

S TRAIN ENGINEERS

erators from MCB-53 at the batch plant, laterite pit and Data Processing building at the Force Logistics Command.

Pham Ha, a corporal in the Vietnamese Seabees, is the lone mechanic staying with the battalion and is working in the mechanic shop. He

graduated from an Engineer Equipment and Repair Course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in July, 1968. He also completed a course in Mechanical Repair with MCB-1 in December, 1968.

The Vietnamese Seabees will complete four weeks of on-the-job training and then return to their respective battalions to teach what they have learned. These particular men are from CB-6 and CB-10 and are originally from the Da-Nang area.



Nguyen Due Bien (left) works at the battalion's batch plant under the supervision of EO3 Bob Chambers from Pueblo, California.



g with MCB-53 are
Tang Xe, Nguyen
en Due Bien, (kneel-
n Ha, Nguyen Huyen,



Tang Xe (right) operates one of MCB-53's dozers as EO3 R.I. Gries from Hubbard Lake, Michigan, looks on.



MCB-53's basketball team (standing, left to right) BU2 Jim Schmidt, BU3 Terry Ditzler, SN Wesley Mitchell, SW3 Dennis Kiebach, (kneeling, left to right) SK2 Noel Crawford, TN Leonardo Vergara, and LT Bruce Runberg. Also on the team but not present when the photo was taken is EO2 Bill Best.

53 it a

MCB-53's basketball team won the first half of the Davisville Intramural League Championship with an 11 win and one loss record. Their closest competitor was NAVS-CON with a 7 and 5 record.

The Davisville Intramural League is set up into two halves because of the deployment schedules of the different battalions.



Noel Crawford, surrounded by Army Players, sinks a lay up. Coming in to help on a possible rebound for MCB-53 is Terry Ditzler (25).

does gain

MCB-53's basketball forces were co-champions the previous year also. On each occasion, deployment to the Republic of Vietnam cancels the second half of play.

Led by BU2 Jim Schmidt, BU3 Terry Ditzler and SW3 Dennis Kiebach, MCB-53 went undefeated until they were upset by NAVSCON in a 46 to 44 thriller.



Leonardo Vergara puts up a lay up during a game with Army at Max Kiel Gymnasium. Noel Crawford (45) follows the play.



Jim Schmidt battles an Army player for the center tap to start off the game. Leonardo Vergara (31) and Noel Crawford (45) prepare to jump if the ball should be tapped in their direction. The 24th Artillery Squadron was one of the teams that MCB-53 defeated in its quest for the intramural championship at Davisville, Rhode Island.



Senior Chief Builder Jack E. Burgess (left) from Erie, Pennsylvania, takes the oath from CDR Miller as he ships over for six years. BUCS Burgess is married to the former Jean Marie Nye.

What is an American?

He is the fellow who yells for the government to balance the budget, then spends his last dime on the down payment of a car.

He whips the enemy, then gives him the shirt off his back. He yells for speed laws that will stop fast driving, then won't buy a car if it can't make 100 miles per hour.

He knows the line-up of every baseball team in the American and National Leagues --and doesn't know half the words of the "Star Spangled Banner."

He'll spend half a day looking for vitamin pills to make him live longer, then drive 90 miles an hour on slick pavement to make up for the lost time.

He ties up his dog, but lets his 16-year-old son do whatever he pleases. He will work hard on a farm so he can move into town where he makes more money so he can move back into the country.

He couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag but spends 20 bucks for a ringside seat so he can tell the professionals how to fight.

We are the most ambitious people on earth, yet we run from morning until night trying to match our earning power with our yearning power. We are supposed to be the most civilized nation on earth but still need armored

(NAVNEWS)...As a serviceman in the armed forces, you will more than likely be assigned overseas sometime during your hitch. These assignments can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about other lands and different people, and while you're over there soaking up all that education, culture and fun, why not save some money as well?

Contradictory ideas, you say? Not at all, when you use the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program. Your status as military personnel,

regardless of rank, allows you to save any portion of your unallotted pay and allowances.

The program pays 10 percent a year, compounded quarterly, on deposits you make, up to \$10,000, while you are overseas. You may save part of your base pay as well as a long list of allowances given to servicemen in special situations.

The only stipulations attached are that you must be assigned overseas for at least 90 days and you must deposit the money in multiples of five. This type of savings is exempt from liability for debts and is not subject for forfeiture by sentence of a court martial.

If you are seriously interested in saving money, the Uniformed Service Savings Deposit Program is ideal for you. If, however, you are a fickle depositor, put your money elsewhere. The program has a built-in safeguard which says you may only draw money in emergency situations.

When you return to the United States, a lump sum, including accumulated interest, will be paid to you within 90 days after you return. For more information see your disbursing officer.

cars to deliver payrolls.

