



VOL. 2 NO. 37

DANANG, VIETNAM

11 February 1968

# LONG OVERDUE

Chicago Tribune, Friday, October 20, 1967

"Today must be a sad day in Viet Nam--because today, we are ashamed to admit some of your own countrymen are marching on Washington.

The marchers' sponsoring group has announced: 'We will shut down the Pentagon, we will fill the hallways and block the entrances. Thousands of people will disrupt the center of the American war machine.'

"It must be a little disconcerting for you fellows to learn that some of your 'fellow Americans' are trying to foul things up at your headquarters. You must wonder what the folks back home really think.

This letter is to let you know that MOST of us are WITH you--100%. We want you to know that you are not the forgotten men. You are in our thoughts every day. You may not realize this, because normally we don't spout our feelings. In fact, we are typical of the Silent Millions of NON-demonstrators--those who back you with quiet concern and prayerful pride. We are painfully aware of the personal sacrifices you are making for the cost of liberty.

For a long time we've been meaning to write to you--but haven't. Finally, this march on Washington did it. We've decided we could no longer remain silently on the sidelines.

Those who are marching in protest, those who desecrate our flag, those who burn draft cards--all make a lot of noise. They also make the headlines. And they present to the world a distorted picture of America. But, thank God, they are not typical. At best, they are a misguided minority whom we will just have to ask you to defend along with the rest of us. Granted, the motives of some of these people may be pure, but they seem to think they have a unique right to protest in any way they take a notion--with faint respect for fellow citizens or servicemen, for their country's laws, for their elected authorities, or even for other's opinions.

There is room for honest differences and doubts, but when demonstrations stir up sabotage, vandalism, and violence parading under the banner of rightful dissent, they threaten to tear our country apart.

These protestors act as if they're the only ones who possess any morality. But we all have a conscience, and it might not be too surprising to find that some of us ordinary guys have even a little more conscience than some of the sign bearers.

We believe the time is here for the voice of responsible patriotism to be heard. You know--and we know that your presence in South Viet Nam is a guarantee to freedom-loving people everywhere that they will not be forsaken."

This article was taken from the letter sent "In behalf of the Silent Millions, and over 3500 citizens of Chicago and the Midwest."

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The time has come for the second annual "Great Fifty-Eight Queen Bee Contest". Enter now and win \$25 for yourself plus \$25, a dozen roses and a battalion plaque for the "Queen".

Consult your company bulletin board for all the skinny. Entries must include a photograph and be submitted prior to 1200 on the 1st of March.

# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

The past two weeks have been the most absorbing weeks that we of FIFTY-EIGHT have ever experienced. I am proud of all of you for the professional way that you have reacted to my requirements for manning the line, for reinforcing our quarry detachment at Happy Valley, for helping our Army neighbors with their problems, for keeping our major job at Hoi An rolling, and for continuing our other work here in DaNang during the Communist TET offensive. This has required the resourcefulness which you have shown. I have heard not a hint of complaint anywhere, and I am not surprised. We appreciate more our mutual dependence on each other, and are thankful for our blessings.

I want to share with you General Westmoreland's message of the 6th of February to all of us in the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam:

"General Westmoreland sends:

1. I extend my personal congratulations and convey as well the official commendation of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, to men and women of the Command for outstanding professional performance during the period of the enemy's TET truce aggression beginning 29 January 1968.
2. Your alertness, aggressiveness, professionalism, and courage -- individually, by team, and by unit -- add new luster to your outstanding reputation. During one week, in conjunction with the Forces of the Republic of Vietnam and our free world allies, you have blunted the enemy's offensive and turned the tables on him. You have destroyed more of the enemy in seven days than the United States has lost in the seven years of war since 1 January 1961.
3. I know you share my respect for the admirable performance of our Vietnamese and free world comrades in arms in this mutual triumph. We are proud to fight side-by-side with such allies.
4. But we cannot relax for a moment. We must continue to stand ready for the enemy's possible second wave attack. As you maintain your resolute alert for what may come next and go on the offensive, again let me assure you of my profound pride in your conduct and performance and my confidence that the defeats we are inflicting on the enemy may measurably shorten the war."

