

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

The Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force has sent the following New Year's message to all units of III MAF:

"At the beginning of each new year it is traditional for us to make "resolutions" to do, or avoid, certain things during the ensuing year. As military men we have undertaken the responsibility of leadership during warfare, in which the little things we do or fail to do may result in the saving or loss of men's lives. I believe those resolutions which better our role in providing professional leadership will not only improve the efficiency of our units but will also pay dividends in lives saved both on and off the battlefield. Toward this end I offer you, as troop leaders, some resolutions to improve your effectiveness during the coming year:

(A) To meticulously supervise all subordinates in the care and handling of individual weapons, with particular emphasis upon strict observance of safety procedures.

(B) To demand strict fire control discipline in the employment of all weapons, not only to insure that the rules of engagement are not violated, but also to insure that there is no needless endangering of non-combatants during engagements. Particular care is required in the targeting and laying of indirect fire weapons.

(C) To insist upon obedience to all safety procedures by the operators of motor vehicles, machinery and heavy equipment, and to take immediate corrective action when safety regulations, including those demanded by common sense, are being violated.

(D) To be intolerant of mistakes and carelessness on the part of yourself or your subordinates and to devote time to the study of appropriate field manuals so that your battlefield actions and decisions will be professional.

(E) To be alert to the personal problems of subordinates, and to take appropriate action to forestall greater problems.

These are but a few of the resolutions which you, as a small unit leader can adopt to improve your efficiency and to make your unit more effective and productive. I am convinced that these, coupled with other resolutions you may impose upon yourself, will go far toward saving human lives and contribute immeasurably to the accomplishment of our mission.

My best wishes for continued success to you and your men during the New Year."

/s/ Lieutenant General Cushman

Although directed to Marine units, I know that everyone of you in the chain of command from Company Commander to Fire Team Leader can see clearly that the intent, as well as most of the specifics, of these resolutions applies to our everyday life as Seabees.

(CONT'D PAGE 2)

(CAPTAIN'S CORNER CONT'D)

We are newly arrived, refreshed and rested from our six months at home. We must get back in the groove of getting our work done rapidly, completely, and above all, safely. There are too many "bonehead" minor accidents occurring right now. Safety shoes, goggles, and hardhats are all available, and must be worn, without fail, when the job requires it. Insisting on this is an absolute responsibility of the chain of command, and a duty of every petty officer in the battalion.

I further emphasize to each of you the personal obligation you have to drive safely. In addition every officer and petty officer has an obligation to report those who do not drive safely---before an accident occurs.

We all want this New Year of 1968 to be a great year for The GREAT FIFTY-EIGHT. With simple attention it can and will be.

W.W. DeGroot III
Commanding Officer

CAREER COUNSELOR

by EQCM A.R. Larson

In this column will be listed the numerous tangible benefits that accrue to the Navyman and his family. They are very important in showing the positive aspects of the Navy way of life.

Before we start with the various options, privileges and benefits, it should be pointed out that the most important opportunity the Navy offers you is this: A career in an honored profession. It offers you challenging duty, it enables you to enter into various fields of endeavor. Right now you might be taking these benefits of Navy life for granted.

Let us talk about savings. Recently, we received a pay raise. How can we invest our money the easy way while here in Vietnam? President Johnson signed into law 14 August 1966 the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. It offers a terrific savings opportunity to every one of us while we are here in Vietnam. This new program pays interest at the rate of 10% per year, compounded quarterly, on deposits up to a maximum of \$10,000 while the depositor is on a duty assignment of over 90 days outside the United States, its possessions, or Puerto Rico, continuing for 90 days following his return to the States.

If you are overseas, you may deposit in cash, or by allotment, any part of your unallotted current pay and allowances at any time in multiples of \$5-- including a reenlistment bonus if you receive one while overseas.

