SINJURED



Advertiser Photo by Gordon Morse as surf tears at swarmed landing craft and shortly reduces it to debris.

Saga of Fourth Marines

CHU LAI, Viet Nam, Oct. 28 — They call him "The Bull." His men will tell you he's one helluva combat marine.

Officially, he's known as Lt. Col. J. R. Fisher of Arlington, Va., commander of the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marine Regt.

If was "Bull" Fisher and his battalion which led the assault during "Operation Starlite" in August when the marine smacked head-on into a regiment of Viet Cong. When the battle was over, the VC regiment had been decimated.

"Bull" Fisher and his men of the 2nd Bn., Fourth Marine—known as the "Magnificent Bastards"—arrived in Viet Nam May 7. Since then they have compiled a combat record second to none.

The awards recommended for the men of 2/4 include one Medal of Honor and one Navy Cross, 9 Silver Stars, 18 Bronze Stars, 17 Navy Commendation Medals, and 134 Purple Hearts.

But on Sunday, Oct. 10, it was not the thoughts of war which occupied the mind of "Bull" Fisher. It was a much more pleasurable thing.

For on this day he was to participate in the dedication of a dispensary at the newly built village of Chu Lai. Both the village and the dispensary had been constructed from the joint efforts of Fisher's marines and Vietnamese villagers.

The people had been displaced from four villages in the area where the marine corps airfield is being constructed at Chu Lai. Fisher and his men went to work.

And now, in a flat, sandy area which just a few months ago was barren of all except scrub brush, there exists a bustling village with a population of 3,800.

"The men have done a lot of work on this project," says Fisher. "I'm really proud of them."

Fisher cites statistics quickly, proudly.

"We've got a good school going, with 350 kids attending. We've got 60 people who've each agreed to buy one hog and we're going to get a hog farm going pretty soon.

"We're also going to make a large pond and stock it with fish. Then we'll get some ducks to really utilize it, They'll have fresh fish, ducks and duck eggs to go with their meals."

As Fisher rides in his jeep into the village on this day for the dedication of the dispensary, both children and adults wave and shout to him.

The youngsters — beaming, waving their arms, jumping up and down yell to him: "Hello, hello, okay, okay, Number One, Number One, Number One, Number One!"

And "Bull" Fisher smiles and waves back to them.

"This dispensary is the start of what we hope someday will be a hospital for all the people in the Chu Lai area," Fisher says. "There'll be a doctor and three corpsmen here from 9 a.m. to noon six days a week.

"We've already begun training the people in practical nursing and we'll have another class starting soon. Look at those kids. Don't they look good and healthy? We've really done something here.

"With the help of the medical civilian assistance program we've given medical and dental treatment to more than 7,000 people since July 15.

"We've got four kids in this village who have hairlips. Each one of my four companies is raising money so that these kids can have operations and get fixed up.

"This is a pretty good start, don't you think?"

That afternoon Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, commanding general of the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, came in by helicopter during an inspection trip to perticipate in the dedication of the dispensary.

Within minutes after the ceremonies the dispensary had its first patient, a young boy who had a severe rash and open sores covering his body.

"Bull" Fisher watched as the corpsman began treating the boy. Then he stepped back outside.

"This is the 'Old Man's' baby," said Maj. Sam Adams, the operations and planning officer of Fisher's battalion. "This village is a helluva fine testimony to him. He's really proud of it."

That was evident in "Bull" Fisher's face and eyes.



