

Cam Sa Raid Photos

**Cpl.s Dwight Williams, HML-167 crew chief
John T. "J.T." Bouley, HML-167
doorgunner, & USMC Photo**

Chapter 12, Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs"

By Michael Dan Kellum, 1stLt., USMCR,

www.michaeldankellum.com



Cam Sa Raid as seen from a Huey Command & Control helicopter from HML-167 orbiting the battlefield south of Marble Mountain in the Horseshoe area just inside the Republic of Korea Marines' Area of Observation and a short distance south of the abandoned Cau Ha Combat Base August 4, 1970. (Photo by Cpl. John T. "J.T." Bouley, HML-167 Comprise doorgunner)



Vietnamese and Marine troops from Golf 3, (2ndLt. Mike Greene, platoon commander), 3rd Counterintelligence/Interrogation Team (headed by 1stLt. Tom Marino), and 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment's S-2 Intelligence section (2ndLt. Gil Robinson, OIC) collect POWs and dead Viet Cong soldiers after the Cam Sa Raid August 4, 1970 and bring them to a central location for processing and search them for intelligence information. Another aerial shot of the operation from the C&C Huey. (Photo by Cpl. John T. "J.T" Bouley, HML-167 doorgunner)



The Huey C&C helicopter lands to offload Maj. John Grinalds, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment's S-3 (Operations officer), in the aftermath of the Cam Sa Raid August 4, 1970. (Photo by Cpl. John T. "J.T" Bouley, HML-167 doorgunner)



2ndLt. Gil Robinson, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment's S-2 (Intelligence officer) at left looking back at the Huey aircraft, oversees the Marines from his S-2 and 1stLt. Tom Marino's 3rd Counterintelligence/Interrogation Team searching for intelligence information from the bodies of a portion of the 12 Viet Cong leaders and guards killed during the Cam Sa Raid. The raid netted 12 POWs as well. Photo was taken after the C&C Huey landed nearby. (Photo by Cpl. John T. "J.T" Bouley, HML-167 doorgunner)



Marines and Vietnamese from 3rd Platoon, Golf Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and 3rd CIT/ITT and 2/1's S-2, check out the bodies of some of the 12 VC leaders and guards killed in the Cam Sa Raid. Others captured in the lightning quick raid are being gathered and separated for interrogation on the spot in the background. The VC indicated if they had had 5 more minutes lead time they would've escaped the heliborne attack that came at them from three directions. The C&C Huey from HML-167 Comprise approached from the west; two Cobra gunships from HML-367 Scarface descended on the target area from the north; and four Sea Knights from HML-364 Purple Fox loaded with Golf 3 Marines and their Navy Corpsmen as well as 3rd CIT/ITT troops and 2/1's S-2 Marines swooped in from the east coming in low off the South China Sea and deposited the troops all around the bunkers where the VC leaders were meeting. (Photo by Cpl. John T. "J.T" Bouley, HML-167 doorgunner)



Maj. John S. Grinalds, 2/1's S-3 Operations officer, talks on an AN/PRC-25 radio in the aftermath of the Cam Sa Raid, August 4, 1970, as 2ndLt. Mike Greene, platoon leader, 3d Platoon, Golf Co., 2/1 (tall Marine in the center of the photo looking away from the camera), takes a moment to assess what his Marines have accomplished. More VC suspects have been gathered in the background while two of the 12 VC killed in the raid are at right, 12 POWs are sitting on the ground in the background guarded by Marines at right above. Grinalds would go on to become president of The Citadel in Charleston, SC from 1997-2005 after the Vietnam War. (Photo appeared in *Leatherneck* magazine in the May issue along with the condensed article titled, *Cam Sa Raid, aka The August 4 Caper*), (USMC Photo) See the full Cam Sa Raid story in Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



2ndLt. Gil Robinson, 2/1's S-2 (Intelligence section officer), oversees Viet Cong suspects being loaded into a Sea Knight CH-46 helicopter following the Cam Sa Raid. His son, Marine Col. Michael Robinson, ran across this old photo in his father's possessions in 2012 and it brought back the memory to Gil that his M-16 plastic rifle's stock was essentially shot off by a ricocheting bullet or one fired in anger at him by an enemy soldier during the Raid when the takedown pin on the lower receiver group was blown completely out ...a very close shave. Notice the damaged M-16 missing the rifle stock he's holding. Injury and death in Vietnam was sometimes a matter of inches...or less. (Photo courtesy of Col. Michael Robinson, USMC active duty, and Lt.Col. Gil Robinson, USMC Ret., USMC Photo)

