



The MCB Eleven

STINGER

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Camp Barnes, Vietnam

September 17, 1967

PURPLE HEARTS PRESENTED TO FOUR SEABEES

Purple Hearts were presented to four members of the battalion on September 15 for wounds the Seabees received during August.

They were presented to EONCN Daniel W. Turrissi, EONCN James W. Davis, EOHCN Neal L. Gay and EON3 Leland F. Petersen.

EONCN Turrissi was wounded on August 19 when his detail at Lang Vei came under attack from enemy forces employing 60mm mortars, automatic and small arms fire.

EONCN Davis was wounded on August 22 by a mine seven miles south of Dong Ha on route 1.

EOHCN Neal L. Gay was wounded on August 23 by a mine six miles west of Dong Ha on route 9.

EON3 Petersen was wounded during the attack on the Dong Ha Combat base and Camp Barnes on August 28.

All four men were treated and returned to duty.

COMMANDING GENERAL 3RDMARDIV SAYS WELL DONE

(The following message was received from the commanding general, Third Marine Division, for all personnel aboard the Dong Ha Combat base)

To all hands at the Dong Ha Combat base I wish to extend my sincere "well done" for the truly professional way that you have conducted yourselves during recent enemy artillery and rocket attacks, and particularly your actions on the afternoon of September 3, 1967.

Upon arrival at Dong Ha yesterday (September 4) I was extremely impressed with the manner in which you were bouncing back from a very serious situation. The teamwork I witnessed between units and services was truly outstanding. Your resourcefulness, ability to improvise and willingness to work together for the common cause was most inspiring. The fact that you suffered no KIA's during the attack reflects a high degree of security.

Your initiative, perseverance and devotion to duty, under some of the most adverse conditions in Vietnam are recognized and truly appreciated.

/s/ MGen. B.A. Hochmuth

A copy of the message will be entered in everyone's service record who was here September 3.

INCREASED AID UNDER NEW GI BILL

WASHINGTON (AFNB)-- President Johnson has signed legislation that extends the GI Bill to Vietnam veterans and increases educational and other benefits.

In August 31 White House ceremonies, the President signed the "Veterans' Pension and

Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967" which increased educational entitlements from \$100 to \$130 a month for single men, \$125 to \$155 for those with one dependent, \$150 to \$175 for those with two dependents, with \$10 monthly

(Cont'd. page 3)

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X

LCdr. J.C. Totten

The last 100 days. There is a book by that name covering the last 100 days of the Third Reich the German Empire. Many very important decisions were made during the period, decisions that affect the people of the world to this day. In fact every day up to and including the last was most important.

We are in that position now. The last 100 days. More work than we can handle alone. That is the reason for augmentation with personnel from MCB-1. Many important decisions concerning Vietnam will be made and we will be part of them. We all have a lot of hard work to insure completion of the projects assigned. The last 100 days will go fast.

The many senior officers who have visited Camp Barnes and the Dong Ha Combat base since the September 3 disaster have expressed how impressed they have been with the outstanding manner in which the men of Eleven have sprung back. You have proved that you are the greatest, better than the best.

No Seabee battalion in Vietnam can equal the glory you have gained. You have been through the worst and production did not falter. No matter what company you are in you can all be proud of the part you have played in making this possible. As I have said before to the men of Eleven "Can Do" means "Have Done."

**EIGHT PROMOTED ON SEPTEMBER 16
ONE TO E-5, SEVEN TO E-4**

Eight men were promoted during ceremonies on September 16.	UTP3 John A. Doherty,
One was advanced to PO2 with seven gaining their PO3 chevrons.	UTP3 Donald R. Schaefer,
Promoted to SD2 was Peregrino M. Ortiz.	SK3 Charles F. Bryant,
Promoted to PO3 were:	EAS3 Dwight T. Dillon,
	PN3 David N. Hixson,
	CEW3 Lewis W. Laplante,
	and CEW3 Johnny L. Smith.

W.E. Dodson, CHC

This article is difficult to write this week because one of the keys on my typewriter is missing. X looked for it.

It is not a very large key, in fact it is the same size as the others. Since it is not too large X didn't think that X would have any trouble writing this article for the Stinger.

• As you can see X'm using another key to fill the place of the missing one.

X tried the "A" but X found that it wouldn't work. In fact X tried all the other keys and X couldn't find one that would take the place of the missing "X" (I have to use this one because the "X" is missing.)

There is not another key that can take the place of the missing one.

MORAL: If you are not in your place doing your job no one else can fill it like you!

