

52A
fifty



eight

BLAZE

VOL. I NO. 7

DANANG, VIETNAM

NOVEMBER 5, 1966

58 ARRIVES DANANG

JENNIFER JONES TO VISIT CAMP HASKINS

Jennifer Jones, one of Hollywood's most beloved actresses, has volunteered her services for a "Personal Appearance tour of South Vietnam. Miss Jones will arrive in DaNang on 5 November 1966, for a tour of the I Corps Tactical Zone and depart on 8 November. She will arrive on board Camp Haskins 1300 7 November to greet Seabees of the Great Fifty-Eight and will visit the following areas: Ops, Admin, Dispensary, B Company Shops, The Warehouse and Central Tool Room, A Co. Shops and the FLSC Site.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jennifer Jones trained for the stage at Northwestern University and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She served her apprenticeship in tent shows and stock companies in the middle West before her sudden and dramatic rise to stardom with her first motion picture, "The Song of Bernadette." Her performance as the peasant girl of Lourdes won her the Academy Award and has kept her in demand in Hollywood ever since.

For three consecutive years after "The Song of Bernadette," Miss Jones was nominated for a second "Oscar" for her work in "Since You Went Away" (as a war-time American girl), "Love Letters" (as an amnesia victim) and "Duel in the Sun" (as a half-breed Indian).

(continued Page 6)

U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-EIGHT, an Atlantic Fleet Seabee Battalion homeported at Davisville, Rhode Island, has relieved NMCB One in South Vietnam. Battalion headquarters is at Camp Haskins, Red Beach, five miles north of DaNang.

The unit relief of NMCB One also a Davisville homeported battalion, was accomplished over a four day period using eight flights of C-119 Jet aircraft. The first flight departed Davisville on October 25, 1966 and arrived in DaNang on October 27 th after intermediate stops in Alaska and Japan. Each flight of NMCB 58's Seabees was greeted by a smiling and eager group of NMCB One's Seabees ready to board the aircraft for the return flight.

NMCB-58 was originally commissioned in December 1942 and earned the Navy Unit Commendation while deployed to the South Pacific in World War II. Disestablished in 1946, the battalion, known as "The Great FIFTY-EIGHT", was recommissioned on March 15, 1966. NMCB 58 is commanded by Commander Ward W. DeGroot III, CEC, USN of Red Bank, New Jersey. His Executive Officer is Commander LeRoy D. Lawson, CEC, USN of Longmont, Colorado.

While deployed in Vietnam, NMCB-58 is under the operational control of the 30 th Naval Construction Regiment, headquartered at Camp Haskins. One of eight Navy Seabee Battalions reporting to 30 th Regiment, NMCB 58 will build, pave and maintain roads; erect fuel tanks; construct warehouses and cantonment buildings; drill wells; and perform any of the myriad construction tasks required in support of U.S. and RVN Forces in the I Corps Area of Vietnam.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

Welcome to Camp Haskins, our base of operations for the coming months.

I know all of you share the satisfaction I feel at getting started on the operational deployment we have planned and trained for in the months past.

Our takeover of the Camp and relief of NMCB-1 was handled well by our advance party. All of the members of the advance party deserve our thanks for their efforts to make our arrival and move into camp to as smoothly as it did.

All of our equipment arrived safely and on time. Thanks to the hard work we put into preparing it for shipment, it was in excellent condition and ready for immediate use. We must keep it in good condition.

With only one week behind us, I am pleased at the start we have made on moving smartly to work on the projects for our major customers, and on our camp improvement and expansion projects. Minor problems have arisen, but we have taken prompt action to find solutions. Much has been done by individual initiative and resourcefulness. Both of these qualities are needed constantly at every level of our battalion organization.

Every Seabee battalion deployed here in Vietnam has something about its situation which is unique. In our case, we have, as a part of our workload, the mission of providing base support to the 30th MCR. This is not unfamiliar to the professional Seabee, for most of us have been in public works department assignments at one time or another in our careers. It would not be in keeping with the tradition that The Great FIFTY-EIGHT has established since our recommissioning to settle for providing good support. We will provide excellent support.

Camp Haskins is the best Seabee camp in Vietnam. We hope to make it even better--but without losing sight of our primary mission of construction in support of other U. S. Forces.