But we are still pretty nice folks. Calling a person "A Real American" is the best compliment you can pay him. Most of the world is itching for what we have, but they will never have it until they start scratching for it as individuals. (APPS--By LCdr N.D. Anderson)

Lang-Co

A detachment from MCB-53 has recently returned from the Lang Co Bridge after completing the construction of an H-Frame that will be used by an architectural engineering firm to test how much of a load the pilings can hold.

If the experiment proves successful MCB-53 will make plans to build a new bridge on the existing piles. EOL H.R. Duelly from North Kingstown, Rhode Island, was in charge of the crew that constructed the H-Frame.

The crew consisted of four equipment operators and one steelworker. They are: EO2 C.E. Harris from Brunswick, Georgia; EO2 C.A. Cook from Evergreen, Alabama; EO2 O.P. Johnson from Wheelersburg, Ohio; EO3 C. Carter from Leansboro, Illinois and SW3 M.M. Micklos from Allentown, Pennsylvania.



BU1 W.S. Kelly is congratulated by CDR R.K. Miller after receiving his Honorable Discharge and shipping over for six years. This is Petty Officer Kelley's first reenlistment.



BU3 W.R. Line (left) from Springfield, Oregon, and BU2 L.F. Stark from Erie, Michigan, ease a section of trussed roof into place at the Mag-18 headquarters building.



LOVELY — Corinna Tsopel is living proof that it pays to develop talent — as well as beauty. Corinna was easily spotted by talent scouts and signed to 20th Century-Fox's New Talent School.

Safety Sam

Buddy Bee Sez

You shouldn't be a bit more cautious when the law may be looking--because you should be within the law and safe driving limits at all times.

If there's a traffic officer nearby, or at least you think there is, what kind of effect does this have on you and your driving?

Do you drive just a little more carefully when you see an officer or are in an area where you think one might show up? Do you become a bit more alert and a bit more primed for defensive action?

Do you lower your speed a notch or two? Do you breathe easier when you think you've passed the area of observation?

If you answer yes to one or more of these questions it might be a good time for you to do a little thinking about the true measurement of good driving.

A Friend in Need Is a Friend Indeed

SW2 Willard Cheirrett from Bancroft, Idaho, is always willing to help a fellow out. So when MCB-121, presently working at the Ammi Bridge Site at Nam Hoa, asked for a little assistance, Petty Officer Cheirrett obliged.

Cheirrett was asked to see whether a piling that had been damaged by Viet Cong explosives needed to be repaired or replaced. Petty Officer Cheirrett was a member of The MCB-53 Detail Delta 1, which constructed the bridge during the battalion's first deployment.

MCB-121 has been tasked with the repair of the bridge and since Cheirrett had been on the MCB-53 construction crew, he was called upon to share his experience with MCB-121.

Looks as if 121 knows where to go when they need help.

A Letter Can 'Bring You Home'

How many times have you seen the overseas "mail call" where the postal clerk hands out letters until only a few dejected men stand by---those who didn't get any.

This isn't a scene from a movie. It happens quite often and for various reasons. Mainly, it's because addresses have changed by constant moves and the letters are lost somewhere in the pipeline.

But let's reverse the situation. Family addresses back home seldom change, yet weeks and sometimes months go by before a letter from the serviceman finally finds its way home.

Writing, between family members, is not always a matter of exchanging news but an expression of thoughtfulness and caring. Just a note to Mom and Dad, wife or sister means that you care. Words from home bring a personal feeling of pleasure that only the reader understands. Remember, writing is a two-way street, and a letter means love and affection----whether you are 50 or 5,000 miles away.

And, your letter brings you home--even for a moment or two. (APPS)



VERY INTERESTING—Aside from being one of the girls who has graced Johnny Grant's shows in Vietnam, Leslie McRae earned the title of Miss International Bikini of 1967, a well-deserved honor.

by EO2 Strawbridge

ALpha ComPany

After many fruitless attempts our main body has finally arrived. Now the task of carrying the load begins once again for Alpha Company.

Anybody for a tour of night-watches at our local listening post? Need some straight skinny? Just ask "SALTY" EO2 Fred MICHEL or CM3 Joe KARASEK.

Of course, we of Alpha staff are still trying to convince CM2 Charles ILIFF that we do have a place in his office.

As in every deployment each department has its firsts. This year's prize for the first vehicular accident goes to EO2 Roger SALVAGE, who on the morning of 11 March decided to customize ENS SPENCER'S jeep with his tractor-trailer.

Then too, we are still awaiting the arrival of California vacationers EOC LEWIS and EO3 Anthony TESTA. Scratch that, here comes Tony now!

