



The ESPRIT OF 53 (ASIAN EDITION)



VOL. I NO. 7

CAMP ADENIR, DANANG EAST, VIETNAM

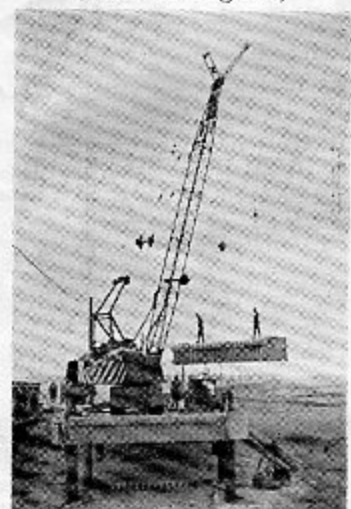
APRIL 1, 1968

AMMI BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

By L.M. Smith, Ltjg

Work has begun on one of the world's newest bridges on Route 1, just south of DaNang. An Ammi Pontoon Bridge is being constructed there by Seabees of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE to replace the French structure that had been destroyed by the Viet Cong earlier in the year.

The Ammi Pontoon Bridge itself consists of pontoon sections, hollow steel pipe pilings, and steel decking sections. The pontoon sections have "spudwells" or sleeves for the pilings. In construction of the bridge, the pontoon sections are
(Cont. on Page 12)



Two MCB-53 Seabees ride an Ammi Pontoon section into place as it is hoisted above a completed span.

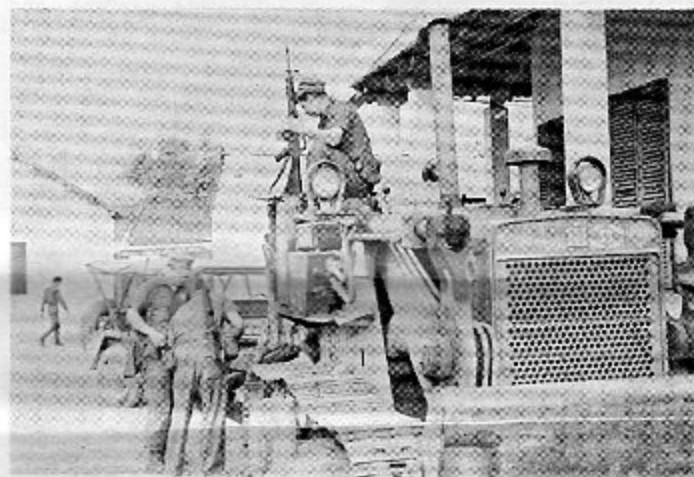
Seabees Work During Day And Watch At Night

By Ltjg L.M. Smith..

"You ought to have seen this place when we first arrived here," said Utilitiesman second class Ross E. LIKENS from Burlington, New Jersey, the Assistant Petty Officer in charge of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE's Hoi An detachment. "The place was just filthy. The hospital staff had been trying hard, but the proper facilities just weren't available!"

It was to make these facilities available that 17 of MCB-53's Seabees were sent to Hoi An from the battalion's base camp at Camp Adenir, DaNang East, Vietnam, and through their actions added another chapter to the proud Seabee story in Vietnam.

Under the direction of Utilitiesman first class Samuel S. WILLIAMS from Baltimore, Maryland, the detachment was convoyed to the small village of Hoi An, about 30 miles South of DaNang, on January 21, 1968. They undertook a job that had already been started by MCB-7, the battalion MCB-53 relieved at Camp Adenir. It consisted of installing a sanitation system (water and sewer) for twelve buildings, and running outside electrical lines and interior wiring for thirteen old French buildings. This construction spanned a number of



UTWCN J.N. DOUGLASS, a MCB-53 Seabee in Bravo Company, looks down from the bulldozer he was riding "shotgun" on while two other Seabees inspect the damage done by sniper fire near Hoi An.

trades and required four separate Seabee ratings: builders, utilitiesman, equipment operators, and electricians.

The Seabees had to do more than just build on this job however, for on January 29, 1968 the camp and its surrounding area were attacked by the Viet-Cong during their Tet New Years offensive. The senior American advisor, an Army colonel, asked for volunteers to go on a patrol to analyze this hostile Viet Cong activity. Seabee Utilitiesman third class Stanley W. KENDALL from Hialeah, Florida, was one of

the first to volunteer.

The patrol soon traded small arms fire with a much larger Viet Cong force and killed twenty of the enemy while sustaining three men wounded, including Petty Officer Kendall. One of the injured required further medical attention and was Medevaced.

This patrol was credited with halting the VC advance at a critical point in their offensive and being a possible turning point in the battle at Hoi An.

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Last month, the Executive Officer discussed beer and soda cans in his column for the Esprit. He is upset that members of 53 often scatter empty cans helter-skelter throughout the camp with complete disregard of trash cans and the work-



CDR R. A. BOWERS

load of their buddies on the camp clean-up detail. Today I want to look at the camp, the living huts, and their surrounding areas - from another aspect.

I've been very impressed that many men have shown an amazing initiative in keeping their huts clean and orderly. Everything they do reflects pride in their living facilities, inside and out. Minor self-help improvements are springing up daily - such as rescreening, installing partitions and insulation, cultivating gardens and patios, etc. Within the limitations of available materials and time, I encourage these improvements. Pride is the key to everything we do, and it begins at home.

Then again I'm unfavorably impressed that some of our men appear to lack pride. Some show little initiative to maintain their living spaces, let alone improve them. Some areas have deteriorated in the few months since we arrived. Inside, the huts are sometimes dirty and unkept. Outside, sandbags, lumber, mattresses, and cots, sometimes lie helter skelter without regard to their value, to safety, or to simple pride in living in a neat and clean environment. There's an attitude of indifference in some few cases that often spreads to other areas, such as the clubs, mess hall, movie and basketball areas.

I've visited every Seabee Camp in RVN since we deployed, and I'm convinced that we've got the finest camp in-country. Visitors constantly remind me live well. I'd like to keep it this way, and, when we leave here next fall, be able to pass on to the relieving battalion a camp all the better because of our occupancy.

Take a good look at your hut, at the areas around your hut. See what you can do to make it a better place to live. Take a look at the common areas of the camp, especially at 2130 each night as you prepare for taps. Come up with ideas for improvements and pass them on to your Company Commanders. They'll be given every consideration. It takes only a little more thought and effort to go First Class, and that's the way I want 53 to go.

Editor's Note:

Any of you Bees out there who have articles, pictures or clippings sent to you from home are asked to bring such material to.

PAO's attention. The news may concern you personally, the Battalion, or other personnel.

PAO is required to maintain a "Clippings File" and your help in "bringing in the news" will be deeply appreciated.

XO'S XCLAMATIONS!!

Renlist? - Extend? - NEVER!!

Does this sound familiar? No doubt you've participated in more than one bull session in which everybody recited the number of days left before they get OUT and exclaimed that



LCDR R. H. KNAUF

nothing could keep them in the Navy for even one extra second. A few of these people will be discharged with no regret; for they have been of questionable value to the Navy and unfortunately they will probably become burdens rather than assets in civilian life. But most men, probably including you who are taking time to read the ESPRIT, will make fine contributions whether you are a Seabee or a civilian. The majority of our citizens are civilians who enjoy a way of life supported, defended, and sometimes envied by military citizens. Civilian and military personnel alike perform important functions and have responsibilities toward each other. Whether you are a career man or just fulfilling your military obligations with one enlistment; you are important and should not minimize your value.