# XO'S NOTES

## SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM

There are several special programs provided by our Government for men serving in the Republic of Vietnam. One of the most beneficial is the Savings Deposit Program, signed into law 14 August 1964.

Congress provided the means for a military personnel deployed or stationed outside the continental United States or its possessions for 90 days or more, to collect 10% interest on funds deposited in the Savings Deposit Program. These funds may be either deposited by cash or by allotment. Cash deposits are limited to that amount of money which the member was entitled to receive on the payday immediately preceding the deposit. Members may withdraw deposited funds upon return, or up to three months after return, to the United States.

When you realize that the interest paid on your money under this program is twice that of the highest paying savings institutions within the United States (1 1/2% - 4 3/4%), the popularity should jump sky high. At this point however there are only 21 (6 officer and 15 enlisted) participating out of the whole battalion. It's a wise way to invest your funds, and I certainly recommend to the Seabees of the "Great Fifty-Eight" to take full advantage of this fine opportunity. Save some money away and watch it multiply. You'll be happy you did when you return home.

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# Chaplain's Column

# H THE Keystone Co.

# CHARLIE CAPERS MAR

"With malice toward none; with charity for all" expressed the high moral tone of Abraham Lincoln whose birthday we honor tomorrow, 12 February. This same man issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 which began the long struggle of securing freedom and equality for all men. Today is celebrated in many churches as Race Relations Sunday. We are to remember that the battle of "malice toward none - charity for all" is not over.

In the military service we do not practice racial discrimination. Men of all races and colors work together, live together, fight together and if need be, die together. Equal treatment, equal benefits and equal opportunity for all, these are our standards. We can be justly proud of them. But that's not all there is to the problem.

We still have our differences in race, background, education and housing. Outside of military service we still practice some forms of discrimination because of our differences. We still make too much of our differences. Now it ought to be obvious that we are never going to get rid of all the differences, nor should we even try. We should be thankful for these great varieties among the peoples of the world. God has made us this way and we can each be proud of the way God has made us, and proud of the way God has made others.

Our real difficulty is with our own hearts so often fickle and self-assertive.

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by Geronimo WEITZMAN

Despite the tense situation and lack of sleep the past few weeks, we Keystoneers have still been hard at work and at play.

On Saturday, the 4th of February, we took a few hours off from the rigors of war and enjoyed the cold beer and eats at our company party at the EM Club.

Now that the men in "H" Company have picked up everything but the sand around their respective areas, I think we deserve the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval."

On the historic night of 1 February, 1968, H1-1, the first ready squad, went on "Operation Water Buffalo", near the beautiful seaside resort of Nam O, about five miles up the road. REISNER, PNI and his squad had the distinction of being the first ready squad to be called out. Barney and his boys will never forget the historic night of 1 February. They had to provide security for the Marines.

The guys in ADMIN and PERSONNEL are developing "red thumbs". Could it be that red pestachio nuts have become a delicacy?!

Steve HENSEN is beginning to feel like a mole from working in the dark-room so much! Would you believe that the only air-dale in the battalion was persuaded to fly to Hoi An in a helicopter with shaking knees?! The trembling voice of Chief Photographer's Mate Shedd said, "there was nothing to it."

Despite the heavy pressure of four special reports and the regular monthly reports, the Ole

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MCB-58 now has a firm foothold on the start of its deployment in Vietnam. At the present, the majority of Charlie Company is working on the Republic of Korea Marine Corps Base near Hoi An. The work there has been challenging. Sand, craters, and hot weather characterize the environment at Hoi An. Also, there are no 16-D nails, and there is a critical transportation problem. These are only a few of the factors which have added to the ever present difficulty in construction. Weighing the obstacles that have to be hurdled, against the work completed, one can not help but feel astonishment. For in the short time since Charlie Company's arrival, there has been nothing but progress. This is corroborated by the numerous living quarters being used, the recently completed hospital and a new "hot spot" - the club.

An exchange has been completed and will be opened soon. There are 3 mess halls under construction. Some construction has started outside the main perimeter.