Let me ask you again, "Would you believe you can be happy? I'm not talking to fill the air with noise. I really believe you can be happy right where you are without changing your circumstances, without a raise in pay, or without orders to your hometown.

I believe that your years in the Seabees can be the happiest years of your life. You may not think so now, so I challenge you to cut out this article and save it for about ten years and then read it again.

Let me then give you three good reasons why these years will always be remembered as your happiest.

1. The Seabees give you important work to do. You get a job, you use your skills, and you finish the job. You get a lot of satisfaction from this. You know that the mission of the Seabees and the spirit of the battalion is something bigger than you. You find a reason for living that is beyond your immediate concerns. You find yourself acting in noble and unselfish ways.

2. The Seabees make you a member of a team. You know that you are not alone. Many of the friends you make will be remembered for a lifetime. You work with them and build with them and know that they are dependable. You see them make sacrifices for you, and know that sometimes your life depends on them. When you get to Vietnam, you soon realize that everything depends on teamwork.

3. The Seabees sometimes face hazardous duty and feel the need to be close to God.

(continued Page 6)

CHURCH SERVICES

CAMP HASKINS CHAPEL

Sunday Schedule

Catholic Mass 0930

Protestant Services 0830

BEST WISHES

58

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval
 Mobile Construction Battalion
 FIFTY-EIGHT

Subj: Deployment of MCB FIFTY-EIGHT

1. Military and civilian personnel of the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center join me in wishing the officers and men of MCB FIFTY-EIGHT best wishes for every success during your forthcoming deployment. Your willingness and ability to undertake urgent homeported projects such as construction of training facilities for the Directly Procured Petty Officer Program is a clear indication of your readiness to perform your mission and to carry on the traditions of the "Great 58". Good luck, God speed and we will look forward to your safe and early return to the "Home of the Atlantic Seabees".

JOHN D. BUNKY
 COMMANDING OFFICER
 CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER

USO

While deployed at Camp Haskins, MCB-58 will be eligible to participate in the USO program for the I Corps Area. The III Marine Amphibious Force Special Services is the area co-ordinate for USO entertainers. MCB-58 can expect an average of one show per month.

JENNIFER
 JONES
 COMING

KEYSTONE CO

The Keystone Company bids you welcome from somewhere outside of DaNang, RVN. I'm sure you are all as happy as us to be here. At least we have a little bit of ocean to look at since we're situated on the beach.

After many hours in the air, and not enough in Japan, H Company arrived in RVN in pretty good shape. BURNS, JO3, was immediately placed in a bunker and told to watch for the enemy. He's still out there snuggled up to a 12 gauge shotgun, watching for the enemy. DASH, SN, from H Company is also watching for the enemy since he too is in the security platoon, and so far what action he's seen was right in front of his bunker when a VC (rumored to be a Hard Core VC) set off a trip flare. The next day after a thorough search of the area, a pack was found, and it apparently belonged to Victor Charley.

Speaking of sleeping, most of H Company were surprised to learn that we had mattresses to sleep on. That is, if you don't want to sleep on the sand overlooking the ocean.

All of the people in "H" Company are in pretty good shape. Cyclops NEUMAN is talking about how short he is; SAVLING, YN1, likes it so well that he is thinking of extending his tour over here; INMAN, CN, is washing clothes in the laundry; BIRDMAN REID still doesn't know he's here. HEAVIN, FN3, is walking around saying CORP forever. I even think that Mr. DUNN will extend for the duration. Supply is going nuts trying to explain to people just how much pay they can expect, unloading conex boxes, and maintaining silence in the pay line. BONNEAU, SK3, is still "Bull Goose" over there.

The Cooks? Well we may be Yeoman and Personnelmen type, but no one has to eat our mistakes! I better start over, they're doing a fine job, just notice the happy expressions of everyone as they come out of the chow hall.

HOLLIS, SN, is as mixed up as he ever was. Can you imagine he's worried about getting a paper out, and I can't figure out why with reporters like us to furnish him with bits and pieces now and then!

(CONT PAGE 6)

LET'S SAY

"B"

I will start this article with a question. What does Safety mean to you as an individual? You may have many ideas of what it means, but here are a few things it means to all of us. A good safety program means the elimination of personal injury to yourself and your buddies; it provides a healthy attitude toward our work; it reduces costs in life, limb, materials, and it aids in our efficiency as a Battalion.