SAFETY CONSCIOUS

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XO'S NOTES

Our camp is beginning to take shape as another fine Seabee facility. Some of the improvements are slow coming, but they are coming. Many will be accomplished throughout the deployment as camp improvement projects, but since our primary mission is construction support for Marine and Navy units directly involved in the war effort, much of the work will of necessity have to be completed on a self-help basis, i.e., accomplished without interfering with the progress of our customer's projects. All projects except the small individual work within the huts must be submitted to the camp improvement board for eventual approval by the Commanding Officer in order to control the use of the limited funds and manhours. Because of our heavy essential customer workload, we have a ceiling on manhours available for in-camp work and therefore the construction of mortar pits, repair and up-grading of the boardwalks and hut improvements must be accomplished during non-working hours or with overhead personnel. Because of the limited funds support, material must be almost exclusively obtained from scrap and not "borrowed" from needed project stocks. The large majority of projects accomplished utilizing direct labor will either be of such a nature as to benefit the entire battalion, such as the galley improvements or of an operational nature required to improve our efficiency and performance capability.

So, most of the improvements in camp will be up to you and will be based on your pride in having a sharp looking and functional camp. The mortar pit construction is an excellent start and, though I'm sure the recent rocket attack has given added incentive, the way many of you have turned to in the evenings has been a fine example, of what can be done.

(CONT'D PAGE 7)

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

"THE GOOD WINE"

This week I was reading in the Gospel of John, chapter two, the story of the wedding in Cana of Galilee. This is to be our lesson in Sunday evening Bible Study which meets at 1930 in the chapel. In this story Jesus goes to a wedding feast with his mother, learns that they have run out of wine, and, to accommodate the guests, turns water into wine.

So maybe you think, as someone told me the other day, that Jesus endorsed the use of an alcoholic beverage. And then, maybe you take your thinking one step further, and determine that Jesus would approve of the way we use alcohol today.

(CONT'D PAGE 7)

IBRAVO IBANTER

by R.W. Ames

Things have really been jumping around B Company after what seemed to be a slow first week. The work now, and the jobs ahead, are, and will be, demanding, to say the least.

Some of the jobs outside our camp, like the FOL Base a couple of miles west of the DaNang Airbase, are coming along well. The job itself consists of a shower and toilet complex able to accommodate eighty men. CEW2 Overton is in charge of the electricians and UTP2 Averitte is taking charge of the utilities-men.

As usual the most pressing problem for any of the crews is material. Between cumshawing, borrowing (legally or illegally) and intelligent workmanship we seem to somehow complete the job.

CEP2 Eugene Smith and his wiring crew have been installing the lights in an open storage area at the Air Force Exchange in DaNang. "Young Roach" and his crew should be on their way to Hoi An within the next two weeks. Their work will consist of wiring huts for ROK Marines. CE1 Hall's crew of CEP2 Kozma, CEP2 Knipe and CEP2 Raff will be setting the one hundred some odd poles and three generator pads that will be needed to supply the Korean base with electric power.

The most controversial subject of late has been the rocket that went off in the H Company hut area. This happened while FLC, across the street, received the brunt of twenty-five enemy aimed rockets

(CONT'D PAGE 8)

CIVIC ACTION

From DaNang East to the South to Kim Lien to the North the battalion is engaged in a vigorous Civic Action Program. In DaNang East is the China Beach Orphanage where the Protestant Chapel Fund gives full support (\$180 a year) to a 12 year old orphan, Dinh Van Thoi. In Kim Lien, a small hamlet on the other side of Nam O, the MEDCAP team makes twice-a-week visits to treat both children and adults. The Medical Officer and Corpsman also treat the sick in the refugee hamlet, Chon Tam and the farming hamlet, Hoa Phu. An average of 150 patients each week are given medical treatment.

Educational support is also being provided by the battalion. Nine General Walt Scholarships (\$VN 500 a month) are given to children in Chon Tam and Hoa Phu. The Protestant Chapel Fund provides \$100 a year for the support of a student at the Central Bible School in Nha Trang. One of the biggest educational projects is the construction of a three room school in Chon Tam. All materials (cement, roofing tin and lumber) are now on hand to begin this school. All the work will be done by masons and carpenters from Chon Tam. These workers will be paid with food supplies by III MAF. Before the school construction actually begins, a short access road will be put in by the men of Alpha Company. Wells and heads will follow as the battalion makes a major effort in this long-neglected refugee camp. From this needy hamlet we have invited 400 Buddhist children to help us celebrate TET, the lunar New Year, on Sunday, 28 January. They will be coming into camp on Sunday afternoon for dinner and a gala TET party.