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Commanding Officer.....	Cdr. W.K. Hartell, CE, USN
Executive Officer.....	LCdr. J.C. Totten, CEC, USN
Public Affairs Officer.....	Ens. J.E. Bolling, USNR
Staff.....	B.F. Findley, JO2, USN F.A. Crowell, JO3, USN

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CONGRESSMAN SAYS THANK YOU TO ELEVEN

S 4

DK3 Coale

Here we are again well into another month at Camp Barnes and this month really started out with a big bang.

Would you believe there are only five more paydays and one more per diem payday left before we leave here if everything goes according to schedule.

We have a certain "short" SK3 who is quite a builder when it comes to repairing doors. He may just come back in as an IPD BUL3 and it wouldn't surprise very many of us.

SKSN Lampi has already left for CONUS and will be followed early next month by SK3 Baylor and SK3 Thompson.

Chief Hernandez has arrived back in camp. DK2 Pore left for some much deserved R&R in Da-nang Monday and SWF3 Lee is in Hong Kong. SK2 Percy received his orders to a ship out of Boston and will leave here next month.

In case no one noticed, our laundromat manager is now wearing his flak jacket at work. The biggest loss, says Wally was the speaker to his tape recorder.

Just a reminder to all personnel, our exchange will be closed

(The following letter was received from the Honorable Silvio D. Conte, Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, 1st District Mass. It was in response to a plaque which the battalion sent to Mr. Conte after it was learned he was a member of the 11th Construction Battalion during WW II)

Dear Commander Wilson:

I want to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 7 together with the wonderful plaque from the 11th Seabee Battalion. I was moved when I received this plaque because I have so many fond memories of the 11th Seabee Battalion in which I served during World War II in the Southwest Pacific.

I was pleased to learn that the 11th and its members are still going strong and that you are presently engaged in construction support of U.S. forces in the northern I Corps area of Vietnam. You can rest assured that if I am out in that part of the world, I will make it a point to visit you and the members of the famous 11th.

I certainly would appreciate it if you would extend my very best wishes to the members of the 11th and thank them for their thoughtfulness in sending me this plaque. We here in the United States, and particularly in Washington, greatly appreciate the performance of the 11th and of the other members of the armed forces fighting for the cause of freedom in Vietnam.

/s/ Silvio D. Conte.

until the 23rd while Smitty is on R&R.

Can't take up too much space with idle gossip so I guess this article will come to a close with a "see you in the next issue."

GI BILL CONT'D.
for each dependent over two.

The educational section of the law also includes lesser rates for part-time higher educa-

tion and a provision allowing high school to be completed without losing credit earned for college.

The direct home loan mortgage level for VA loans when private lending is not available has been raised from \$17,500 to \$25,000

INVEST IN
THE FUTURE
BUY
BONDS

PARTY

Club entertainment and an afternoon cookout are planned for 1 p.m. Sunday September 24. The entertainers are from Australia and feature female singers and dancers. After the show there will be a cookout. Steaks will be grilled over charcoal fires. Baked beans, potato salad and other items will also be included and beer will sell for 5¢ a can.

Don't worry about mess kits or trays. Paper plates, cups and plastic knives, forks and spoons will be provided. If it rains the cookout will be held in the galley.

So, come rain or shine don't miss the festivities planned for Sunday.

It On TV

3

CITED

CBS-TV Newsmen Don Webster recently visited the construction site at Lang Vei where MCB-11 is building a new Special Forces camp.

He filmed extensive coverage of the MCB-11 detail constructing underground bunkers and the operations center.

The show was telecast last week in the States.

Charlie

Chatter

BUHCN Stupka

The men of Charlie company are busier than ever with repairs on the camp.

The men of the first platoon are working on the captain's hut and a fire station for FLSU.

The second platoon has made repairs on the medical quonset, chow hall, exchange and green

Three former members of MCB-11 have been cited for their work while serving in Vietnam.

Lt. Richard B. Laurance and CECS Joseph H. Herrera were awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. BUCS William G. Nowman received the Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement.

Lt. Laurance and BUCS Nowman were cited for their work as officer-in-charge and assistant officer-in-charge of Team 1107 while deployed to Vinh Long from August 25, 1966, to March 2, 1967.

Their citation credited them with the con-

issue.

The men of the third platoon have been repairing the galley, MLO and Alpha company shops plus 3rd MarDiv maintenance shops.

Four men reported to the company this week: Nelson, Eoons, Breuning and Crowe.

struction of the Saint Paul school, patient receiving station and surgical suite along with their civic action work with the Vietnamese people and Hoi Chanh trainees. Lt. Laurance is now assigned as officer-in-charge, Naval Support Unit, State Dept. BUCS Nowman has been assigned to the American Embassy, Panama Canal Zone.

