

# Corporal Hit with Seven Bullets Walks Away Without a Scratch

PHU BAI, Vietnam — Seven Viet Cong sniper bullets rammed into Cpl. Raymond J. Chiapelli, (West Patterson, N. J.), yet he walked away without a scratch.

Chiapelli, a battalion scout attached to "L" Co., 3rd Bn., Twenty-Sixth Marines was on a two day operation 12 miles south of Phu Bai. He and a Chieu Hoi

were leading the company to a suspected VC stronghold.

Approaching a plateau on the mountain the company had been climbing, Chiapelli came face to face with a VC sniper armed with an AK-47 automatic Chinese Communist sub-machine gun.

"We both began blazing away at the same time; and we both had tracer rounds in our weapons. I could see my rounds moving at him and his rounds mingling with mine as they came right at me. We were so close that I could feel the heat from his muzzle flash. He was only about 15 feet away."

"We each went through a full clip of ammunition, then I hit

the deck. 'Charlie' made his escape although we found blood traces, so I know I wounded him."

It wasn't until later that Chiapelli discovered his 'wounds'. One of the sniper's rounds put a hole in the left side of his bush hat; another through his magazine pouch; two bored through his canteen pouches, one of which contained extra ammunition. Another bullet whizzed between his cartridge belt and utility shirt. A final count showed seven rounds went through his clothing and equipment.

"But for a little broken peace of mind. . . I'm fine," he concluded.