Two other hamlets have been given to us for civic action work. One is Hoa Phu, where work has started on a Confucianist Temple. Materials for this project have been given by the Province Chief. Plans are being drawn up for a foot bridge between Hoa Phu and Phu Loc. This month we are taking over from MCB-74 the responsibility for Phuoc Thanh. This Catholic refugee camp, where we helped to build a Catholic orphanage on our last deployment is well known to many of us. Two hundred new families have come into this camp and need food, clothing and shelter.

This brief resume covers the highlights of the present civic action program. There are numerous other facets to the program, all of which are designed to raise the economic, medical, educational and democratic standards of our friends in Vietnam.

ALPHA BITS AND PIECES

by Scuttlebutt Sam

Now that we're finally settled, everyone is involved with his own pet building project, namely, rebuilding and renovating the huts. Would Better Homes and Gardens have a ball picking a "House Beautiful".

I've also noticed that the originator of "The Dance of the Dying Swan" hasn't made any grand debuts since his original performance. I've heard tell that he is practicing an act called, "Dance on the Concertina".

C.C. Cook seems to be sleeping better since the cruiser isn't shelling at nights any longer. Is that right, C.C.?

If you've noticed some strange wild individuals around every day or so, don't be alarmed. They happen to be our Hoi An Detachment led by ENS "Wild Bill" Strom.

There are some new builder heavy types in the company area. "Shorty Cole" and "Blue Top Wilson". Some mighty nice sidewalks, fellas.

At this time I'd like to welcome an addition to Alpha Company in EOL Myers and CN Fitzgerald of the Battalion Fire Department. Myers looks lost, especially since his little red wagon was deadlined.

Well that should about do it in the Alpha Company area for this time. But, I'll be back in the next issue of the Blaze, so until then keep your hard hat and track shoes handy.

DELTA DEMONS

by BUL2 B. Moore

Well, here we are again. No change of address.

Now what were those strange things flying through the night a few days ago? Could it be that somebody doesn't like us?

What do you think about all this construction going on next door. The Captain said, "It's nice to have company on the beach." At the rate they're going around here, it will be all company and no beach, soon.

My squad has been working over at the helo-pad building bunkers. Every time Chief Schmid goes by he asks, "Had any sniper fire lately?" He seems awful disappointed when we say no. I'm afraid some day soon he'll get tired of waiting and snipe at us himself.

Old "Gluefoot" Joplin says his job is going pretty well. I hope so---if half as much glue goes on the job as on his boots he's got it licked.

Our friend Zapata must like tent decks as he builds so many of them. I still haven't discovered the secret hiding place of his armadillo, but I have spies out.

Do you get the impression that things are sometimes a bit disorganized. Well, you're wrong. It's all part of our master plan to confuse the enemy---I'm glad it works so well.

Chief Duckworth is coming up in the world. Just today he received the "Order of the Golden Concrete Edger" from Mr. O'Neil inscribed with the motto, "if you can't edge it, don't pour it".

Hogue's girl wrote she was sending him something and sure enough she did. A MARINE DOLL. You can see it hanging over Mr. O'Neil's desk next to his ape (or whatever it is). Don't get confused though--the one with the yellow pants is the ape.

Incidentally, I wonder about Chief Schmid sometimes. I hear when we had our "mortar drill" a couple of nights ago he took the easiest way out of the Chief's Club---right through the screens.

I get the words from our people who just got off security, that they're glad to be back, all except B.E. Richardson. He's sleeping on a cot right now, so they tell me.

I guess Willie Moss (alias the Flash) gave Chief Schmid a scare--he went past him so fast on the way to the mortar

(CONT'D PAGE 7)

H THE KEYSTONE CO.

by Geronimo Weitzman

As time proceeds along here in Vietnam, the versatility of the men in H Company is coming to light more and more, as we perform the many valuable tasks for the rest of the battalion.