"On the side", some of the future business leaders of America have been busy. While the company's soda supply is running low, Harry Mah has a promising soda enterprise in full swing. The results of last month's income statement indicate there is enough capital available for expansion. It may be he has an eye on Lujan's 24 hour laundry. Maybe they can shuffle their separate businesses around into one. This would consist of a Chinese laundry with tortil-

Cont'd Page 5

# SAFETY SAM

# Delta DEMONS

Are you crazy? Don't you know that no matter how tough or rugged you think your hands are, they aren't tough enough to stop slivers, sharp edges, burns or blows from injuring them? Yes you. No matter who you are or where you work you are liable to get hurt --- if you aren't alert and aware of the dangers around you. You don't believe it? Just ask Dr. March or any of the corpsmen. For the month of January, 1968, in MCB 58 the majority of all first aid cases involved hand or finger injuries. Most of these accidents were preventable. Use a little common sense --- it doesn't take much. Listen to the safety lectures --- they aren't a waste of time. Be alert on the job --- it will be worth your while.

A milestone in Delta Company Office is about to happen, the new company clerk will in this issue of the "Blaze" try to improve on the quips and quotes made by the "old" company clerk. Here goes nothing. Who in hut D-2-1 is known as the golden fish? It's understood that he is about to receive the famous "Golden Fish" Award. On the great movement to Hoi An, it seems as though the 1st plka was supposed to go down on one of the helos in the garden next door. But! There was no helo ready, or was there? Only a certain chief can tell for sure. One thing for sure, is that "Delta" Company has one of the most secure mailboxes in the Battalion, it's so secure that you can not even get the letters out of the box to mail them, simply because whoever built the box forgot to put a door on to take the letters out. The "If you can't edge it don't pour it" Chief is at it again, this time disguised as a plumber type SW, but why all the water on the floor, Chief?? Has everyone noticed the "finished" First Class hut built by the "First" Class P O's? It's a shame that they're gonna have to leave it behind isn't it? The 27th of Jan. 1968 is a date well worth remembering, the Delta Demons celebrated their first party. There was a great amount of food consumed, too much for the quantity of hamburg inasmuch we had to switch to the good ole standby, hot dogs. But! The food eaten is by far the "lesser" amount when it comes to a choice between food an' beer. There seems to be another chief that likes to tear a M-16 down an' when it's put back together the weagon won't fire!!! Maybe he better stick to his trusty spear!!? About the First Class hut again, it's rumored that their intentions are to put it on a low boy an' take it along with them to Hoi An. Soft living?? Does anyone know the many different uses of footwear? If not, ask "Socks" LEARNED, or his helper "Frog" VAILLENCOURT, or maybe even "Snoopy" ROGERS. R.C. "Cola" Hogue

# ALPHA Bits + Pieces

by SCUTTLEBUTT SAM

And to begin another week here on Red Beach, better known to Charlie as three clicks to the left, I'd like to ask Dusty RHODES if he ever located his missing firing pin. Seems the Armory is issuing M-16's without firing pins now.

I've noticed that Leo MILLER, CM1 has n't been singing his favorite song lately "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White". Couldn't be because Mr. SKI made him change the color of his office? Especially after seeing MILLER comparing it to a certain part of the anatomy of a PLAYMATE!

Our favorite Dancer has been at it again this time dancing into the wrong mortar pit during a Condition I, no less.

The night dispatcher has a real "sexy" mortar pit, would you believe a wrecker, no less? Seems Bill VOIGT gets a little perturbed when it isn't parked nearby at night.

I've also heard strange noises from the Night Crew. Seems they had some trouble getting a tractor to turn loose of its trailer. Did you have to mangle the pin like that?

If you noticed a lot of horn blowing from the Lube Rack during the day, that's just D.E. HUDSON CMH2 playing. Seems he is heavy on the horn blowing. Oh well, babies must play.

Since a steam jenny in the shop moved on, a certain CMC is known as Santa Claus.

If you've noticed a lot of bleary-eyed people lately, it's just the Condi-

tion II people wandering around in the daylight.

One last remark: Is it true that MYERS EOL started to cry a little when he heard that his Red Wagon might get painted GREEN?!

G. G. Chaplain's B RAVO  
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las while you wait.

Chief Morton and his assistant, Builder First Class Andrews, have kept the first platoon busy on the hospital area. This is made up of many 16' X 32' and 20' X 40' buildings. A few showers and a mass hall are near completion. In addition to the hospital area they have completed an engineering area.