There are many facts of safety that we probably don't realize it as such. It may be the proper handling of your weapon, the use of safety equipment and clothing, or the high degree of personal hygiene required in their area of the world.

Everyone must stay alert. You, as an individual, may encounter safety hazards or unsafe work habits of your buddies that may endanger their lives or slow down the progress of work. When this occurs, you should speak up as it is everyone's job to work safely.

Your crew leaders have a big job. They will correct any unsafe condition before work is begun or when they have knowledge of it.

I will be visiting all job sites, shops, and the camp area. Any suggestions or problems that may arise either bring it to me or your crew leaders.

Last but not least, use common sense. If you are not sure, ask someone who knows.

BUC J. R. MORTON, BATTALION SAFETY CHIEF

Confusion reigned

supreme upon Bravo's arrival in - Country, but it didn't take our expert Seabees long to square things away. All of our personnel here at Camp Haskins are dug in and producing their daily quota of assigned projects which is roughly the sum total of all the other companies combined.

The roof of the Bravo Company shops building is adorned with the legend "Somot", which is Vietnamese for Number One. Since Bravo is the Number One company in the battalion, it is certainly placed in the right building.

One of the outstanding contributions that has been made to the battalion effort by the Somot Company are the camp's water supply. Some 144,000 gallons per day, or an average of 170 gallons per man. Bravo's Donigan, UTW2, along with Riggensbach, UTPCN, and Styx, CN stand watches over our

three tanks, and sample and test our water every hour, twenty-four hours a day. Since the water plant is running at full capacity, the eater works crew urges everyone to be careful of wasting water, and avoid the imposition of water hours. Water is a precious commodity, especially here in this warm climate, and I, for one wouldn't appreciate losing the unlimited use of our showering facilities because of a few dudes that like to stand under the shower for an hour at a time. If you enjoy soaking, the South China Sea is right on our front doorstep.

Another contribution to the battalion is being made daily by Lebeau, UTP2, and his crew of six that supply the camp with hot water, and keep the galley boilers going to produce the steam needed for our hot meals and the scullery. While the galley is under discussion, the officers and men of Bravo Company would like to thank the cooks and crew in the galley for the out-standing job that they have been doing in supplying us with good hot food, without regard to the shortage of necessary equipment. A hearty "Bravo" to you, gentlemen!

Still more of Bravo's outstanding work is in the ice plant, which produces an average of 3600 pounds of block ice, 1000 pounds of ice cubes, and 200 pounds of ice flakes, all in a day, of course, astronomical figures like these are taken in stride by our fine company.

We also take care of the camp's maintenance, run a carpenter and steel shop, maintain electricity throughout the camp, and a host of other tasks. Bravo is without a doubt the most diversified company in "The Great 58". Anything that would stump mortal humans is given to Bravo Company, where it gets an immediate and efficient squaring away by our fine crews.

Would you believe that Chief Patterson threatened to put a fence around the supply compound just because our own Chief Rathert was over there innocently looking around! He obviously has no sense of humor. Would you also believe that Hut #33 has a problem. They had our mortar drill on schedule last Tuesday, and

(continued Page 6)

CHARLEY'S CAPEERS

After many months of anxious waiting and extensive training, "C" Company has finally arrived in South Vietnam. Six men from the Company came over with the advance party. They were: Chief Hillhouse; Poley, SW1; Spindler, BU1; Andrews, BU1; Pedersen, BU1; and Weitzman, CA. We arrived on the 6th of October and immediately began preparing for the arrival of the main body.

Asking some of the men what they thought of Vietnam, their general reply was, "It's better than we expected." Most of them agreed that the club was outstanding. To bad there aren't a few women around.

As roving reporter, I went out to some of the job sites. They seem to be progressing well, despite problems in transportation and obtaining the vital materials necessary to complete the job. Andrews, BU1, and his crew of twelve are building administrative spaces for the 30th NCR. They hope to have them finished sometime next week. Also, anticipating completion of his job next week is Dawkins, BUR2. His crew of ten are laying down concrete slabs over by the Beehive. Over the concrete slabs will go a warehouse for the storage of cement. This project is also for the 30th NCR. A group of Vietnamese are constructing the warehouse, which is being made out of bamboo.