Everyone here in Alpha company is mourning the loss of our lovely RED FIRE TRUCK which was recently turned over to MCB-3. Those heartbroken mechanics--CMCN John SHADOW, MR2 VSM BODNER, CM2 SHACKLEFORD and CM3 Paul SMILEY--haven't been the same since.

Need a good insight on the battalion happenings? Stop by Alpha Company office and check "THE WORD PASSER" a recent addition to our swinging staff.

Did you know we have an artist in Alpha Company? The recipient of LT GREEN'S latest creation is a surprised EOC MCKENZIE.

Need a little information in the line of medicine? Stop by the heavy shop and see CM2 HEMORRHOID; ah, that is CM2 Wayne CURRIN.

For the latest in war souvenirs CM3 CUTTING is the man to see. His latest request is for a bottle of VIETNAMESE "TIGER BEER."

That was more recently topped by, "I would like to keep one Vietnamese girl in my locker as a war souvenir." That statement came from the

witty mind of CM2 Donald ELDER.

Say you were on the Advance Party to RVN this year? Say you enjoyed the "LONE STAR CHOW"?

In closing this month, we of Alpha-Company wish to pay special tribute to the COOKS and MESS COOKS of 53 for a job extremely well done. We have the best.

by CM2 Shark

Fox Company

As we last left our gallant men, they were asking themselves "what kind of a deal is this"? Suddenly out of the quiet night F Company was formed and Alpha Company found itself missing its other half. And now F Company functions on its own in the so far peacefully quiet community of "Bedrock", better known as the Vinh Dai Quarry detachment.

Actually we operate a battalion in itself. We have hand-selected men from every rate. Life around here centers on two 200 ton-per-hour crushers and you can hear that chant behind our officers breath, "crush that rock, crush that rock _____"

Our competent and respected LT RUNBERG, Company Commander, keeps a keen watchful eye on all operations, and, with the help of LTJG ANDERSON, Assistant Company Commander, even manages to keep track with his eyes of what goes on behind his back!

Our EO's work long, hard hours maintaining our two crushers and hauling crushed rock to our designated areas as well as running bulldozers, loaders and cranes. When one of our crushers broke down recently, Chief SUTTON was running around in a daze crying "it's sprocket to me time." At times this place resembles "Laugh In". We are all our own comedians and some of us are walking jokes.

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by BU2 Schilling

Charlie-Delta

The big news of course, is the merger of our two companies. The reaction of the men to this new state of affairs was a predictable one. One problem has been deciding how to refer to the new company. Some combination of the two names has seemed the most logical, but the most popular suggestion, C-D (seedy) Company is considered unlikely to be accepted officially. We'll just have to wait to see if Alpha Company is consolidated with us at a later date before the company stock holders vote on a name.

Since it has become known that the chances are good that IPO's will be extended, supply personnel have been cautioned to disapprove chits requesting balsa wood, pitch, lashings, or sail of cloth. (Another method of escape the IPO's are rumored to be considering is taking a ride on the regularly scheduled Vietnamese National Railway Express.)

Someone must have been really impressed with LT. Fucile's added responsibilities. He received a letter the other day addressed to the "Commanding General" of our company.

Everyone's impressed with the progress at the job sites. MAG-18 Headquarters building is off the ground, BUI FLOCKTON and his crew have reached the water table in the sand, and the steelworkers are over-joyed at the sight of revetments and butler buildings! BUI KELLEY and BUI OUSLEY are receptionists at DaNang's first major tourist attraction, the Data Processing Building at FLC. "Scheduled" tours are every hour on the hour and a refreshment concession will be in operation soon. "Tiny" Tyler isn't going unnoticed either at his small arms shop.

BUI Fajardo was overheard giving advice to the girls in the club. "First of all remember, there are two kinds of Seabees, and you'd better watch both of them."

FOXTROT Co.

(Cont. From Page 14)

For a while things were quite chilly and damp, and this was one of the few places where a guy got dressed to go to bed.

With Chief MAKI in charge as our Maintenance Supervisor, our mechanics can never really complain of a dull moment, especially the way our equipment keeps breaking down. They are really learning an awful lot by fixing and undoing what the EO's have broke and done.

Our efficient "White Lie Department" officially known as Cost Control along with Spare Parts Supply find that non-carried items are quietly carried into our camp by our parts expeditors, (Sneaky CML COOK and CM2 BALDWIN).

Our senior cook CS2 MAITLAND has done a fantastic job in feeding us. His motto is "Every day is a holiday, each meal a banquet." Those concerned at home may address all complaints directly to him if your man returns overweight.

We couldn't let this article go by without mentioning CE2 REIKER whose devotion to our generators and electrical upkeep makes him glow like a bulb, and also to our senior communicator RM2 MEYERS who is so experienced he always answers you in Morse Code.