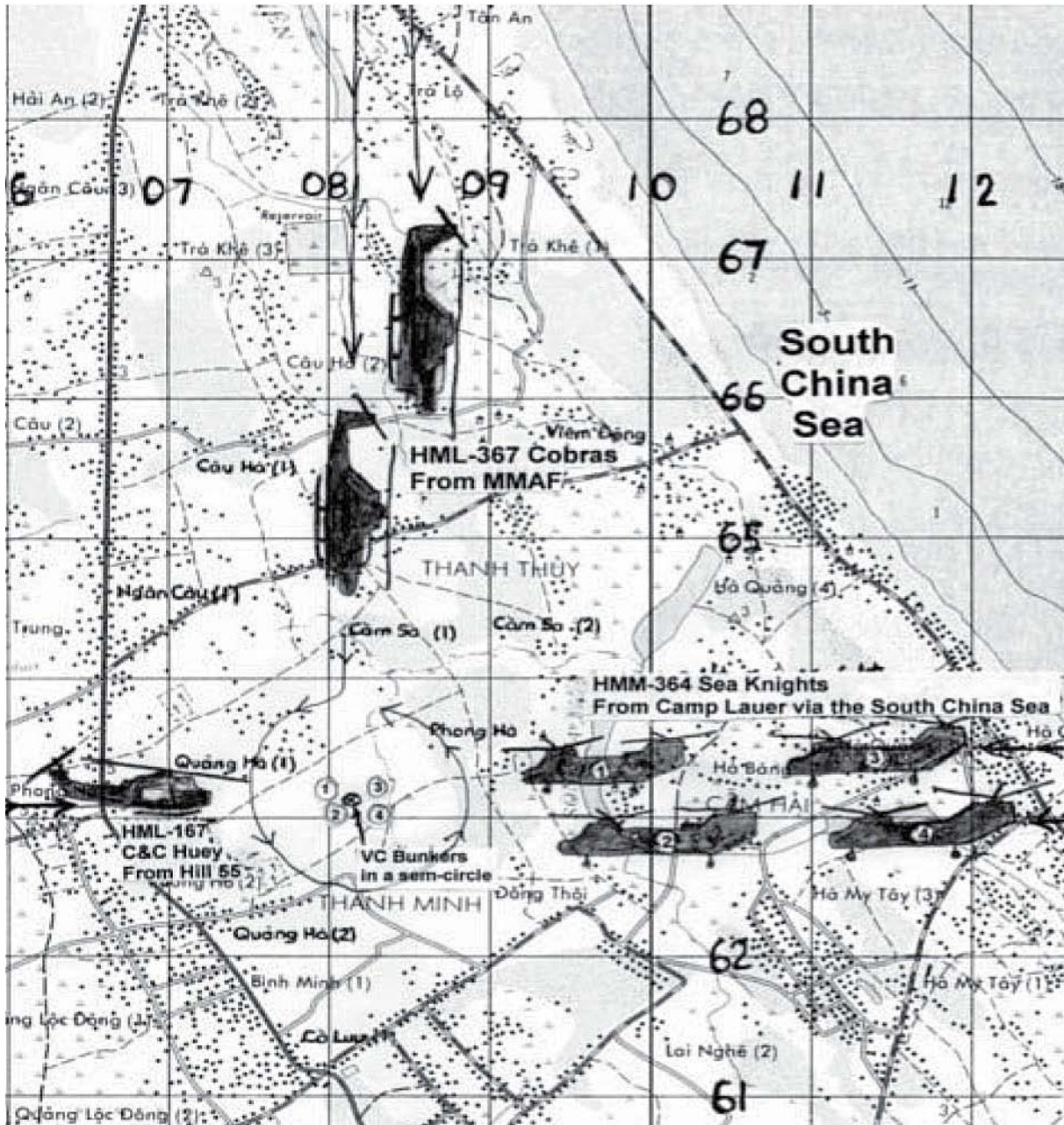


A POW from the Cam Sa Raid is escorted to an interrogation team on, or near, Hill 55. Most of the high value prisoners were taken back to Camp Lauer to be interrogated by 1stLt Tom Marino, 3d CIT officer, and the ITT team. (Photo appeared in *Leatherneck* magazine in the May issue along with a condensed article titled, *Cam Sa Raid, aka The August 4 Caper*), (Photo by Cpl. Dwight Williams, HML-167 crew chief) See the full Cam Sa Raid story in Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



This is the C&C Huey that Cpl.s. Dwight Williams and J.T. Bouley crewed for pilot 1stLt. L.M. "Larry" Thrasher and HML-167 CO Lt.Col. Doug McCaughey August 4, 1970 during the Cam Sa Raid. Cpl. Williams also shot the Super 8 film of the Cam Sa Raid that appears on this website. Williams notes, "TV-15 was my bird. If you look closely, about halfway back on the tail boom is a hint of the word MARINES. Also, the checkerboard on the nose is the HML-167 squadron symbol. I'm sure J.T. (Bouley) and I flew a number of missions together on this bird (in the dirty-slick configuration). It's now way up on the side of the Que Son mountains (crashed). It was converted to a gunship in about August-September 1970 and crashed in October 1970 during a Recon extract. We all made it out alive, thanks to the heroism of one 1stLt. Ron Cornetta (HMM-263 Peachbush pilot), who flew his CH-46 up the mountain side in terrible cloudy

conditions to hoist us out of there. You'll remember the somewhat related sad incident a month or so later (November 18, 1970) when a 46 carrying (1st Recon Team Rush Act) on a "string" ran into the side of the Que Sons in probably the same kind of crappy conditions (killing 14 Marines and a Navy Corpsman). Cornetta went on to eventually be awarded a Single-Mission Air Medal for our rescue in about 1990." (Photo by Cpl. Dwight Williams, HML-167 crew chief)