Chief Nowakowski is in charge of Building 99, where a crew of nineteen men are constructing a roof over an Equipment Storage Hut for the Marines. Spindler, BU1, has a crew of eighteen finishing up administrative offices for a one star General. The complex also includes living quarters. Poley, SW1, is in charge of camp maintenance, and his crew at the present time is re-digging mortar pits and making the company area a better place to live. These are a few of the many jobs that will keep us hopping during our deployment.

Congratulations to seven men who have advanced in rate. Pedersen, Root, and Taylor were advanced to BU1. Marinelli and Sartin to BUR2; and Bretton to SWF3.

It is sad that it isn't true, but one man said, "If the monsoons were like this, I would ship over!" Sorry about that!

J. WEITZMAN

DELTA DEMONS

I'll start off saying that the Advance Party finally got underway for In Country, after a various amount of musters on 3 October 1966 and arrived here on the 6th of October. After experiencing a few aircraft failures, such as, radar gear out, hydraulic trouble and what not. All in all we got here safely and that's what counts. We spent the first week sizing up jobs, getting the lay of the land and phasing in. The second week the ship arrived with all the gear and supplies. That's when the dogs really started to bark. Under the Great Leadership of Sam Oates and his five men to start with, we commenced the Hut Extensions which were so badly needed to berth our Great Battalion. No sooner under way and the monsoon season struck with great force for several days but that didn't slow us down either and we worked right through it. All in all the morale was high and the men were eager to turn to. As the men arrived we turned them too and finally got the hut extensions completed. (A well done to all)

Delta Company, welcomes to Camp Haskins, two fine Builders, Oliver BUL3, and Walsh, BUR3. Welcome to the Great FIFTY-EIGHT

We've got a lot of good work to do and a lot of good men to do it.

Chief SCHMID

Swim Call

Swimming hours for the "Great FIFTY-EIGHT" will be as follows:

Monday--Saturday: 1500-1600 (For Security only)

Monday--Saturday: 1730-1830

Sunday: 1500-1800

Swim call may be discontinued due to inclement weather or rough water at the discretion of the duty lifeguard.

(Jennifer continued)

Each of these assignments required her to assume strikingly different manners and appearances, from her first performance, and from one another, something unusual for a Hollywood personality.

Miss Jones claims the unusual honor of having been the first player to have been selected "Best Actress" by the American Public. In the Audience Awards of 1955, she was cited in a poll of fifteen million votes for her performance opposite William Holden in "Love is a Many Splendored Thing."

Just before departing on this tour, Miss Jones appeared at the New York City Center in the successful revival of the Clifford Odets play "The Country Girl." Welcome aboard, Jennifer Jones!

(H Co. continued)

Special Services is doing a fine job. They have a lot of gear that you can check out. Also Supply has opened the exchange along with the Barber Shop, Anyone for a "Durina Special". Course you could get Phillips, SH3, to cut your head,I mean your hair.

Don't forget to turn in pictures for the CRUISE BOOK to Hollis, SNJO Candid shots are the best.

Remember turn in your greenbacks for MPC and if you plan on buying anything from the Beehive, turn in your MPC for Piasters.

Above all keep your head down, keep sailing, clean your weapon, shine your combat boots, wear your green skivvy shirt, get your ammo from the armorer, get up promptly at 0515, throw away your Aussie hat, sleep with your clothes on every fourth night, have fun on liberty, (Ha), and enjoy your stay in Vietnam. Smooth sailing from the Fleet Sailors.

BY M. D. NOLLSCH, YN2

BUY

BONDS

ALPHA

COMPANY

LTJG Arnie German's Alpha Company men are continuing many of the projects MCB-One began a few months ago. Since the Advance Party arrived progress has been steady. At the LAAM Site area, EOL Johnson and three of his men are improving and maintaining the road to Hill 724. Over at the Marine Air Wing Chief Leuck and Chief Bendzlowicz are working a double shift to complete a parking apron for Marine Aircraft. Approximately 25 men are involved in this job. As we look about the camp we can see many road improving machines busy scraping and grinding rocks into the sandy surface to provide a hard base for vehicles. Just last month it rained so hard and long one day (approximately 20 inches) that just about every road in the camp became awash. This looks like a never ending job for the men of Alpha.

Another project assigned to Alpha Co. is being directed by Chief Helser and 6 men. They are building an access road to the Petroleum Oil Lubricating area.

Other projects include constructing parking lots and drainage in the FLSC area and site preparation for First Marine 500 man galley.

