

# Grueling 41-Mile Pohakuloa-To-Hilo Hike Climaxes 'One-Four's' Big Island Training

By SSgt. Del R. Vernon

After two days and a night spent in the field, Marines of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, under the command of Lt-Col. J. R. Stevens, departed Pohakuloa Base Camp last Friday for a 41 mile hike to Hilo.

The mile-and-a-half column passed through the main gate just before 6 a.m. Friday morning. Weary troops formed lines, one behind the other with Lt-Col. Stevens and his staff at the head of the column.

Two miles from the starting point, natural elements took over. Rain, cold winds, and rocky, lava encrusted roads plagued the 1/4 Marines.

The object of the march was to traverse the 41 miles to the big island town of Hilo in 18 hours. This was not just an endurance march, but the climax to an actual tactical problem.

The "enemy" had been hit, and hit hard, north of Pohakuloa Base Camp and had withdrawn to the town of Hilo to set up a last ditch defense. Marines were to pursue the enemy and destroy the town of Hilo.

Companies were rotated to the front of the column every hour to maintain the steady three-mile-an-hour pace. Vehicles carried all excess gear to help the Marines unload their heavy burdens. Mules and jeeps were laden with weapons, radios, packs, camouflage gear and C-rations.

After six hours of grueling

march, the tired troops halted at the halfway point for the noon meal. This was at 12:15 p.m.

Shoes were removed and socks changed in preparation for the second half of the hike which would carry them from the 3,000 foot level to the sea. The Base Camp, where the hike started is 6,623 feet above sea level.

Nearing the breaking point, some of the 1/4 men had to be placed on trucks and taken to the airport where the final staging point was set up. This number was rather small and almost entirely due to blisters of the feet. Of the 800 marchers, less than 100 dropped out and only when ordered to do so.

At 6 p.m. the troops stopped for evening chow six miles out of Hilo. Here final plans were made for the march into town. The hike was to end at the Hilo High School where 6x6 trucks were waiting to carry them to the airport.

Upon entering the city limits at 8 p.m. spirits rose as throngs of civilians stood by the road to cheer on the Marines. Backs arched, heads tilted and the steady "hup-two-three-four" started rippling through the ranks.

Counting cadence and singing the Marine Corps Hymn, the tired, but proud 1/4 Marines arrived at the Hilo High School at 9:40 p.m. after over 16 hours of downhill hiking.

the mobile target pulling was disbanded early this When the Marines of Serv: talion Maintenance fou where it was and what it be. ideas were formula make this "thing" into a item for artillery units of Marine Brigade.



POHAKULOA TO HILO — THE HARD WAY  
Lt-Col. J. R. Stevens Leads Troops Down Saddle Road

## A Growing 'Concern'

# Second Marine Air Group Assigned MCAS, Beaufort

Plans to reactivate and assign another Marine Aircraft Group to the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C., were announced today.

This will be the second Marine Aircraft Group assigned to the Beaufort air station.

The new unit, Marine Aircraft Group-31, will be placed in a cadre status about November 1, with a strength of approximately six officers and 75 enlisted. This will allow for an orderly input of supply items and support equipment.

Between January and May, 1962, the unit's personnel strength will be increased to 58 officers and 760 enlisted. It is expected that the Group will be operational by July 1, 1962.

When fully operational Marine Aircraft Group-31 will consist of a Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron, an Air Base Squadron, two fighter squadrons, an attack squadron, and a Marine Air Control Squadron.

The two fighter squadrons, the attack squadron, and the air control squadron are already in existence and will be reassigned from other Marine units to this air group.

The personnel strength MCAS, Beaufort, will be increased by 99 officers and enlisted, as a result of this vacation.

## A Feature Attract

# Cpl. Chesty As Washin

Corporal "CHESTY," US (K-9), D1000010/0311, is hanging up his chevrons.

Long a feature attraction of regular Friday evening parades conducted during the summer months at Marine Barracks Washington, D. C., "CHESTY" Service Record Book will be closed after his performance in the last evening parade on October 6.

"CHESTY," the English dog mascot, has appeared in 200 official ceremonies and parades with the Marines of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

His parade duties consist of marching smartly down the center of the parade ground promptly at 9 p.m. to begin the famous evening parades.

He has proven a favorite with the thousands of spectators who weekly attend the parades, wh

## A Remarkable Day On Saddle Road

(Ed Note: The following editorial appeared last week in the Hilo, Hawaii HERALD TRIBUNE when members of the 1st Bn., 4th Marines began a 41-mile-hike from Pohakuloa to Hilo.)

For those of us who rarely walk any farther than from house to garage and from parking lot to store, this is a most remarkable day.

On this day some 700 members of the First Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, are walking 41 miles from Pohakuloa to Hilo.

Furthermore, each man is carrying between 60 and 70 pounds of personal belongings and combat equipment.

Editors are notoriously lazy, but there may be other citizens as well who feel they've done something particularly athletic in carrying the groceries in from the car.

Youngsters who are filled with pep at bedtime, and who are never too tired for games, too often turn Mom into a family chauffeur when it would do the kids good to walk.

In the process of evolution man may someday be born with wheels instead of legs if he doesn't begin to make more use of the legs he has.

Our hat is off to the hardy Marines...

## Sixth Fleet On TV

The Navy's televised "Film of The Week" series will feature...