in the 03, 08 and 18 fields and MOSs 1371 and 6742 were eligible, but only if they were a corporal or above and only for one multiple of their regular reenlistment bonus. Total MOSs eligible were 83.

VRB payments are authorized, depending upon the MOS, in multiples of one, two, three and four times the regular bonus and in addition to it.

The primary conditions for eligibility were: carry the right MOS, be a lance corporal or above (except for the 03, 08 and 18 field and MOSs 1371 and 6742), have at least 24 mos. of continuous active service, be eligible for a first reenlistment bonus and be recommended.

MOSs which rated the four-multiple VRB were: 5931, 5941 through 5944, 5949, 5951.

MOSs given the three-multiple VRB were: 2831 through 2835, 2841 through 2845, 2851 through 2853, 2861 through 2865, 5961, 5973, 5975, 5976.

MOSs allowed a two-multiple VRB were: 0241, 0251, 1341, 2131, 4011, 4021, 4061, 4071, 4081, 6413, 6418, 6422, 6441, 6442, 6443, 6615, 6671, 6711, 6713, 6715, 6811.

MOSs rating a one-multiple VRB, other than those three fields and two MOSs with special requirements, were: 0221, 0231, 0431, 1141, 1161, 1391, 2141 through 2144, 2311, 3516, 6412, 6511.

And More Sergeants

Eligible Marine corporals in 15 occupational fields will be promoted in January, according to Marine Corps headquarters, where it was announced last week that 1,981 additional promotions to sergeant have been authorized to meet increased requirements.

The January promotions are considered a continuation of the December 1965 corporal-to-sergeant authorization which numbered 4,500. Those named in January will have a Jan. 1, 1966, date of rank, with pay and allowances accruing from that date.

Officials also said that corporals with a date of rank on or before March 31, 1965, who meet standard requirements, may be considered for promotion during March 1966. In announcing the March promotion period, headquarters also said that General Military Subject Tests for that period have been waived.

Bulletin Board

New Shipment

Marines on permanent change of station orders from Okinawa or Japan to Vietnam may now ship personal belongings to the Personal Effects and Baggage Center, Camp Pendleton, Calif., for storage until PCS orders to CONUS are received, Corps headquarters in Washington authorized last month.

Later, upon receipt of PCS orders to CONUS, individuals may send the PE&BC at Camp Pendleton a properly completed DD Form 1299 (Application for Shipment of Household Goods) and six certified copies of their PCS orders, requesting shipment of the stored effects to a CONUS address.

Members of unit rotations may be issued certificates in lieu of orders.

The new instructions do not preclude a Marine from storing his personal effects not required in RVN at the 3d FSR Baggage Storage Facility, Camp Hansen, Okinawa. However, only one shipment can be made regardless of the number of times transferred to or from the RVN, and shipments to any other points are not authorized.

Dollar Law in Illinois

A law recently enacted by the State of Illinois now provides that any of its residents who have served honorably in the armed forces after Jan. 1, 1961, and earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam Area) or the Vietnam Service Medal are entitled to receive \$100 as compensation for that service.

A resident, for this purpose, is a person who has resided in Illinois for not less than 12 mos. preceding his entry into active military service.

The law further provides that certain survivors of eligible persons, whose death was connected with such service, may be eligible to receive \$1000 in compensation payments.

Detailed information is available at the Station Legal Office.

New JACFA Course

The Japanese-American Cultural Friendship Association is beginning its new Japanese conversation classes tomorrow.

Military and dependent personnel interested in the 3 mo. course, which will cost 1,500 yen, should contact the local JACFA office at the main gate, or by ext. 2701.

Weekly Menu

ENLISTED MESSHALLS

TODAY - Dinner — Barbecued spareribs, simmered corned beef with potatoes and re-fried beans. **Supper** — Pan roast of beef with natural gravy.

TUESDAY - Dinner — Pork and beef chop suey, chow mein noodles, fried rice, egg foo yung and buttered asparagus. **Supper** — Grilled smoked ham steaks, pineapple sauce, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, succotash and cauliflower.

WEDNESDAY - Dinner — Broiled Salisbury steaks with vegetable gravy, mashed potatoes, navy beans and brussels sprouts. **Supper** — Roast veal with natural gravy, rissole potatoes, corn, zucchini squash and hot rolls.

THURSDAY - Dinner — Grilled liver and onions, beef croquettes, potatoes, black-eyed peas and carrots. **Supper** — Roast chicken with bread dressing, giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, beets and cranberry sauce.

FRIDAY - Dinner — Fried fish and scallops, baked veal loaf, macaroni au gratin, mixed vegetables and cornbread. **Supper** — Fried shrimp, braised beef, baked potatoes, green beans, corn and hot biscuits.

SATURDAY - Dinner — Grilled hamburgers and cheeseburgers, French fried potatoes, lima beans and broccoli.

Supper — Pot roast of beef with natural gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, brussels sprouts and hot rolls.

SUNDAY - Brunch. Supper — Grilled beef steaks sauteed in onions, French fried potatoes and corn.

COM (Closed)

TODAY - Lunch — Chili con carne with beans and grilled cheese sandwiches, steamed rice and buttered spinach. **Dinner** — Roast tom turkey with dressing, gravy and green peas.

TUESDAY - Lunch — Hot beef sandwiches, mashed potatoes, gravy and buttered lima beans. **Dinner** — Italian dinner with spaghetti and meat balls, pizza pie, garlic bread and wine.

WEDNESDAY - Lunch — Spanish omelets with sauce, fried potatoes and buttered asparagus. **Dinner** — Steak night.

THURSDAY - Lunch — Beef pot pie, buttered noodles and buttered broccoli. **Dinner** — Stuffed pork chops, mashed potatoes, gravy and buttered string beans.

FRIDAY - Lunch — Salmon loaf with tomato sauce, baked macaroni and cheese and buttered green peas. **Dinner** — Seafood casserole or Chinese pepper steak, buttered rice and buttered broccoli.

SATURDAY - Lunch — Hamburgers and cheeseburgers, French fried potatoes and Harvard beets. **Dinner** — Roast beef au jus (to order), potatoes and buttered string beans.

SUNDAY - Brunch. Dinner — Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and buttered asparagus.