We are all busy. . .but lets take time now to congratulate CWO Revolenski. Mr. Ski just completed his first 25 years in the Navy.

(B Co. continued)

all of the huts occupants came hard charging out the door headed for their mortar hole. Unfortunately, there were 14 men in the hut, and their mortar hole was only big enough for nine of them. most embarrassing situation. There are now two large, freshly-dug mortar holes embracing opposing corners of Hut number 33. And, this is hard to believe; Someone (nobody seems to know who) installed a door handle on one of our Chief's huts No. 61, to be exact. Now, most people put handles on the side of the door, but this well-meaning soul put it on the same side that the hinges are on. The culprit is still at large. Red Face Department Regular readers of my prattle may recall a comment I made some time ago about Kool-Aid in the galley at Davisville. Well, it wasn't this hot at D-ville, and Kool-Aid is Mmmmmmm, good!

BY SWE3 John P. Shinnick

AIDS IN CAPTURE

SPECIAL SERVICES

"This is bunker 17. We spot a sanpan out here about 200 yards offshore parallel with the beach--over". At the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-EIGHT'S command post in Camp Haskins, DaNang, RVN. The Sergeant of the Guard heard the above report and gave his instructions. "Bunker 17, this is the SOG. There is no radar so keep a sharp eye on your contact and report any movement to me."

In security bunker 17, sandbagged onto Red Beach, the bunker Captain, Charles W. Stelnicki, UTP3, told his two men, Mark L. Dash, SN, and Martin Castillo, CN, to keep the craft under close surveillance. He then contacted bunker 16, occupied by John R. Dold, UTP3; Charles L. Adams Jr., SN; and Robert Valentine III. Dold, 16's captain, knowing that radar was down sent Valentine and Adams scurrying to the radar shack relating any movement of the sanpan. He then continued watching the craft.

Both bunkers kept close surveillance on the sanpan, charting orally its new positions to the CP and radar.

Just one hour had elapsed since the craft was first sighted at 2330, when a gunboat from the Bay of Tourane Harbor security boarded the sanpan. When the security boat returned to base, five VC suspects were turned over to intelligence. With no radar, the capture was made possible by the men in bunkers 16 and 17, through their diligent and careful surveillance and reporting of the enemy craft.

by R.D. BURNS, JO3

(CHAPLAIN CONT)

You may have done a lot of things you would not want to tell the Chaplain about. You may not have been a regular worshipper at religious services. But when you face hostile fire or hazardous duty, you suddenly feel the need to pray. You feel that God is close to you. Your whole life seems richer and more meaningful.

These three reasons are not unique to me, or to you. They are three reasons why all of us should be happy, and deeply satisfied that God has called us to serve Him and our nation in the Seabees, God's Happy Mob.

R.E. BLADE

The Special Services Office and equipment check out is located in Hut 78 between the Post Office and the Barber Shop. The gear locker is ready to issue recreation equipment of all types. Chess and Checker sets, Cribbage Boards, Cards and Poker Chips, Acey Ducey Sets, Basketballs, Footballs, Volleyballs, Badmitten Sets, Swim Masks, Swim Fins, Snorket Tubes, Frisbee, Softballs and Mitts.

In the near future the recreation hut will open. It will have two ping pong tables, two 3/4 size pool tables, a juke box, TV, and soft drinks.

Plans are in the mill to set up an Archery range, a Fishing area, a Slot Car track and a Hobby Shop. Be patient and in time the Great 58 Special Services Department will have a recreation program without equal.

THE BLAZE

The BLAZE is published weekly in accordance with NAVSO P-1035(Rev. 12-65) on government equipment and is financed with non-appropriated funds.

No material published herein is to be considered as representing the official opinion of the Defense Department or of the Commanding Officer unless otherwise indicated.

The BLAZE uses AFNB material. All correspondence should be addressed to:

EDITOR FIFTY-EIGHT BLAZE

USN MCB-58

FPO N.Y. 09501

Commanding Officer:

CDR W.W. DeGroot III

Executive Officer:

CDR L.D. LAWSON

Public Affairs Officer:

LTJG R.A. DERR

Editor:

JO3 R.D. BURNS

Layout and Make-up:

SN, J.L. HOLLIS

WANT TO MAIL THE BLAZE HOME?
Just place it in an envelope.