CECS Herrera's citation read in part, "For meritorious service while serving with U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eleven at DaNang and Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam in providing construction and engineering support under combat conditions to United States Navy and Marine Corps forces operating in the I Corps area of Vietnam from February 16 through September 17, 1966."

CECS Herrera has been assigned to NAVSCON Port Huename.

Letters

SNUFFY

Letters of Commendation were presented to three men of the battalion on September 15 for their efforts in fighting the FLSU covered storage fire on September 28.

The letters, from the commanding officer FLSU One were presented to EO1 William R. Doggette, CMA3 Donald B. Heath and EOH3 Robert F. Owen.

In part the letters read, "Upon arriving at the conclusion of the attack, I witnessed a spontaneous convoy of vehicles and personnel responding, who without hesitation, immediately began moving supplies and fighting the fire in an attempt to reduce the loss. An urgent call for assistance in providing water for fire-fighting was made.

"It was particularly gratifying to witness the response of the CB's in placing their water tankers at our disposal to provide water for fighting the fire. Without this assistance water for fire-fighting would have been in extremely short supply and the loss of government property greater than actually sustained.

"I express my gratitude and thanks for a job well done and commend your personnel involved for their commendatory performance of duty."

Dear Mama,

Sorry Sorry I haven't written lately Mama, but I was hiding in this deep hole for a long time. Somebody was making terrible loud noises and Mama, I was scared.

I got sent to work in S-2 this week Mama. I overheard something about "They're the training department. Let's see what they can do."

Boy, I sure am getting a chance to help a lot of different people.

My new boss is Mr. Mountjoy. He says he is a full lieutenant but I think he is just kidding me. Mama, that poor man's too skinny to be a full anything.

First I got to work for this Chief Flattery. He's some sort of cancellor like in summer camp, I think. I never did find out though. Every time I cam in it seemed that the chief was just going somewhere.

Mama, I was only trying to do a good job for the chief when I tried to re-up the CO and XO and Mr. Luzz. Why did the chief get made at me?

Anyway, next I got to work in educational services. It sure is hard to work there with all those pictures on the wall.

Everything was going just fine though Mama, until yesterday. This Insane Guy came in for a course and I asked him if he wanted Basic Military Requirements or Seaman since he looked like he was fleet (had anchors hidden behind some shield on his hat) Mama, how was I to know he didn't get the same courses I do?

Anyway this third class named Rosey said that since I was so smart I should work in intelligence next week. I might even get to see a real live general.

Tell you all about it next week.

Love,
SNUFFY

BRAVO DELTA DATA

CEW3 Bagnell

Now that our office is repaired, and things are back to normal, it's time to get the press rolling again.

These last four days have been hectic. Besides repairing the damage on base, the company has been trying to keep up with its scheduled jobs.

The first platoon builders have been building the wash stands for each company. At the same time they are repairing the Headquarters' shower.

The first platoon CE's must be hiding in their mortar holes. No one has seen or heard from them in almost a week. Sometimes one of them comes to the office to find out why they don't have any mail.

The second platoon is busy wiring the new Security huts. The men should also be commended on the prompt job in restoring power to the damaged areas this past week.

The third platoon installed plumbing in the CO's hut. They also repaired the water storage tank and the galley boiler after the artillery rounds September 5. Right now they have their hands full with a 500-man galley at FLSU and another 250-man galley at battalion rear.

(Cont'd. page 7)

Rapp

Well there have been some major changes since the last Delta company article.

We have a new company chief who is none other than Chief Charles Baker of NAVSCON fame. Victor Charlie has given him such a warm welcome since his arrival in Dong Ha that there isn't much left for us to say except "welcome aboard."

Delta company is also privileged to welcome LT Guglielmino into our ranks as acting company commander in the absence of Mr. Cahill who was wounded and has been evacuated from Dong Ha.

Chief Phillipps moved back to his familiar spot as 3rd platoon commander and to make the changes complete we welcomed Mr. Guy aboard as assistant company commander. He was formerly Security company commander.

Work schedules have also undergone many modifications. Priority is the word of the day every day. Crews shift their efforts into completing important jobs like the bunkers for Lang Vei and living facilities for the Marines. With the monsoon season rapidly approaching it is a race against the clock for all projects.

September has brought

with it a new fad in spare time projects. It seems that everyone is building. The projects all seem to start out with a hole in the ground provided by some charitable EO from Alpha company.

The holes are of various sizes, depths and shapes depending on the builders own tastes. Some of the more elaborate holes have concrete decks and shored sides with a concrete overhead.

Others are of a similar design and have overheads of matting, planks or artillery ammunition canisters covered with sandbags or dirt. These little rooms sound like funny things for hard working men to build in their spare time but it is even more unusual when you find out these are not recreation rooms for playing cards or reading magazines.