Some of the main projects the "keystoners" are working on is H Company hut and area beautification... "Keep Camp Haskins beautiful" is one of our projects.

The men in Supply are as nice as ever when it comes to trying to get supplies. No wonder the Seabees are notorious at cumshawing. SN L. Kalips likes inventorying so much that he volunteered to inventory our exchange. Who is the trouble shooter for supply? "Bubbles" Butler is proving the "keystoners" versatility, having worked in all areas of the Supply Department.

Personnel and Admin types hate taking time off to dig mortar holes and to level sand under working spaces--we're not builders! Humbug on fresh air. The Personnel Office is in the process of putting out an infallible Battalion Roster. They defy anyone to find an error. (Just between you and I it's full of errors)

W.C. Smith, YN2 tried to play superman the other night.

After much debate, YN3 Dziedzic, Operations Yeoman has decided to go on R&R. Maybe he will change his mind after he sees the condition CPTN Marron, our indispensable battalion timekeeper, who will return in a few days. But I think Dziedzic will have to go anyway after putting out an 80 page Operations Report every month.

The EA's are monopolizing on all the mail in H Company--especially EAD2 Anderson. Lately, EAD2 Archer has been meeting with the Career Counselor in dark corners.

The communicators who perform a valuable service for the battalion, like operating the switch board, are in the process of remodeling the Battalion CP.

"Snake" Hageman, the man who runs Camp Haskins' North General Store, said he will order such things as china and cameras for individuals requesting them.

LT Smith became the first volleyball casualty of the deployment---What's wrong? Out of shape!!

YN2 Olson, the battalion "legal beagle"

(CONT'D PAGE 8)

CHARLIE CAPERS

The sand blows, the rain falls and the sun beats down on Camp Haskins. Day, night, rain or shine it makes no difference what the circumstance or obstacle, the men of Charlie Company keep on working.

In the short time MCB-58 has been in Vietnam the first platoon has kept busy. They recently finished building a storage shed behind the Air Force Exchange. Also, on their list of completed projects is a warehouse near the Bridge Cargo Facility in DaNang. Presently, they are putting the finishing touches on the photo lab at FLC. Project Beaver for the Third Naval Construction Brigade and work on the UT shop at MWSG 17 have kept the remainder of Chief Morton's men busy.

FLC has offered the services of a qualified instructor to MCB-58. He would be concerned with the proper procedure for starting pumps. As lady luck would have it, darn it, some of the more sophisticated equipment we are getting now has an ON-OFF switch.

Not too far in the past, some military abilities were tested. The amazing speedy draw and quick recognition of VC camouflaged as garbage cans have been checked out.

Chief Elwell's second platoon has been hard at work. They finally got their steel. It was such a joyous event that our man Guido was caught celebrating by going swimming during working hours. Between swimming events they have been working on an elevated water tank at MWSG 17. Project Beaver has also kept them on their toes. Also, the lights have been burning nights in Charlie Company's prefabrication yard while some of the men from the second platoon have been preparing for Hoi An.

Mr. Bonderman has less than three weeks left with us.

At the Battalion level we now have some highly skilled and highly paid form removers. Also, why is it the Battalion military advisor has a mortar pit that doesn't conform to battalion standards?

Now then, let's move on to the third platoon. The observation tower near the Esso Plant is one job they have just completed. In progress is an access road near Route 8. The job consists mainly of pouring concrete and putting gates in at the beginning of the road. Some of Chief O'Day's men have also been participating in Project Beaver. At the prefabrication yard confusion reigns, saws ring and the trucks keep rolling on as the third platoon is helping Charlie Company prepare for Hoi An.

Speaking of Hoi An, it seems the tourist traffic has slowed down a bit. Maybe we are ready to make the move.

The past has been filled time and time again with success, good times and sincerity. Posterity holds such things as hard work, R&R, and home. It is not a figment of the mind, the men of Charlie Company will do their part and reap the rewards.

