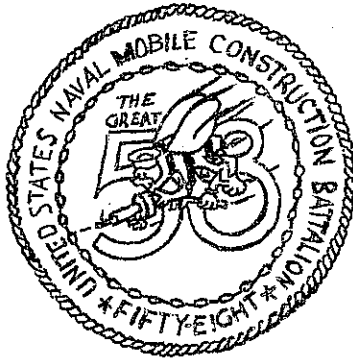


Fifty-Eight



Family-Gram  
25 March 1967  
Camp Haskins  
Danang, Republic  
of Vietnam

Greetings:

March has been a busy month. I thought I'd tell you about a few of the current events of interest. Looking back over the month of March our noteworthy events have included the Seabee/Civil Engineer Corps Birthday and our own Battalion Anniversary on the 15th.

The weekend of 4-5 March we celebrated the Seabees' 25th Anniversary with a variety of activities in and around Camp Haskins. A formal ceremony, held on the 4th at 30th Naval Construction Regiment featured an address given by Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, the Commander of the Third Marine Amphibious Force, praising the work of the Seabees in Vietnam. Our Battalion colors were displayed alongside the colors of the other seven Seabee Battalions now in Vietnam and the Great Fifty-Eight Drill Team performed with their usual precision. The following day we celebrated by taking a full day off from our work to relax and enjoy a day of entertainment. Events included basketball, volleyball, softball and a cross-country relay race in competition with Mobile Construction Battalion Nine (we won 3 of the 4), 3-legged races, inter-company tug-of-war, and many informal parties and cook-outs. I was especially pleased with the large Seabee Float that we built which was a great success on its tour. The evening was high lighted by a performance by the "Paulettes", an all girl band from the Philippines. To wrap up the celebration, quarters were held an hour later Monday morning. Altogether, it was an extremely gratifying and welcome break in the routine.

As most of you know, our Battalion was commissioned on 15 March of last year. On the anniversary we had an informal cake-cutting ceremony in the galley. At informal parties and get togethers on the 18th and 19th we recalled the chilly day in Davisville one year ago that saw Rear Admiral Turner F. Caldwell place U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Fifty-Eight on active duty. We are all proud of our accomplishments since that day.

Of course, uppermost in everyone's mind at present is Easter. We will be having an Easter Sunrise service in the new thatch roofed Regimental Chapel in addition to the regular Easter services in our own chapel.

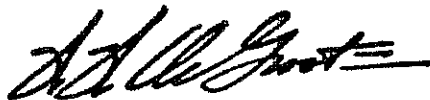
To give you an insight into one of the Battalions most popular programs, I thought I might explain our R & R (short for Rest and Relaxation) program. Each man in the Battalion has the opportunity to take 5 days "vacation" in one of several places, including Bangkok, Thailand; Tokyo, Japan; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Hong Kong; Taipei; Hawaii; Okinawa; or Singapore. Transportation is provided to and from the R & R location, the only expense is for room and board. Nearly 450 of our Seabees have already taken advantage of this opportunity to see some other parts of the world, and to "get away" from the work routine of the Battalion.

Our construction work on both roads and buildings is going very well. In part this is due to the excellent weather we have had these past few weeks. In larger measure it is due to our increased competence resulting from experience over the last five months.

Naturally, thoughts of returning to Davisville have begun to loom larger in our minds. However, we have a great deal of important work to accomplish here in Vietnam before we return.

If, in your letters to your Seabee, you continue to give the encouragement which has been apparent to me in seeing his work, we will complete this deployment with genuine satisfaction in a job well done. Even including the R & R program, and our many recreation facilities, mail from home continues to be our biggest morale booster.

Sincerely,



W. W. DeGroot 111  
Commander, OLC, U. S. Navy.

P.S.

In regard to mail, we continue to have some problems due to mail being addressed to Camp Haskins, Republic of Vietnam. This is not a correct address and only delays delivery to us.

Correct addresses are the following:

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APO New York 09501

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