What does all this have to do with reenlisting or extending? Well, our great nation requires good civilians as well as good military men, and each of us is free to choose which we want to be. I'd like to be certain that you who are now in military service make your choice wisely. Good Seabees are needed and perhaps you don't really know how important you are. From a more selfish view, perhaps you don't really know what opportunities are available to you and how far you can go in developing individual skills and personal achievement in the Navy. Mediocre Seabees are a dime a dozen dim, a dozen, but good ones are not, and I think it's significant that MCB-53 has more than its share of good ones. Consider the fine career Seabees represented by Master Chief THARP; Senior Chiefs Dana, DEXHEIMER and BOWDEN Builder Chiefs WILLIAMS and FORD; BU1 CUMMINGS and UT1 WILLIAMS; and others. More important consider the potential of outstanding Seabees on their first enlistment like: BU2 HOWARD; UT2 HAYNIE; EOH3 FELDMAN; UTBCN DOYLE; SWE3 CHEIRRETT; BUL2 BROADWAY; BUH3 GOHMERT; EON3 BOLL; SWE2 ROARK; CEW3 LUNDGREN; BUL2 PELLEGRIN; YN2 CLAUSS; CES3 CASINO; EAD3 SELESKY; EOH3 STRANBRIDGE; BUR3 WEBER; and SN WILLARD; and many more of you too numerous to mention.

I'm not making a dishonest pitch implying that the Navy is a bed of roses and the place for everybody. To the contrary, I think we have to admit that it's a hard, challenging life accompanied by many sacrifices. But it's also rewarding and affords a man many opportunities which are not as readily available "on the outside" as many of you may think. How many times have you heard an uncle or a neighbor say, "Gee, if I'd stayed in the Army or the Navy, I could have retired last year." It would be a mistake to choose a Navy career just to be able to retire in 20 years, but it's something you can't do

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Two More Receive Purple Hearts



HN Freddie ALLEN (left), USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen of Florence, Oregon and CN Lerry D. WHITELEY (right), USN, son of Mrs. Larry D. Whitely of Hartford, Kentucky. Both received the Purple Heart Award during an Awards Ceremony at Camp Adenir on 17 March 1968. Both received the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during the Viet Cong mortar attack on Camp Adenir on January 30, 1968.

Corpmen Allen was enroute to his duty station at the CP from the area of the MARS Station when he was hit by shrapnel from an exploding mortar round. The significant fact was that HN Allen's concern for his duty came first and his own personal safety second.

CN Whitely was wounded as he was heading for a mortar pit in the berthing area.

THE MCB FIFTY-THREE ESPRIT

The MCB FIFTY-THREE ESPRIT is a service publication of MCB-53 and is published monthly using appropriated funds in compliance with NAVEXOS P-35. The ESPRIT is printed by the Hoshi Printing Company, Naha, Okinawa.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper by the writers herein are their own and are not to be considered on official expression of the Defense Department, the Navy Department, or of the Commanding Officer unless otherwise indicated. The ESPRIT uses AFPS material.

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Two Seabees Honored for February

Two of MCB-53's Seabees shared the honors of "Seabee of the Month" for February. It was the first time since the battalion's recommissioning that two Bees were selected for the same month.

As Co-Seabees of the Month, EON3 Robert J. BOLL, Jr. of "A" Company and CEW3 Charles P. HUDDLESTON of "H" Company were each presented with a \$25.00 savings bond, an incised battalion plaque, and a letter of commendation from the Commanding Officer to be added to their service records. For an additional award each man will receive top priority on his choice of R&R and he will also become eligible for MCB-53's "Seabee of the Year" honors.

Petty Officer Boll, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Boll, Sr. of East Greenbush, N.Y. was cited for his "sustained superior performance" over an eight month period which included both homeport and overseas deployment duties. Seabee Boll has provided technical knowledge and skill for each of his jobs involving construction equipment. Of special note was his competency and professionalism as a crane operator and pile driver during MCB-53's Ammi Pontoon Bridge construction. His constant attention to duty and cheerful attitude toward his work inspired his fellow Seabees to great efforts.

Equipment operator Boll is

married to the former Miss Linda A. Higgins of Hudson, N.Y.

February's other Co-Seabee of the Month, CEW3 Huddleston, USN, son of Mrs. Anna L.



Jones of Hermitage, Tennessee and the late Mr. Fleming J. Huddleston, was chosen for his excellent and expeditious systematizing of the battalion's MLO records. He showed an excellent knowledge of electrical materials and requirements, an ability which eliminated many ordering and handling mistakes in the MLO operation.

A specific contribution to the battalion in February by PO3 Huddleston was his utilization of his own time to procure much needed construction materials.

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Relied upon by most Vietnamese farmers to help irrigate their fields, water buffalo like this one are a valuable animal to the household of the Vietnamese.

NEW "H" COMPANY COMMANDER

Lieutenant Joseph B. GREEN, Jr. USN, son of Mr. Joseph B. Green, Sr. of Darien, Connecticut reported aboard U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE in March, 1968, and assumed the responsibilities of "H" Company Company Commander.

Lieutenant Green graduated from Darien High School in 1960 and subsequently entered the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. In 1964, he graduated from the Academy with a



Bachelor of Science degree and was then commissioned an Ensign in the Civil Engineer Corps.

His first duty assignment, graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, earned him a Master of Science degree in nuclear engineering. Lt. Green was then assigned to the Naval Nuclear Power Unit, Fort Belvoir, Virginia as Assistant Plans and Operations Officer in support of the Nuclear Power Plant, McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Lt. Green is married to the former Miss Deborah Wold of Darien, Connecticut, and they have one child, Kimberley.

cleaning out the garbage department . . . Congratulations go to Delta Company personnel for really throwing a great beach bash at China Beach on the 17th of March 1968 . . . BUI Bob HAMM finally got his .45 Cal. Pistol. Anything to make the troops feel better . . . Congratulations must go to Mr. MACCAFERRI for making LTJG. We hope he doesn't make it too hard on the boys . . . Dana LITTLEFIELD found out that the surf here isn't too good, but if he reenlists maybe he can get shore duty in Hawaii where he can live it up . . . BUHCN Mike MATOTT finally has learned to play the guitar (HA, HA) . . . In the mean time the Butterfly squad is still flying around. Maybe in a few months they can get their Navy Wings . . . Let's not forget BUI Sid FAJARDO who is in love with security . . . Delta Company is still waiting for their private shower . . . I'm still complaining about the time cards, since they are never all turned in!



LCDR R.H. SHACKELFORD, MCB-53's Operations Officer, puts what appears to be a "death grip" on the duck that had just previously been passed to MCB-53's Commanding Officer Commander **R.A. BOWERS** by Commander **L.D. LAWSON**, Commanding Officer of MCB-7. The duck became quite excited during the "Passing of the Duck" Ceremony at Camp Adenir, and made somewhat of a mess of things!

DELTA'S DEVILS

By YNSN Bob Stein
Well, BUH3 (WOP) BRUNO is still counting the days before he can shipover, while Ed CALAHAN wishes he'd stayed in the Marine Corps . . . BUI OLIVER is still complaining about the dirt in "A" Company's shower. Some day you can build your own shower if you don't like "A" Companies . . . SWF2 DAVIS is still trying to get a ride out to the Ammi Pontoon Bridge . . . Bill TOMPKINS does admit that he prefers building to

REMINGTON RAIDERS

By Hutch

With everyone settled in their huts and things up to par, the men of H-Company have again proven the famous old saying of "Fleet Bees Can Do Better." If anyone has any doubts on how "old" or how "famous" this saying is, ask YN2 MCNAMARA in the Admin Department to show you his official document of the subject.