The Cam Sa Raid or as 1stLt. Tom Marino, 3rd CIT/ITT chief, liked to refer to it, The August 4 Capers, is illustrated on the Hoi An Map, Sheet 6640 I. Coming in from west

to east, at left, from Hill 55 in the Command & Control Huey is pilot 1stLt. L.M. "Larry" Thrasher with HML-167 Comprise CO Lt.Col. Doug McCaughey and crew chief Cpl. Dwight Williams and doorgunner Cpl. John T. Bouley. Descending on the target area from north to south, upper two aircraft, are HML-367 Scarface Cobra gunships headed by CO Lt.Col. Harry Sexton. Coming in off the South China Sea from east to west, at right, are four Sea Knights with pilots/copilots and the total combat troops aboard: 1stLt.s Stephen P. "Steve" Cook and James F. "Jim" Gillies (Gillies, 25, of Bardonia, New York, would die 3 days later when as copilot his helicopter was shot down by enemy fire during a medevac near Quang Loc Tay (1)), 17; 1stLt.s Walter R. "Worm" Wise, 26, of Town & Country, Missouri, and John Narney, 24, of Aurora, Illinois, 17; 1stLt.s Robert L. "Bob" Marshall (while piloting the Sea Knight with Gillies as his copilot he would be wounded in the crash at 2045 Friday, August 7) and Gary W. "Hammer" Benson, 14; and flight leader Maj. Duane S. Jensen, HMM-364 S-3 chief, and 1stLt. John Patrick "Pat" or call sign "Swift Chuck" Kenny of Overland, Missouri, 15. (Hoi An Map, Sheet 6640 I courtesy of National Imagery and Mapping Agency and Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center, Washington, D.C., 1984) See the Cam Sa Raid story in Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*

Cam Sa Raid Participants



Lt.Col. William G. "Bill" Leftwich Jr.
CO, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines



Maj. John Southy Grinalds
XO, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines



1stLt. Thomas H. "Tom" Marino, 3rd CIT/ITT OIC, was able to turn VC in to assets who helped him bring down higher ranking VC. MAC-V in Saigon even took notice of II, Marino's successes. See Chapter 12, *Book American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



2ndLt. Gilford G. "Gil" Robinson, S-2, 2/1 Intelligence OIC, worked with Marino to dismantle the VC infrastructure in 2/1's AO. Also during the Cam Sa Raid he was credited with grabbing at least one VC attempting to escape. See Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



2ndLt. Michael R. "Mike" Greene, Golf 3, 2/1 platoon commander, directed his platoon in the heliborne attack on 24 VC during the Cam Sa Raid, August 4, 1970. The Marines and Vietnamese troops caught the enemy by complete surprise. (USMC Photo) See Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



Maj. Duane S. Jensen, S-3 Operations OIC/pilot, HMM-364 Purple Fox, was the Division flight leader for the Cam Sa Raid August 4, 1970. He brought his four Sea Knights right in on top of the enemy leaders and their guards resulting in 12 VC KIA and 12 VC POWs. (Photo courtesy of Doug Orahod) See Cam Sa Raid story, Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



1stLt. Patrick "Pat" Kenny, 26, of Overland, Missouri in 1970, HMM-346 copilot, to Maj. Duane Jensen, August 4, 1970 during the Cam Sa Raid south of the old Cau Ha Combat Base. (Photo by Doug Orahood) See Cam Sa Raid story Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



Cpl. Dwight Williams, 21, of Pensacola, Florida in 1970, was crew chief aboard 1stLt. Larry Thrasher's Command & Control Huey during the August 4, 1970 Cam Sa Raid. Thrasher gave credit to Williams for two more VC KIAs and a WIA as one of the two men raised a rifle to take a shot at their aircraft. (Photo courtesy of Dwight Williams) See Cam Sa Raid story Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



Cpl. John T. "J.T." Bouley, 21 of Harrisville, Rhode Island in 1970, HML-167 doorunner, aboard 1stLt. L.M. Thrasher's Command & Control Huey August 4, 1970. At one point in the Cam Sa Heliborne Raid Cpl. Bouley laid fire in front of three fleeing Viet Cong to hold them up until Marines from Golf 3, 2/1 could catch up to them. One of the men was apparently a VC commander as he put a pistol to his head and killed himself rather than be captured. (Photo by Bill Blair, HML-167 crew chief) See Cam Sa Raid story Chapter 12, *Book II, American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs."*



HML-167 CO Lt.Col. Douglas A. "Doug" McCaughey, 39 in 1970, of Bellevue, Washington, was tasked with coordinating the air operation over the target area for the Cam Sa Raid and was aboard the Command and Control Huey. The photo above was taken when McCaughey was a Marine captain as part of the Blue Angels demonstration team 1960-62. He was the CO of Comprise HML-167 April-December 1970. (Photo courtesy of Allyn Hinton and the USMC Combat Helicopter Association--Popasmoke.org)