The rooms are sleeping rooms. The men don't actually sleep in the rooms but say that knowing the bunkers are there enables them to sleep better.

Due to events beyond the control of the P&O last week's Stinger was an abbreviated edition. So this week Delta company will present a number of provocative questions to tease the minds

(Cont'd. page 7)

ALPHA ANTICS

EOH2 Curl

From what we thought was one of the best, if not "the best" headquarters in the battalion, Alpha company was forced to move. Our office spaces now occupy the old license examiners room in the dispatcher's shack. This drastic turn of affairs was, of course, Charlie's fault. The day he blew up the ammo dump, he also flattened our office. So, if you're looking to cool off, Special Services would seem to be the only answer. Our beautiful air conditioning is no more. **Curse you Charlie Cong!**

Getting on to more serious things, Alpha company is still very much in the earth moving business, and continues to grow with the Northern I Corps. A lot of improvements have been made on bunkers and landscaping in the battalion living areas. Our back hoes and "mini graders" do an excellent job in these cramped spaces.

The third platoon is involved in the largest earth moving project in the Northern I Corps area. This is the ammunition supply point for the 3rd MarDiv. The job calls for 16 revetments leading to a total of 480,000 cubic yards of fill material. **Anyway** you look at it that's a lot of dirt.

Right now the problem is staying ahead of the rains. For obvious reasons, it would have been a good thing if this job had been scheduled a good while ago. The revetments are designed to prevent another September 3.

The detail working on

national highway 1 has moved south to Camp Evans, which is just below Quang Tri. They are better than 75 percent finished with the patching and sealing that will take them to Song Bo.

Chief Burger's crew is credited with revealing two VC suspects. Some time ago they stopped two suspicious looking Vietnamese, and discovered that they were without ID cards. Upon being searched several lengths of detonator cord were found on the suspects; a fairly good indication of their political ties.

The fourth platoon's rock crusher crew is back in operation making little ones out of big ones, after repairing the crusher, which has been "kaput" for several weeks.

Happiness is sixteen new multi-fuel dump trucks. The morale of the dump truck drivers in the first platoon has been steadily rising, since the trucks began arriving. The sixth pla-

DELTA CONT'D.

of our intellectual readers. So think on these if you will: Does Larry Davis really have a brother? Where is Markie's Mapo? What happened to Chief Baker's mail? And to top it off "Hi Marlene!"

BRAVO CONT'D.

R.K. Patterson and G.R. Brenier left Bravo and the battalion last week. Patterson left after a short delay in checking out.



toon's light shop should be happy too. The multis should cause fewer mechanical problems than those internationals, which are going down for the count.

Congratulations to A company's fire department--headed by EOH3 Bob Owen. They have been personally commended by the commanding general of the combat base for their work at the fire in the FLSU butler building, following the rocket attack of August 28.

SAM

SEZ

Well I am out of my hole, but not for long. As far as the safety business we have had so much military action there hasn't been time for accidents. Since the last time I wrote this column (August 23 seems like ages ago) there have been only 11 accidents. Figuring over a three week period that is not too bad. Also three of the 11 involved mortar holes.

Anyway here is the score as of September 13. A total of 97 accidents. A company leads with 33, D company second with 21, H company and B company tied for third with 13 each followed closely by C company with 12 and Security last with six.

In the accident free area, Headquarters hasn't had an accident since August 1. Security has gone almost the same period without an accident and C and D companies haven't had an accident in two weeks. So ~~even~~ under the severe conditions you guys are really trying. That brings us up to date.

The past accidents review brings out the hazards of mortar holes and travel at night. On August 2 a mess cook ran by a tent and received a 1½ inch laceration on the right leg from a metal tent peg. Sam Sez, now that we have huts and the tents are gone we don't have that problem how-

ever watch out for the corners on those metal roofs when you pass close to a hut. They are sharp.

Again on August 2 a C company man sprained his ankle falling into a mortar hole near the EM club. Sam Sez, we all know it wasn't from drinking too much. We all know the holes exist so keep your mind on what you are doing and where you are going.

Then there was the C company man who received abrasions of the right leg because the wind blew revetment material over hitting him on the back of the leg. Sam Sez, proper procedures would have prevented this. We know about the Dong Ha wind. If the revetment material was secured properly during construction this wouldn't have happened.

Our last one this week involves the safety petty officer who doesn't think. He was working on the hydraulic system of a conveyor. Seems he unscrewed the bleeder plug too far and the pressure forced the plug out causing laceration of left index finger. Sam Sez, no names on this one because it is just too much. If the safety petty officer doesn't think what can we expect of the men under him? Know the hazards involved and keep your mind on what you are doing and this won't happen.

MCB-11 _____ Company

FPD San Francisco 96601