First of all, congratulations are due to the "H"-Co. basketball team for its outstanding performance in winning the intramural league championship. Captained by YN3 Steve SMITH, the team had a variety of outstanding players and had little trouble in defeating its opponents. Let's hope the volleyball and softball teams carry on "H"-Co. Superior Athletic Capabilities!!

YN2 Curt CLAUSS got the word the other day when someone told the new Company Commander that Clauss will be leaving us in May and that it was definitely going to hinder the efficiency of the Admin Department. Lt. Green, our new Company Commander, asked how this was possible for he hadn't seen Clauss do anything since he's been here. As you can see, Curt is working on those "brownie points" right up to the end!

SN Jim COATES was placed on the security force last month and there is no doubt that he will do a terrific job. According to the members of the mortar crew, if SN Coates can't shoot the opposition, then he'll start a conversation with them until someone else does!

JO2 Richard BURNS is back from his extra R&R in Okinawa. Burns ran into a little financial trouble due to a misfortunate accident or an expensive hobby and he was lucky to get back with his pants still on. Although he had a belt to assist him in that!

There is a rumor going around that SKSN "Ensign" BUEHIER is "seriously considering" going to the Naval Academy in July if the opportunity prevails. When asked if he has thoroughly considered the different aspects, "Ensign" Buehier merely shrugged his shoulders and replied: "The different aspect are not important, it's the "Bennies" that really count!"

There has been a special on beach sand at Camp Adenir for shipment back to the states. All personnel are asked to shake out their sheets, empty their boots. You can set up a beach in your own backyard!!! No, don't thank anyone, it is all part of the Program!!



Delta Company "Devils" are temporarily distracted from their concrete pouring for the new Marine barracks at the III MAF as a CH-46 helo hovers above them.

CHAPLAIN CHATS



CHAPLAIN FIOI

You're fed up. Just can't take it any more. Everything is beginning to bug you — everyone is jumping on your back all the time — wish they'd leave you alone.

You're discouraged — the job is getting old — the people here could care less what you're trying to do for their country — you've been stuck on some mickey-mouse cleanup detail for a month — don't get along with the crew leader — he doesn't know as much about the job as you know.

You're lonely — 10,000 miles is a long way — it's been two weeks since your girl, or your wife, wrote you — don't they realize how much you need their letters — you'd rather be back home and out of this crazy war — besides, they need you back home.

Quite often we tend to think that the problems we have: the loneliness, discouragement, and despair are uniquely our problems — we're alone in these difficulties. However, just for the record, there was a fellow a while back who had a pretty rough row-to-hoe.

This fellow met some guys that sort of got along with him. He had a lot to say — was sort of a rebel — didn't go along with the crowd. So, they formed up into a band of men, and had a real in-group for about three years. He was quite a character — got a lot of publicity, always was in the lime-

light — most of the people were crazy about him . . . kinda' nice to mix with a hero.

Then all of a sudden a tremendous change took place. Man, the same people that thought he was the greatest wanted to lynch the guy. What happened? . . . just when he needed help . . . just when he thought he could count on his "group" — they all beat it — said they didn't even know the fellow — talk about loneliness, discouragement, wanting to "give-up". That's more than a guy can take — really alone in the world, in life.

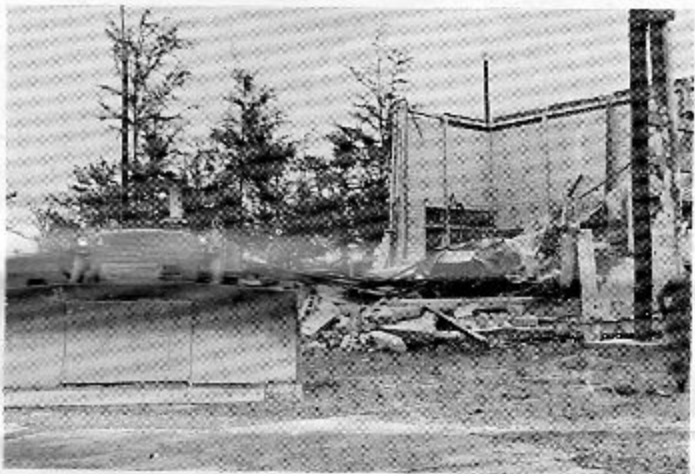
That's what Easter is all



about. This "fellow" wasn't just an ordinary rebel, with a justifiable cause. The Bible says he was the God-Man, sent to rebel against the hypocrisy and evil of His day to show the way of love and truth and life in God. From His "one solitary life," a world was changed and millions found meaning and hope. It's the same for us here in Vietnam, 1968. Christ, the God-Man gives reality to life, replaces the loneness, despair, "wanting-to-give-up" attitude with meaning because 2000 years ago He went through "Hell". He let his "admirers" kill Him, and then He defeated death — that's right, actually came back to life. So, when you get right down to it, He's capable of meeting every need of everyone who is concerned enough, and fed-up enough with things as they are, to seek Him out.



Now you see it, and now you don't! Seabees from MCB-53 switched from their normal construction status recently to do the wrecking of an old storage building at the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters at DaNang East, Vietnam. The old French structure was destroyed to make room for three new two-story enlisted men's barracks.



"Switch's" "Slugs"

The 1st Platoon and Headquarters of "B" Company, 1st MP Battalion, are berthed in the southern end of Camp Adenir, between Bunker No. 6 and the mortar positions manned by the Seabees of MCB-53. The Marines in the company, known as "Bravo Switch", have seen a succession of MCB's occupy Adenir and have always enjoyed a congenial and interdependent relationship with the "Can Do" men of the Navy; thereby carrying on a long tradition of cooperation between the two services. Since the early days of WW II, the Marine-Seabee team has been an unbeatable one.

MCB-53's CP Bunker acts

as the "nerve center" for the defense of East DaNang, as its men coordinate patrols, reaction forces and the tactical defense of all installations northnorth of Marble Mountain up to and including the densely overgrown slopes and ravines of Monkey Mountain.

Bravo's 4th Platoon, led by Lt. Ronald OYER and located at the base of Monkey Mt, runs the longest and the roughest and the roughest patrols in the 1st MP TAOR; often having to stay on the mountain for extended periods of time to accomplish their mission. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons, presently headed by Lt. George OLSEN, provide security for

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ALPHA'S EYES

By Nelon

Well, MCB-53 has been "in-country" for two months now, and things are really beginning to take shape. The men in Alpha Company have been really bustin' —, running equipment at the various job sites, supplying material to work with, and trying to get as much cement run through their hardy transitmixers as possible.

It seems as though some people are getting a little disturbed about the delivery service that the trans-mix drivers have been giving. As far as anyone in Alpha Company is concerned, we've got our hats off to the T.M. drivers. Considering the equipment they have, they're doing an outstanding job.

I hear that EO1 JONES, the company dispatcher tried to call his wife the other night, but the call didn't get through. It seems that no one at the Jones residence ever heard of Scrapper Alpha 36-24-36!

Let it not be said that the men in Alpha Company are not versatile. By looking around the company berthing area it can be noted that not only do we have EO's, and CM's but there is also a scattered array of builders, gardeners, electricians and comshaw artists. Hut A1 has just installed a concrete walkway from the hut to the shower so they won't get their little feet dirty after taking a shower. The patio which has just been constructed outside Hut A8, much to the dismay of Ensign WERNER who has been wondering where all the material has been coming from, is serving its purpose well and provides a cool place to relax after a hot day.

Babalon may have their Hanging Gardens, but they're nothing to compare with the botanical wonderland of Huts A9, All, and DT1. We also have an expectant father among our ranks. EON2 FRISBEE has

been patiently awaiting the arrival of his fourteen new ducklings. I heard he even relieved mama duck the other night and sat on the eggs while she went to the club to have a bear.

Did you know that we have some stunt drivers in the company? At least they try to pull some good stunts. However, a 5-ton dump truck just can't be driven off a loading ramp and be expected to land on all ten wheels and keep on going. It



EON3 R. L. FOLK (second from left) fields a question from LCDR R. H. SHACKELFORD (right), MCB-53 Operations Officer, as Cdr. R. A. BOWERS and EON3 G. F. BALLARD (left) listen in. Folk is a member of a crew that is drilling a well for the U.S. Army's 37th Signal Battalion, commanded by LtCol W. C. DAVIS. This unit has the responsibility of maintaining part of the vast communication network in the I Corps area.

does however, keep the mechanics going,— into raging fits!

In case anyone is wondering what the significance of the little yellow flowers on some of the equipment is, all you have to do is stop by the tire shop and ask MALO the meaning of "Flower Power". If you're not careful when you go in to change a tire, you might leave with a cuts little poppy paint-

It's One of the Supermen from Company "C"

SWE3 Ronnie W. BICKFORD recently won an Honor Certificate Award from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for his letter on "Freedom-My Heritage, My Responsibility." His entry was judged one of the best of more than 10,000 entries received in the annual contest sponsored by the American Freedom Center.

Petty officer Bickford, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bickford of LaGrange, Georgia, entered the Navy in December, 1965. He is presently a member of MCB-53's "Charlie" Company and keeps the Company's clerical work up to date.

ed somewhere on your vehicle.

Ever notice that truck that drives around with the wheels wobbling, and the engine sounding like an M-16. It belongs to the CM's field crew. They must be so busy fixing other equipment that they don't have any time to fix their own. Seriously though, Alpha Company's CM's are really doing a fine job. Both the day and night crews are working their greasy fingers to the bone to keep the equipment up as much as possible. Which can sometimes be quite a problem, especially as far as the T.M.'s are concerned. Whenever a T.M. pulls into the yard the CMs go after it like a pit crew at the Indy 500. Who knows, maybe someday they'll set a worlds record for changing a pony engine.

I know you must be wondering what happened to McGurk. Well, the last time I saw him was a week after we arrived here. He decided he'd go out on a patrol with some of the guys in Bravo Switch and nobody has seen him since. But don't worry, you can't get rid of an old dog like that. Sleep tight, for somewhere out in the rice paddy behind the camp old McGurk is watching!



THE SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICER GOES AROUND LOOKING "GUNG HO"



THE COMPANY COMMANDER AFTER 20 DAYS IN THE FIELD, COMES BACK LOOKING LIKE A MILLION

IS THIS TRUE, LET'S ASK MR. SMITH

More Sponsors Needed

As many of you know the Battalion is sponsoring a number of children from the local area in school. By the contributions you make these children are able to have an education.

Currently your generosity is paying the tuition for 88 children from Son Cha village. However, we would like to increase this number to at least 100. If any of you have not contributed and would like to, stop by the Chaplain's office and add your name to those already helping.

CHARLIE'S PEANUTS

By RYAN THORVIC

**LISTEN ALL OFFICERS, SNIPES AND KIN
TO THE FABULOUS EXPLOITS OF MADDEN'S MEN
BEOWOLF, CAESAR, NONE CAN COMPETE
(IAMBIC PENTAMETER'S EASY TO BEAT)**

Hello again, this is your unprejudiced observer, Ryan Thorvic, with another in a series of monthly reports on the progress of MCB-53's Charlie Company. As I sit here in my



Members of "Charlie" Company shown in the process of constructing a Quonset hut which will be used for storage purposes at the NSA Hospital in DaNang East.

camouflaged bunker, high atop Mount Olympus, once more I focus my all-prevading eyes on the Bees of Fifty-Three.

Delta, Bravo, Alpha, and Headquarters are easily discernable as they are all gathered around coolers for a coffee break. There seems to be a great deal of activity around MAG-16 though, which could only be Charlie Company.!!!!!!Then who is that at the hospital, China Beach, MAG-11, Golf Five, Tien Sha, RMK-BRJ, Alpha Shops, Bravo Shops, and the 3rd MAF. Why, they are all "C" Company men!!

At MAG-11 First class builder KELLY and Second class builder BROAD WAY, both of whom are career petty officers, have been directing their crews in the rush construction of several helicopter pads. Their work was completed ages before schedule, just how long is not known, as the helicopter which called asking for emergency landing clearance didn't state how long it would take for his machine to fall from three miles up!!

Late in February, China Beach was asking about the possibility of "C" Company erecting a steel tank of 500 bbl capacity for their fire-fighting system. Just a little later in February the tank was erected and hoisted on top of the fifty-foot tower. Charlie Company does n't deserve full credit for the job though. Alpha Company did bring an entire platoon of men out to supervise the hoisting of the tank onto the tower.

Second class builders MATTLIN and OUSLEY recently put Delta Company's Ammi Pontoon Time Schedule to shame by completing in three days a fifty-foot floating bridge while under the close scrutiny of a great number of suspected VC working in a local rice paddy.

After the umpteenth go ahead from operations, First class builder CARAWAY and his band of merry men got together with RUNBERG's Ready Mix Service and very, very early one morning began pouring concrete for the first of a number of slabs at the Block Plant Cement Storage Building. Operations claimed the repetition in surveying the jobsite was caused by a massive silent earthquake that affected only that particular area.

BRAVO'S BEAVERS

By R.B. Whitehead, CES2

The main body of Bravo Company has now been in RVN for two months. Looking around we see many improvements in the men, their huts, and most of all in their mortar pits. The mortar attack on the camp during the first week of TET, and the ensuing attacks on MAG-16, were enough to wake everybody up to the fact that we are not playing games here. Fortunately, Bravo Company was able to keep it's injuries to a minimum as can be testified to by UTP3 F.P. PAPPAS who received an outstanding black-eye when he tried to move the corner of his hut while scrambling into his mortar pit!!

Finally, after a month's restriction to camp and to the different Project sites where crews worked days and nights, Sunday liberty once again was sounded at Camp Adenir. The majority of Bravo Company personnel, excluding the duty squad, hit the beach that Sunday afternoon. The men visited China Beach, Monkey Mountain, MCB-128 and other points of interest in the immediate area. All personnel were back in camp by 1800 concluding a very active, but enjoyable, afternoon.

Also having their own problems were the personnel of Bravo Company on detachment to Hoi An. Working under continuous attack and harassment by the Viet Cong (at one time it was thought that they might go into hand-to-hand combat), the men of Bravo Company and the four men of Alpha and Delta Companies, fought side by side with the Korean Marines and the South Vietnamese Army. Working by day and standing watches through out the night, they went onto complete their assigned tasks.

We of Bravo Company would like to express our deep appreciation to the men of Special Services for their outstanding program of 3 March in commemoration of the Seabee's Twenty-sixth Birthday. From Bravo Company - "Well Done"!

Congratulations are in order for the following rate-grabbers of March: G.T. WELLES to CET2; G.T. BURCH to CET3; W. C. NEWLAND to CET3; and W.L. THOMPSON to BUL3. Future success in your new rates.

In signing off for this month, this writer would like to dwell with you a moment on a very grave situation. On 12 March, Bravo Company had its first lost time accident in RVN when a young Seabee cut the tips off two of his fingers. It could have been worse, yet it need not have happened at all. Protect yourself by building a "safety bunker" around you and your shipmates. Let's all go home together!

PICTURE IT

Here you are on R & R in some isolated paradise surrounded by beautiful women. The only sounds being the chirping of the birds and the breaking of the waves. Then all of a sudden it strikes you! What a fool! What an idiot! You forgot your "right guard"! Make sure that you don't make the big mistake!

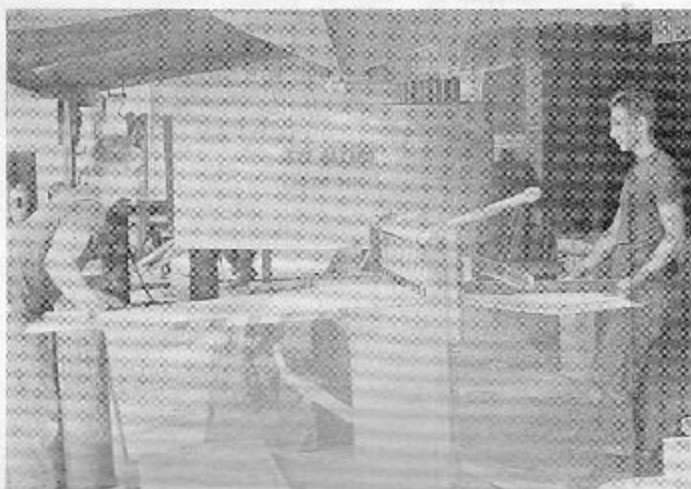
(Cont. on Page 11)

BRAVO

SH



SWE2 Gerald GROON, "D" Co., from Akron, Iowa, cutting angle iron with cutting torch.



CN Ray BALLARD (left), "D" Co., of Manteca, California and SWE3 Roger WHITE (right), "D" Co., of Ogden, Utah cutting on shears.



BUL3 R.A. PETERS, "D" CO., of Haverhill, Massachusetts laying out shelving for Utilities Shop.



UT3 W.C. SPARKMAN, "B" CO., of North Kingstown, R.I. switches from his normal rate to make some adjustments on his truck.

COMPANY

OPS



EAD2 Thomas J. BOURKE, "B" Co., from Hermine, Pennsylvania, catches up on B Company's clerical work.



CN Ray Ballard (left) and SWFCN Terry SHAFFER (right), "D" Co., of Cleveland, Ohio cutting material on shears.



SWE3 Roger WHITE putting duct together.



SWF3 R.D. QUINN, "C" Co., from Mount Starling, Illinois, bending sheet metal.

"H" CO INTRAMURAL CHAMPS

Champs Go Untouched

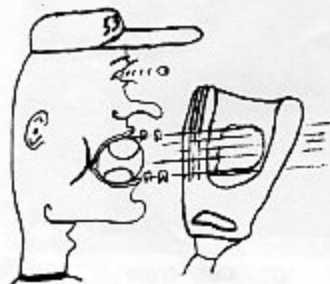
MCB' 53's 1968 Intramural Basketball League has ended with "H"-Co's Untouchables going undefeated in season play to win the championship. A good deal of talent, backed up by a strong bench, lifted the "Untouchables" over their opponents without much difficulty. Team captain YN3 Steve SMITH had the Championship Trophy presented to him by Commander R.A. BOWERS and the trophy will be put on display in the "H"-Co. Commander's Office.

The eight players who saw the most action were also presented individual trophies. These were: YN3 Steve Smith, SKSN Noel CRAWFORD, EADCN A1 KAUFMAN, DT3 Gregory WILLIAMS, CS3 Alexander COPE, SWF2 Tony DELGADO, SK3 Chuck FIORELLO, and SKSN Don SAUER.

Volleyball And Softball Next

The softball and volleyball seasons are underway with teams submitted for the respective sports from each company.

Two five inning softball games are scheduled for each Sunday afternoon. The volleyball games are being played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. The games will be on a best of 3 basis with the winning score of each being 15 points.



FINAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

1. THE UNTOUCHABLES	7	0
*2. THE DRAGONS	6	2
*3. THE HONCHOS	5	3
4. CHARLIE BROWN FIVE	4	3
x5. BRAVO SWITCH	3	4
x6. THE ROAD RUNNERS	3	4
7. MADDEN'S MARAUDERS	1	6
8. THE FILTY FIVE	0	7

* Had play-off for second place.

x Tied for fifth place.



Dragons Squeak By Honchos In Playoff For Second

In a playoff game for second place in MCB-53's Intramural Basketball League, the Dragons from "D" Company edged out the Honchos from "Officer" Country in a 33 to 32 thriller. The taller Dragons had their hands full with the improved Honchos and were never sure of victory until the final whistle blew marking the end of the game.

D-Co.'s J.H. SCHMIDT led all scorers with 21 points and also did a fine job off the boards.

The Honchos high man was LT. Bruce RUNBERG with 16 points.

Chiefs Stomp Security

"The Old Men" from "CPO" Country whipped "The Trained Killers" from Sierra Company 10 to 1 in the opening softball game of the season.

Our "roving reporter" was a little late in "roving" so adequate coverage on this opening game was not supplied. However, from other "fairly reliable" sources, it was said that numerous errors on the part of the Security Team was the cause for their downfall.

The Chiefs were led by the pitching and hitting of HMC G.Q. JONES.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Babe Ruth hit more runs than any other ball player in baseball. Who is second and how many did he hit?
2. The term "Texas Leaguer" is associated with which of the following sports? football; horse shoes; baseball; golf; tiddle-winks;
3. In boxing divisions which is heavier, bantamweight or featherweight?
4. Can you name the player who holds the National Football record for most points in championship games?
5. A current general manager in the American Baseball League succeeded Babe Ruth in right field for the New York Yankees. Can you name him?

ANSWERS

1. Mel Ott of the New York Giants in 22 seasons (1926-1947) hit 511 homers. Ruth in 11 years (1914-1935) hit 714.
2. Baseball.
3. Featherweight. Bantamweight is not more than 118 pounds and featherweight is not more than 126 pounds.
4. The player is Lou Groza of Cleveland. Groza has a lifetime total of 55 points in title games.
5. The successor to Ruth in the Yankees right field spot was George Selkirk. Selkirk is now general manager of the Washington Senators.

EDITORIAL

FREEDOM'S VALUE

By F. F. Hutchins, SN

The main topic of conversation throughout the world today appears to be centered around the controversial issues of the war in Vietnam. In many arguments the "value" of this little country is stressed. Does freedom have value? If so, then the word "priceless" would be putting it mildly.

Whether America's interests are sincere or whether this is just an attempt to gain a stronger foothold in Southeast Asia is questioned not only by the populace of other nations, but also by many of the citizens of the United States itself. This question is difficult to answer for the minds of men vary with each and every individual. In a government in which the people are governed by their own representatives an assortment of answers could probably be produced, with some having little significance in respect to the previously stated question. However, Americans are doing an outstanding job in Vietnam and the Vietnamese people are, more and more beginning to realize it.

The threat of an American withdrawal has definitely stalled the flow of Vietnamese villagers to the government of South Vietnam. For without American assistance, South Vietnam would surely fall into the hands of the North.

"But why should we throw so many American men, man-hours, and money into a little country that would never have been able to help us if the situation had been reversed?" many have said. If the situation were reversed, it would probably be greatly appreciated if assistance was rendered.

There are also many different opinions on how the United States should run this war, and some have a great deal of sense to them. But there is also a lot that is not known by these different individuals who stress their opinions so freely, that is known by those directly involved with the war. With this under consideration, who is best qualified to judge the support of the United States to its ally, South Vietnam?



Members of Delta Company steady pile-driving leads as they work at the site of the new Combat Operations Center at the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force camp.

who can't tell a mortar round from a sandbag; he couldn't construct a hole in the ground; and can't tell a V.C. from Bob Hope, but he's **our man** all right. He's a short timer who doesn't sweat the program. With less than a month left in-country, he thinks a second-class is lower than a CN and endeavors to prove it at each opportunity which arises. He thinks that MCB-53 is the lettering on the basketball uniforms. He thinks a Rear Admiral is a man who walks behind us run-of-the-mill sailors. He thinks a Frigate is something a sailor does on R&R with a broad. He thinks that Sick Bay is a polluted harbor. He thinks a submarine is a Grunt in boot camp before he gets his corporal stripes. He thinks the deck is what sailors play cards with and the bulkhead is a sailor with a hang-over. He thinks the poop-deck is the floor that the head is on; and he Skipper is a guy who doesn't show up at all the meetings. He thinks a safe is something you keep money in; and a shower is a light rain. He thinks a Poncho is a Mexican cowboy; and an 'oar s an Irish prostitute. He's a true Seabee!!



Introducing LT Ed HUBEL, 30th Naval Construction Regiment's Liaison Officer to DaNang East Battalions, shown with the mascot of MCB-128. Lt. Hubel is a familiar figure around Camp Adenir and all MCB-53 jobsites. His job involves co-ordinating all construction projects between the 30th NCR and MCB-53. He provides direction when necessary, and in general keeps things running smoothly between 53 and our bosses at the 30th. He also advises the regiment of any problems we may encounter, so they can make adjustments if necessary.

The presence of a man of Lt. Hubel's caliber should be constant reminder to all of us how important close ties between MCB-53 and the 30th NCR are. They're trying to co-operate with us, as shown by Lt. Hubel's work, so now let's do our best to co-operate with them and not take a "Blame it on he Regiment" approach.

My Striker Thinks

How come my striker is so fouled up?

I have a man working for me

CHARLIE'S....

(Cont. from Page 7)

Charlie Company was saddened earlier this month by the loss of LTJG FUCILE to the post of MLO. Many of the men who are to be with "C" Company during the second deployment grumbled, seeing their hardspent time "squaring" Mr. Fucile away disappear in vain. But for every loss there is a gain - petty officer third class BICKFORD took over his old position as Assistant Company Commander.

Many more are the deeds of Charlie Peanuts, but, in fairness to the other companies, I'll leave room for their articles. PARNELL and the other company clerks got together not long ago and wrote a simply brilliant original article on their company's efforts. It starts like his - SEE SALLY RUN, LOOK AT THE DOG. . .

SEABEES WORK...

(Cont. from Page 1)

After the initial attack failed, VC activity in the area remained high. So the Seabees of 53 were forced to work a full ten hours day and then man defensive positions at night.

Five of the Seabees; UT1 Williams, UT2 Likens, UT3 Kendall, along with Utilitiesman third class Anthony M. FEOLA from Brooklyn, New York and Construction mechanic third class Robert B. KYLE from Bartlett, Illinois, volunteered for the camp's "reaction squad", whose mission was to engage the enemy at any point of penetration. The remaining men in the detachment were assigned duties in towers and bunkers; manning machine guns and command detonated claymore mines.

During the following week, the Seabee 53 detachment kept up their normal workday routine, sometimes under sniper fire and once, only minutes after an early morning mortar attack. Though under this harassment constantly, their job progressed steadily toward completion.

The 17-man detachment, now safely returned to Camp Adenir, had been under sporadic attack for thirteen day with no let up. UT1 Williams and his Seabees improved the hospital's sanitation in spite of the enemy action and have earned the respect of all the allied personnel in the area with their building and fighting abilities. As Petty Officer Williams himself said: "The Seabees have once again shown that they can work all day, stand watches all night, and still fight when necessary. We're all proud to be Seabees."

Their pride and accomplishments were honored at a Battalion ceremony on 17 March at Camp Adenir. Letters of Commendation from the Medical Officer in Charge, Hoi An, were presented to each member of the detachment by Cdr Bowers. The letters stated in part: "It gives me great pleasure to express my appreciation for the fine performance exhibited by the Seabees of MCB-53. The many arduous hours and difficult days spent at the Quang Nam Provincial Hospital demonstrated again the "Can Do" spirit identified so closely with the Seabees.

From the standing of night security watches, to delays caused by Viet Cong ground and mortar attacks, the crew under the excellent leadership of Petty Officer Williams was able to adapt to each situation with a high degree of professional performance.

Their military conduct during their stay here was always commensurate with the highest tradition of the naval service."

The other members of the Hoi An crew were: UTW3 K.A. O'KEEFE (Rosedale, New York); UTWCN W.J. DRZYMALA (Garfield, New Jersey); UTWCN J.N. DOUGLAS (Memphis, Tennessee); UTBCN L. CIOFFI (Wantagh, New York); CET2 M.E. SWAIM (Yadkinville, North Carolina); CEW3 F.J. CARLSON (Bronx, New York); CEP3 L.J. FORSYTHE (Meadville, Pennsylvania); CEW3 J.E. LITTLE (Thomasville, Georgia); EONCN C.M. REYNOLDS (Beford, Virginia); UTW3 F. GREB (Jamesville, Wisconsin); CN J.A. McSHEE (Kearney, New Jersey); and CN E.L. BRANNELLY (Waltham, Massachusetts).

AMMI BRIDGE...

(Cont. from Page 1)

held in position above the river. The pilings are driven through the spudwells to anchor the pontoon firmly in place. The pontoon elevation is then adjusted to the height above the water that is needed and secured, either by welding or by tying off with chain. The deck beams are then added, and that section of the bridge is complete. An alternate construction sequence entails floating the pontoon into position, driving piles through spudwells, and raising pontoons to desired elevations. This sequence is used where current conditions permit.

In this manner, the bridge may be "walked" across an entire river in a minimum amount of time. In addition to its time saving aspects, the bridge is also capable of holding sixty ton loads and would be extremely hard for enemy forces to destroy due to its unique construction.

The original concepts for this bridge system were conceived and developed by Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington, D.C. A prototype was tested at CBC Davisville, R. I. by NMCB-53 during the summer of 1967. Because of NMCB-53's prior experience with the prototype, the pro-



Seabees from 53 weld the retaining rings on support piles during the construction of a new Ammi Pontoon Bridge near DaNang. The retaining rings are used to suspend the pontoons above the water.

ject in RVN was assigned to NMCB-53 by the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade. The project officer, Ltjg Charles W. Horton, CEC, USNR, made many suggestions after working with the prototype that were incorporated into the model now being built in Vietnam.

The construction of this "newest" model bridge in Vietnam again shows the Seabee's development and use of the latest engineering techniques and designs in support of American fighting forces.



The construction Seabees of 53 center a pile in an Ammi Pontoon "spudwell" during the bridge's erection.

GRAN PAPPY BEE

Dear Granpappy,

I are a CN in Alpha Company and am very angry. They just took my jeep away from me! And they said was because the Captain needed it! What does he need one for, anyhow?

Why, things are so bad now in Alpha Company that you have to be an E-4 before you can get your own vehicle! What can be done about this???

Angry

Dear Angry,

Don't worry, I've talked to LT IVIE and he assures me that you'll get another vehicle—they're going to pull in all the ambulances in the battalion.

Granpappy

Dear Granpappy,

Each night I attempt to watch a movie here at Camp
(Cont. on Page 16)



Seabees, here we have a demonstration on the use of the mighty sledgehammer as the rippling biceps of BUR3 David M. BARLOW from Allison Park, Pennsylvania prepare to unleash the hammer's power on — would you believe, a SANDBAG!?!

"SWITCH'S,, SLUGS

(Cont. from Page 5)

the NSA Hospital and run night patrols into the villages and farmlands west and south of the hospital.

Following the introduction to the "Bravo Switch" Marines is a firsthand account of their actions during the attempted enemy infiltration of DaNang East:

The morning was almost over when the Marines of "Bravo Switch" came marching back into Camp Adenir. That a march patrol should be returning at this time was not in itself unusual, but the events of the last two days had set the stage for one of the most successful company-size operations accomplished in the DaNang areas in many months.

It all began about 0300 on the morning of 30 January when every one in the area were awakened by incoming 122mm rockets which slammed repeatedly into the Marble Mt. Air Facility and its surrounding camps. Captain B. J. MURPHY the Company Commander, was in the CP before the echoes of the first explosions had ceased reverberating. The XO, Lt. Ivar G. NELSON, was hot on his heels, attired only in a pair of scivy shorts.

As Captain Murphy sifted through the radio reports it became obvious to him that an enemy force of formidable size was building up on the east side of the DaNang River. Coordinating "Huey" gunships and River Patrol Boats, he rapidly neutralized a large portion of the VC/NVA force before it ever made it across the river in sampans. Thus the enemy version of the amphibious assault, traditionally a Marine speciality, met stiff opposition from its start. Some VC/NVA, however, did make it across the river.

To the southwest of Camp Adenir, in the village of Da Me, patrols from the 2nd and 3rd Platoons were soon engaged in sharp firefights with the enemy and reinforcements from the 1st Platoon and Combined Action Platoon No. 5 were sent. As soon as the left their ridge-line positions and started south, the relief force was greeted by small arms fire from an assortment of weapons including M-1 carbines, captured M14-rifles and AK-47 Chicom assault rifles. However, the Marines finally maneuvered their way to join the 2nd and 3rd Platoons in the rice paddies. Later, Sgt. Carl E. WESTERMAN was to sum up this bit of action by saying: "We were pinned down by automatic weapons fire, but I wasn't too shook up until I looked behind me and saw those ducks getting hit. Ducks just aren't that tall!"

During this point in the fight, Lt. Nelson arrived in My Thi village with a reaction force from 5th Comm and set in a blocking force along the north side of a cement dike. In the pre-dawn chill they sat until the first light brought its warming rays and an added bonus — sniper fire from across the river. The men's vault to the south side of the dike was accomplished almost in unison!

While Lt. Nelson's force returned the enemy's fire, (ultimately sending 4 VC to join their illustrious ancestors) Captain Murphy and Lt. Olsen, along with 1st Sgt. Vernon PONIKVER and Gy Sgt. Ralph HYATT, marshalled a sweeping team about one mile south of Lt. Nelson's Marines. They swept northward, catching the enemy in a vise and denying them any chance of escape. It was during this sweep the 1st Sgt dropped a VC in the act of throwing a grenade. As the enemy fell he managed to pull the pin and hide the grenade under his body. But the Marines were not to be fooled by this old trick. They fastened rifle slings to the body, took cover, and pulled. The explosion that followed did not come as a surprise to anybody!

By the time the sweeping force joined the blocking force it had accounted for approximately two enemy platoons killed captured. And almost unbelievably, not one Marine suffered so much as a scratch due to enemy action. A leech or two was found here or there, but was easily dislodged.

As "Battlin' Bravo" reentered Camp Adenir with their prisoners, captured weapons and equipment, the Marines joked and laughed in their good fortune. Someday, "Charlie" may try again. But if he does, Bravo Company, 1st MP Battalion, will be ready and waiting.

LANGUAGE AND KARATE CLASSES

Vietnamese language classes are being held in the Chapel twice a week by MCB-53's interpreter Pham Quang An. The hour-long classes are held at 1830 on Tuesdays and Fridays. The instruction includes both the language and the customs of the Vietnamese people.

Classes on karate, and not judo as previously reported, are still in the planning stages and once the PAO receives any further information, we will inform you of where and when.

In A Hurry To Get Old

By F.F. Hutchins, SN

Didn't it always seem important to you when you were younger whether or not you could hang around with the "older" boys in your area? For instance, when you were in kindergarten school didn't you always wish that you were going on the "other" bus with all the "older" kids in grammar school. Then your big day comes and you're a first grader patiently waiting to be with the "older" kids in the second grade. This goes on until you are about to graduate from the sixth and join the "teenagers" at the junior high school. Again you are at the bottom of the pole in a new and different atmosphere, climbing up it until you reach the end and your next big step into adulthood.

High school brings you into contact with new surroundings and again you start your way up. Each grade would bring something to look forward to in the next one. Then graduation day comes and you look back at the thirteen years of misery. And as you look back, you begin to wish that you could go back and live those thirteen "miserable" years all over again!!

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. As I turn over command of the THIRTIETH Naval Construction Regiment, I would like to express my appreciation for the outstanding performance of the officers and men of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIFTY-THREE on a highly successful first deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.
2. Your many construction accomplishments thus far at DaNang and Hoi An for III Marine Amphibious Force, Naval Support Activity, 1st Army Logistic Command and Special Forces in providing combat construction support to Free World forces are a significant contribution to the counter insurgency effort. Your work on the construction of hospital, cantonment and AMMI bridge facilities, in the production of rock, concrete and concrete block, and in the civic action program have improved the combat base and continues to strengthen the close bond of friendship existing between the Vietnamese and American people, and the ARVN engineers and SEABEES. You have done much to advance the cause of Freedom in Southeast Asia.
3. The professional competence, strong SEABEE spirit and quick response displayed by FIFTY-THREE since arrival at DaNang on 19 January 1968 are in keeping with "Can Do" traditions of the past and add materially to a new building and fighting reputation for the SEABEES. "WELL DONE." My best wishes and good luck for the future.

C.W. TURNER
COMMANDER, 30th NCR

XO

(Cont. from Page 2)

as a civilian and it certainly deserves some consideration. Ask some of the old-timers and they'll tell you'll be 38 or 39 before you've had much time to think about it. The skills you're developing and the work you're doing as a Seabee parallel civilian occupations probably more than in any other military service. Don't take lightly what this means as far as opportunity for a second career after a 20 year Naval career.

What do you know about the STAR Program? What do you know about schools you're eligible to attend? What do you know about opportunities for getting a high school diploma if you haven't graduated from high school? What do you really know about the obstacle which not having a high school diploma represents in the civilian world? Are you familiar with the USAFI Program? Do you know what a reenlistment bonus can mean to you? Do you know what your opportunities are for making First Class or Chief? Do you know what all those medical bills paid by Medicare would cost as a civilian?

Again, the Navy is not the place for everybody, but don't make the mistake that so many people make, civilian and military, of improperly assessing your future. Many people get out because they don't like their assignment or they don't like their boss or they think they don't like military life, and then regret it. Admittedly some people stay in and regret it, too, but but far more people get out and regret their decision. For this reason, it's very important that your decision be based on careful long-range thinking.

MCB-53 stands to lose approximately 140 men during this deployment because of expiring enlistments. Many of you in this group are outstanding Seabees and your loss will create big gaps in this battalion. Naturally I'd like to see many of you reenlist or extend to complete this deployment, but more important, I'd like to feel confident that every man who decides to get out makes the right decision based on all the facts. Perhaps merely extending to complete this deployment with MCB 53 would be to your advantage. Looking for a job while on leave and still drawing pay might look pretty good to those few who decide to return to CONUS in July or August with no source of income and find they can't get the big paying job they dreamed about. Perhaps there's some preparation for civilian life that you'll forsake by returning to CONUS abruptly to be discharged. Remember, your Career Counselor can provide assistance to you whether you're staying in the Navy or getting out.

I don't want to take up any more space in the Esprit; for I'd rather talk to you personally. My office has an open door to anyone who has questions or needs assistance regarding his future whether it will be in the Navy or in civilian life. The chain of command will be abandoned for this purpose and I'll talk to anyone at anytime on this subject.

REMEMBER:

**BEFORE YOU SAY, "LET ME GO",
TALK IT OVER WITH THE XO.**

NOTE: Personnel reenlisting or extending during this deployment will be granted an in-country R&R or an extra out-of-country R&R if possible. It is doubtful that sufficient out of country quotas will be available, but if they are, personnel reenlisting or extending will be considered for a second R&R.



Chief Petty Officer George Furtado (left) and his son, Second Class Petty Officer George Furtado, both from Tiverton, Rhode Island, take it easy in front of the PAO office during a recent interview. The father-son combination elected to transfer from MCB-7 to MCB-53 and stay in Vietnam.

"SPECIAL REQUESTS"

Here are a few of the requests that have been presented to the PAO and Special Services department :

1. Charter United Airlines to run week-end liberty runs to the United States.
2. Government sponsored scivvy houses.
3. Better flicks (nude type).
4. No joke - We want a country and western show.

WELCOME BACK

The PAO office would like to welcome BM3 Rafe ELLISON back of Camp Adenir. Boatswain Mate Ellison received a little extra R & R and didn't want to come back a first. But then he began thinking about the welfare of his "shipmates" and decided to come back to Camp Adenir. With the "Boats" back and in good shape, the grounds will be kept clean and the Camp's "drunks" will no longer trip over the beer cans they dropped the previous night. It's good to be able to feel a sense of security again!!

NEW G. I. BILL SERVICE ALL VETS WITH 181 DAYS DUTY AFTER JAN. '55

Washington (AFPS) — Benefits of the new G.I. Bill are not limited to Vietnam veterans, who served in the Armed Forces anytime after Jan. 31, 1955.

The veterans Administration explained that veterans who had at least 181 days' active duty service, any part of which occurred after Jan. 31, 1955, are eligible for these G.I. Bill benefits:

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE-Full-time payment for college type training range from \$130 a month for a single veteran to \$175 a month for a veteran with two dependents, with \$10 extra for each additional dependent.

HIGH SCHOOL- The same payments are available to a veteran while he completes high school without losing any G.I. Bill eligibility for advanced educational benefits.

APPRENTICE OR OTHER-ON - THE - JOB TRAINING— Payments (based on six-month periods) begin at \$80 per month in the first period for

LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES

Before you read this, you must remember that W.C. means water closet — the English equivalent of the American John.

A young British couple about to be married were looking for a house in the New England countryside. After finding a suitable one, they started home. During the return journey the bride-to-be asked her fiance where the W.C. was. The landlord though the W.C. meant Wesley Church and answered the prospective buyer's letter thus:

"Dear Sir:

I received your letter. The W.C. is located about nine miles from the house. This is quite a distance, of course, if you are used to going often, but it is a nice place to take a lunch and make a day of it. It can seat 850 comfortably.

"Next year they are going to put in plush seats as the present ones are pretty cold in winter. The W.C. has a very good paper which I am sure you will enjoy. It takes in everything and is quite absorbing.

The special accoustical ceiling and walls pick up the most delicate sounds, and soft organ music accompanies you in your devotions.

The last time my wife and I were there it was quite crowded. My wife got a seat and quite naturally I stood.

"It really pains us not to go more often and we have decided to go at least once a week. Perhaps we will see you there.

"Our daughter and her family go every Sunday and if you decide to come, we would be most happy to have you join us in our pew.

"The minister is always there administering to the needs of every one with a helping hand.

Sincerely"

(The Pioneer Vermont Technical College)

a single veteran with added payments for veterans with dependents.

FARM COOPERATIVE TRAINING- Includes institutional courses. Payments range upwards from \$105 a month.

VOCATIONAL FLIGHT TRAINING - Payments cover 90% of the established charge for flight training for veterans who have the equivalent of a valid private pilot license.

G.I. LOANS-VA guarantees a portion of loans made through commercial lenders. On home loans the VA will guarantee up to \$7,500 of the loan; on farm real estate loans up to \$40,000, and on non-real estate farm loans up to \$20,000. VA will make direct loans for homes in certain cases.

MEDICAL CARE-VA provides hospital care for all veterans who served in the Armed Forces after Jan. 31, 1955. (whether their service is classed as wartime or peace-time) on the same basis as for veterans of earlier wars. Top priority goes to men needing treatment for service-connected or service-aggravated disabilities. If a bed is available, veterans may be admitted for any ailment requiring hospitalization if they are not-able to pay for treatment in a private hospital.

SEVERE DISABILITIES- An allowance of \$1,600 toward purchase of specially-equipped automobiles for veterans with certain severe disabilities suffered while service.

GRANPAPPY BEE

(Cont. from Page 3)
TWO SEABEES . . .

His commendation further state: "In addition your appearance is always outstanding thereby setting a proper example and high standard for your shipmates. Your contributions to the battalion effort have been far above that normally expected of your rate."

Construction electricians Hudleston is married to the former Miss Jacqueline G. Hendrixson of Smithville, Tennessee and they have one son, Charles Jr.

(Cont. from Page 13)

Adenir's Drive-in theater, but every time I end up watching the picture do a St. Vitus's dance! Why is this?

Perturbed

Dear Perturbed,

The uncoordinated movements of the movie you see

each night are called "West-housing's psychedelic flick technique", a speciality of our projectionist!!

Granpappy

Dear Granpappy,

I am a "short timer" in MCB-53, with only 8 days and a "wakeup" to go before I

get out. How should I spend these last few days?

Shorty

Dear Shorty,

The best thing for you would be to go to the Admin/Personnel Office and ask the "professional" shorttimers there.

Granpappy

CLASSIFIED ADS SECTION

Getting Short??
Then buy your CALENDAR from
STAHL'S SHORT-TIMER SHOP

We CARRY A FULL LINE
of SHORT-TIMER
EQUIPMENT -
V.O. RIBBONS
BLUE-RAY COPIES
of SHORT-TIMER
CALENDARS,
CHAINS, ETC.

ALL ART WORK
DONE BY OUR EXPERT
STAFF (DURING WORKING
HOURS)

STOP IN ANY-TIME AND
TALK TO OUR
CUSTOMER RELATIONS
MAN, EAD 3 SELESKY.



IVIE'S CABLE LOCATING SERVICE

YES, WE GUARANTEE

TO LOCATE CABLE, BE
IT OVERHEAD OR
UNDER GROUND.

WE USE NOTHING BUT
THE MOST MODERN
DITCHING MACHINES AND
MOBILE CRANES.

OUR SUPERB ABILITY
CAN BE TESTIFIED TO
BY MR. SPENCER OR
MR. MACKINNON.



COMMANDING OFFICER

U.S.N. Mobile Construction Battalion Fifty-Three

FPO New York, New York 09501



To: Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Vond
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