SAFETY SAM

by LCDR Porter

Last week we continued to have a few freak accidents. SA R. Vest in Quarry Company fell down while chasing a cow and injured his back. CN D. Winter also in Quarry Company injured his eye while shaking his blanket. These are not typical and may be humorous, but can be serious.

THINK SAFETY

My suggestion for the week is to:

- (1) Drive slowly and defensively
- (2) Take care of your eyes--welding flashes can cause serious injury, just ask: SWF2 D. Griffith, SWF3 F. Joliff, SWE3 D. Richard and CN A. Granger.

VIET LANG. CLASS

Seventeen men of the battalion have enrolled in a Vietnamese Language Class being conducted 3 nights a week in the battalion conference room. The teacher of the class is Captain Nguyen Thanh Hein, ARVN, the Maintenance Engineer at I Corps Headquarters in DaNang. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1900 to 2100 the members of the class, officer and enlisted are learning to say "Chao Ong" (Hello, Sir) and "Ong Manh Gioi" (How are you, Sir). Some of the students have never studied a foreign language before, so they have to study hard.

(CONT'D PAGE 8)

(XO'S NOTES CONT'D)

Now, what's in store project wise. First, our galley is being upgraded to provide as fine a facility as we had in Camp Haskins, South. The scullery, I'm sure, is a most welcome beginning. The exchange has already been greatly improved. The EM Club will be rebuilt in the near future. Funds have been received and design is in progress. We plan to hire another group of stone masons to improve the permanency of the facility and help in making other improvements. A softball field will be readied and a volleyball court set up before long. Not exactly in the nature of a project, but related to the improvement program, we have a fine slot car track which will be in operation soon--- the controllers will be on their way from Okinawa any day now. A project to provide a photo hobby shop is on the bill when time, funds and air conditioning can be made available. Important improvements to the Alpha Company Shops and GSK warehouse are proposed and some are in progress. Improvements to the trash disposal and pick-up points are underway. A new conference room has been built, making the library available virtually at all times. An attractive personnel and quarter-deck area is nearing completion. These and many other smaller projects are "in the mill" to make our camp a better place for us and our successors.

The important aspect in our objective to make this camp better, however, is still the pride exhibited by us as individuals. Considerable amounts of work still must be accomplished after the normal work day, which already is long. The improvements to our facilities, however, can be overshadowed unless we make a concerted effort for a clean camp. If we will all use trash cans and butt kits for their intended purpose, we not only make the camp look clean and tidy, but make it easier for the guy who has to clean up. Above all in this matter, don't be a litter bug. Secondly, don't hesitate to pitch in occasionally with your hut mates to improve your facilities--your home for another 6 or 7 months. Let's all do our part to make this camp the pride of the Seabees.

(CHAPLAIN CONT'D)

I'll tell you what I think about this story. I think Jesus had to get a special dispensation from God to perform this miracle. And he only did it once. Contrast Jesus' output with that of any winery today.

Anyway, the issue of alcohol, its use and abuse, is not the point of this story, MAYBE. Maybe, because the use and abuse of alcohol today is what keeps us from "the good wine."

What we have here in the second chapter of John is a "sign" the first of many. This story tells us that the trouble with people is "They have no wine." Even when people are at their happiest - at a wedding - "they have no wine."

The only way for people to get "wine" is for Jesus to provide it. The way Jesus provides this "wine" is by shedding his blood. "This cup is the new covenant in my blood," said our Lord.

So you have tried "the poor wine". Now try "the good wine".

You may have some feedback on this. If you do, come out on Sunday evening and let's talk it over.

(DELTA CONT'D)

hole that the Chief thought the world had shifted into reverse.

Joe Wise and his "Eight Wise Men" are really happy over their new toys--- Lincoln Log Bunkers. I imagined something like Daniel Boone's house, but they said it isn't. It all goes to show that the Japanese haven't anything on us--You can't keep a good design down.

We've got a new EO in the outfit--EO3 D.D. Herbel, crane operator grade A (?). I hear he's murder on roof trusses. Only thing I can't figure out is which way "murder" was meant.

