

Mortar Pit

PHU BAI—A Marine, while digging a hole for his mortar base plate 20 miles south of Phu Bai, struck an enemy chicom anti-personnel mine embedded just below the earth's surface.

Corporal Steve G. Wassenich, attached to "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, at first thought he had hit a rock.

"Realizing what it was, all I could do was stare at it and utter a small prayer," stated Wassenich.

Afraid that if jarred again the mine might explode, Wassenich called for his platoon leader who in turn called for Marine engineers.

Examining the mine, the engineers decided it would be safe to remove it.