Yes friends, this is the place where a newcomer learns that automation was the key in ending the caveman era. This is the place where it gets so hot a guy can always drink boiling hot jello when he's thirsty. There's so much camp improvement, directed by CUCM CHANCEY and UT1 LAWSON, around here that you have to be careful not to step into some freshly poured concrete. Then again, a true Seabee could never stand around long enough to become a statue.

So far, our affectionate flying grasshoppers have taken to our showers, and if you were to search our huts you will find many advertisements for capable and exper-

enced bug-loving spiders. Why this is the place where one can close his eyes and easily pretend he's in the middle of the Sahara Desert. The next day a dust storm. At night one can be home in the presence of his loved ones, that is until he awakes.

But despite all that has been said, morale up here remains extremely high. The truth is you can't really hide these things--just face them. It is the little things that count. It is here where one learns a new sense of values. Each one of us will change here for we will all have just completed a trying all-level course in appreciation!

by YN2 Rose

HEADQUARTERS Co.

During our first month of deployment most of the H Company departments have greatly reduced the amount of backlogged work accumulated while in Davisville. Other departments are feeling the brunt of work to be done here. I am sure that the enthusiasm and persistence shown by all the men in Headquarters Company will prevail.

The Administrative and Personnel Offices have greatly reduced their work load and working hours since deploying to RVN. This was accomplished through the efforts of everyone in the offices from the Administrative Officer, LTjg A.J. MASSE to YNSN (YN3 hopeful) Al HAMERLING. Even YN3 KRECHKO has a little sweat over his brow.

And when YN2 BEASTON comes into the office for an hour or so--that's something! The competent personnel in the Administrative Office, namely YNC HASLERUD, YN1 FULLER and YN2's AILEY and SANDS are busy preparing instructions and notices and writing letters home while they can do it free.....

The Training Department,

under the capable hands of LTjg MACKINNON is running smoothly (all over the camp) so far as the writer knows. I

understand they have lost YN3 Flash WELLINGTON to Security. After all, who else can run around the whole camp in less than ten minutes? I'm sure CM3 HOLMES doesn't want to challenge him and EA2 BERUBE is simply too busy to take time out for it.

LCDR FORNEY is doing an excellent job with Operations but that's understandable with the capable help of LT MADDEN, LTjg MACAFERRI, UTC LAWSON (the wheeler and dealer), EA2 ESTES (who's having troubles with his grid coordinates), EACN COMBS, and of course the SN who thinks he's a marine--SN YARNELL. Keep the men and the material flowing OPs.

When it comes to Supply what can you do but praise them? After all, they handle all the important items. Did you ever try to get anything from a mad LCDR CAIRO, SKC HEALEY, OR SK1 MCCLAIN? You guys are the greatest! That goes for you too SK2 ADKINS and SK3 LUNDY. SK2 ONTKO--- YOU DON'T EVEN COUNT!

And then there's the matter of your pay (or lack of it). Headed by LTjg BOUCHARD (who finally convinced BU2 ROY that he was allowed to give me \$5 per pay day) the Disbursing Office is doing a commendable job seeing how DK2 RABBITT has left the work to DK1 GARCIA, DK2 MARTIN, and BU2 ROY while he is up north every other week seeing his girlfriend. Hope your wife doesn't find out! You naughty boy.....

In the next issue this column will cover the boys in the other offices of Headquarters Company but in the meantime it will suffice to say that LTjg CRAIN, Personnel Officer, has challenged the other companies to beat the Headquarters company basketball and softball teams. He says that you don't stand a chance, especially against such notable stars as BUCS "Sharpie" DEXHEIMER, BUCS "Dunk-em" BURGESS, and that fantastic YNC "Nimble-toes" HASLERUD. See you next issue with the scores.



MCB-53's Lang-Co crew place I beams at the bridge site. The men built an H-frame that will be used by an engineering firm to test the strength of the bridge.

A War Away

by CM2 Shark

Just a war away from you
Living for the better
Through many a lone night
And waiting for your letter;

The spooky moon appears
A feathery wind blows,
My hair rustles in the breeze
As the day light fades and
Goes;

I stand upon my mountain
Astounded by the view
At the paddies and the fields,
I mostly think of you;

Suddenly I feel tall
From the warmth that you have
Shown;
It has really touched upon me
For you, my love has grown;

And now I stare outward
I wonder and I think
About the coming future
Your presence, my missing
Link;

I long to kiss and hold you
What joy and what pleasure,
To see you laugh and smile
To me you're such a treasure;

But until that day of glory
My love I do redeem,
You're within me always
In each and every dream.

Smiley P.F. CM3 B160579

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