Between Lawrence, Mulchy, Price, Rogers, and Moon I think those poor Vietnamese kids over at the helo-pad are thoroughly confused. They don't know which way is up after talking to that group. (They have something in common with me!)

Maybe second platoon should be renamed the "74 Assistance Society". Barnes is stalking the wily Sats mat again, ably assisted by Board and Steele. So "74 does more" huh!!

I just received news that not only do we have an "old gluefoot" in the company, but an "old gluefinger" as well in one, Stan Kelly. Stan, nobody in the world glues their finger to a piece of paper and then dislocates their finger trying to pull it free.

More news hot off the wire--Ed Scheele finally pins on his anchors. Too bad Ed, just as you were getting your new hut built.

Well, that's all folks, as they say in the cartoons. Very fitting, huh.

More than 60% of all Series E U.S. Savings Bonds sold each year are bought through the Payroll Savings Plan. Buy Bonds where you work; our men in Vietnam do. (AFPS)

(VIET CLASS CONT'D)

This class will run for four weeks at the end of which the class will know most of the common phrases and expressions in Vietnamese. Interest is running high so the battalion personnel may hear many of these students practicing their new language out loud. It must be pointed out that the grammar in Vietnamese is very simple, but that the pronunciation is quite difficult.

Further inquiries about this class may be directed to the Battalion Chaplain.

(BRAVO CONT'D)

Fortunately, there were no casualties reported involving MCB-58 personnel.

The steelworkers and builders in the shop have recently constructed a new addition to the American armament. It is a ten foot long, 1 1/4" rigid conduit cannon. For a propellant they use acetylene and oxygen. The projectile used is a whittled down block of wood with sheet metal fins in the rear. Its effective range thus far has not been calculated due to the inaccuracy of the gunner, "Shaky Shipover Shafer".

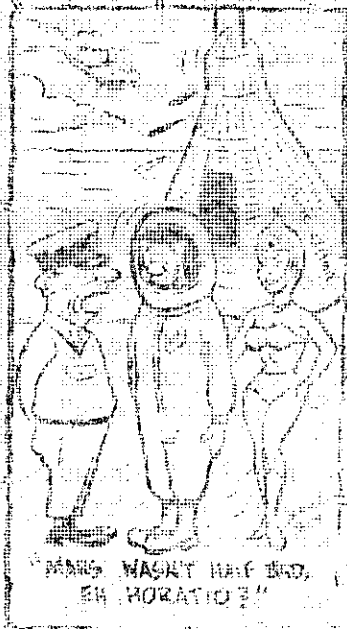
Some of the men have been thinking about writing a book on the experiences they have had while in the service. The "Old Roach" is thinking about writing a book on the recent history of Okinawa. It should be pretty good as he has been there enough in the past year.

CEWCA Stewart is thinking about writing one on "How to become a Quohogger in one love affair". Ed Knipe, hut B-3-3's leading architect is thinking about authoring a book entitled "Extensions are fun". He may change that to "Additions are fun". Red Johnson has a couple of real good ideas for articles in Playboy. One will be an adventure story entitled, "I reported in for restricted men's muster during a rocket attack". The second is going to be a love story, "My Dreams on Security".

The best idea I have heard yet for a story came from "Straight Skinny Horgan". He has three titles to choose from: "IPO Makes Good", "I am Senior to You" or "I Made Second".

I may even write one on how to win at Blackjack. It will be a comedy.

That about does it for now from B Company. We will be with you again in the next issue of the BLAZE.



(H COMPANY CONT'D)

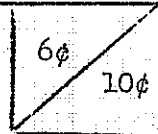
is always asking everyone how to spell words and he is the only one in the office who has a dictionary.

Congratulations to EAD3 E. Otton (better known as "Tidy Tim" in the hut) who received late word on his making third.

I am collecting members for the CHA Club--Coffee Holic's Anonymous.

We will see you in two weeks, with all the news when it happens and where it happens. Meanwhile, smooth sailing from the fleet.

FROM:



TO:

