



Sgt. Michael Larkins (left) and Lt. Lou Daugherty display the 300-pound tiger Larkins killed when the animal charged him. The

Leathernecks were on a mission 17 miles northwest of Da Nang when they ran into the animal. (USMC)

## Unfriendly Tiger Comes Up 2nd Best in Test With Marine

DA NANG, Vietnam (Special) — Six members of E Co., 1st Recon Bn., 1st Marine Div. had been working in an area of Elephant Valley, 17 miles northwest of Da Nang, for four days. Now all that remained of their mission was to wait for the extraction helicopter that would return them to their battalion area.

The Leathernecks had set up a defensive position around the landing zone early in the morning. They scanned the surrounding area for movement and hoped for the quick arrival of the chopper.

Sgt. Michael L. Larkins positioned himself on a trail that led to the landing zone. Suddenly he

spotted some movement approximately 150 feet in front of him. He motioned to the Marine beside him to remain quiet and still. Again Larkins detected the movement, but this time he was able to distinguish it. Staring at him through the bushes was the striped face of a 300-pound tiger.

Larkins took aim with his M16 rifle and fired. The bullet caught the animal in the throat and dropped him to the ground. The tiger began to growl and thrash around. Larkins, not wanting to take any chances, shot him again.

Lt. Lou E. Daugherty, the