The men of the second platoon who are at Hoi An help keep the prefabrication yard operating smoothly. They are under the watchful eye of Chief O'Day. He requests Chief Handy to send down some safety posters.

T.J. Meyers is getting short, while Tony Internicola keeps an eye peeled and an ear opened for news of extensions.

The third platoon has been building in the Headquarters area of the base. Their efforts have concentrated on completing living quarters for the Korean officers as well as the enlisted personnel. Also completed in that area is a barber shop and a 2400 square foot exchange. It has been propositioned that a theatre be built. Bob Taylor, Fred Sokolowski and Ed Palin have had sneak previews of some of the coming attractions.

The men of Charlie Company say, "Hello and welcome", to our new Company Commander, LTJG Luttrell. Some of the southern boys are wearing a cunning smile on their faces.

So often they deceive us they make us think we are better than others when the truth of the matter is that we are each just different from one another.

There are, after all, more things that unite us than divide us. We are all made in God's image and are all loved by God as His children. "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight". Therefore we should love and respect and try to understand one another.

There is the growing danger that the races will become increasingly prejudiced against one another, because of the excesses of the civil rights disturbances. The prevention of this danger can come when men take seriously their oneness as children of God and personally experience the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

DO IT  
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 THAT  
 P A O

Have you received any newspaper articles, pictures or clippings from home concerning yourself, the Battalion, other personnel in the battalion, or the Seabees? Your Public Affairs Office would like to see them. Please bring any such news to a member of the Blaze staff.

by R.W. Ames

The recent weeks have been marked by an increase of action in the ranks of the North Vietnamese. It has meant an added work load and long hours for all the B Company personnel.

B Company received a top secret telegram the other day from Saigon. To everyone's amazement it was from General Westmoreland. Seems that the General is a bit concerned about recent happenings here in RVN and is seeking out the seasoned advice of Horgan.

Mr. Brower told me this morning that Chief Vokes was hiding under one of the draft tables in B Co. office one day when Chaplain Blade was making his rounds. The Chaplain and the chief have so much in common, I can not understand why the chief was hiding. The funniest part was when the Chaplain asked him why he was where he was and Chief Vokes said he was working. Ernie Hall has been sleeping in a mortar pit the last couple of nights. Hope mother nature doesn't decide to shower him with a monsoon rain. CEL Smith finally made it back. Nice to have you back Smitty.

That is about it for now folks. I will be talking with you again in two weeks.

H Company cont'd Photo Shoppe is in good shape.

Who is the CMC who loses cribbage to a certain PHC?!

Smooth sailing from the fleet---see you in two weeks.

Remember your Seabee Queen

# COUNSELOR

by EQCM A.R. Larson

My last article pertained to the introduction of the Uniformed Services Health Benefits program. Going further into the program let us see who is eligible for the program.

1. Those eligible for all medical benefits are:

- (a) Dependents of members who are serving on active duty for a period of 30 days or more.
- (b) Retired members entitled to retired, retainer of equivalent pay.
- (c) Dependents of retired members.
- (d) Dependents of deceased active duty and deceased retired members.

2. Eligible dependents are:

- (a) Wife
- (b) Unremarried widow
- (c) Unremarried, legitimate child, adopted child or stepchild in one of the following categories:

- 1. Under 21 years of age regardless of whether or not dependent on the active duty or retired member.
- 2. Twenty-one or over, but incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that existed before the age of 21 and is (or was at the time of the member's death) dependent on the member for more than one-half of his support.
- 3. Under 23, enrolled in a full time course of study in an approved institution of higher learning, and is (or was at the time of the member's death) dependent on the member for more than one-half of his support.

Dependent parents or parents-in-law are not eligible for civilian care, but may receive space-available care in Uniformed Services facilities. They must be (or must have been at the time of the member's death) dependent on the member for more than one-half of their support and residing in a dwelling provided or maintained by the member.

Coverage under the health benefits programs. No benefits are payable under the civilian portion of this program to or on behalf of a retired member, his spouse or child, or the spouse or child of a deceased member who is enrolled in any other insurance, medical service, or health plan provided by law or through employment unless that person certifies that the particular benefit he is claiming is not payable under the other plan.

Until my next article for a healthier Navy, "GO NAVY".

FROM :

TO :

