

SIXTY-TWO SEABEACON

Vol. IV No. 3

Mobile Construction Battalion Sixty-Two

May, 1969

ARVN Train with Battalion; Vietnam Army Engineers Live, Work with 62 Men

With sign language, smiles, an occasional word from an interpreter and, mostly, good examples, the SEABEES of MCB 62 have become teachers for nine Vietnamese Army (ARVN) builder-fighters.

The nine men are members of the 101st Vietnamese Army Engineering Battalion which is presently working with American Army Engineers on a road from Quang Tri to the Cua Viet loading dock.

ARVN Engineers, although part of the Army rather than the Navy, are the Vietnamese counterparts to the SEABEES. Many of them held construction jobs before entering the military.

The nine men with 62 are the first of what is expected to be a series of groups of ARVN Engineers who will train with the Battalion.

The training program is the result of efforts by the 32nd Naval Construction Regiment to institute such plans in SEABEE Battalions throughout northern I Corps. Its purpose is to eventually enable ARVN's to take over jobs now handled by SEABEES.

Each ARVN group will stay with the Battalion for one month on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

The individual men live in huts with the crews with whom they work, sharing all facilities.

An ARVN lieutenant, officer in charge of the Vietnamese group, and an enlisted man who

is learning to operate a pile driver are living and working at the Cam Lo River Bridge construction site. The other Vietnamese Engineers are working on 62's Highway 9 modification project, the Alfa Company mechanics shop, a well drilling job at the Vinh Dai rock crusher, the Battalion prefabrication yard and the asphalt plant.

The Vietnamese interpreter lives with personnel from Headquarters Company and travels around to each job site daily to solve

(Cont'd on Page 6)



SMOKE EATER - An Alfa Company equipment operator drives his bulldozer onto a burning pile of Hydromulch. MCB 62 SEABEES fought the blaze for four hours on May 4.

Fire Destroys Storage Yard; BEES Fight to Control Blaze

MCB 62 SEABEES worked for four hours in smoke and intense heat as they battled a blaze in a Camp Barnes storage yard Sunday afternoon, May 4.

No one was seriously injured in the fire

which destroyed approximately \$60,000 worth of hydromulch, a fibrous mixture used to mulch newly sown grass to prevent soil erosion.

Commander John Paul Jones Jr. has cited 20 Battalion men for their part in preventing the spread of the fire.

Alfa Company Equipment Operators were especially instrumental in containing the fire as they donned aluminized fire suits and drove their bulldozers into the pile of burning material to cut a fire lane.

As the fire continued to spread, the EO's started at the edge of the huge pile of hydromulch and worked in toward the fire. By doing this they were able to save adjoining storage areas filled with lumber and building materials.

Temperatures inside the fireproof suits became so extreme that the men discarded them. Pausing only to have their equipment and themselves doused with water, the EO's drove into the blazing pile again and again until the flames were brought under control.

Water trucks shuttled back and forth between the fire and a nearby river to fill up with water as other 62 men played hoses on the fire, equipment and drivers.

Fire and water trucks from Dong Ha Combat Base Army and Air Force facilities, Construc-

tion Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 and Marine Force Logistics Command fire department units arrived on the scene soon after the fire was reported and assisted throughout the day.

Commander Jones oversaw the fire fighting efforts and issued orders (Cont'd on Page 8)

Cruise Book Wins Award

The MINUTEMAN, MCB 62's cruise book for the 1967-1968 Danang deployment, has received a Navy Merit Award for excellence.

In a certificate signed by Rear Admiral L.R. Geis, Chief of Information, the book was named as one of four cruise books to receive the award for the first quarter of 1969.

The MINUTEMAN is a 160-page record of the Battalion's accomplishments from the beginning of the 1967 homeport training period through to the completion of the eight-month tour in Danang.

It contains a pictorial account of 62's construction projects, special events and daily activities. Photographs of the scenery and people of Vietnam were also featured.

Selected for the Merit Award by a panel of five professional judges, the MINUTEMAN was edited by Journalist Second Class Dennis J. Holder and Seaman Michael W. Woolley.

Highway One Accident Victims Aided by MCB 62 Corpsman

For the second time since Hospital Corpsman Third Class Dennis G. Bloomingdale arrived in Vietnam, he has come to the rescue of someone on Vietnamese National Highway One.

Both instances occurred as Bloomingdale was returning from routine trips to the Third Medical Battalion, a Marine medical facility

in Quang Tri.

The most recent occurrence was on May 26 when he aided an American Army serviceman and a Vietnamese peasant woman after an accident on the highway between Dong Ha Combat Base and Quang Tri.

An Army jeep containing three soldiers was passing a truck on a clear section of road. Suddenly a Vietnamese woman started across the road and ran directly into the path of the jeep.

The jeep struck her, careened off the side of the highway over a five foot embankment and flipped over onto its top.

Petty Officer Bloomingdale came upon the scene shortly after the accident occurred.

At first, Bloomingdale did not see the Army vehicle. He went to the place where the woman was lying surrounded by a group of Vietnamese.

(Cont'd on Page 7)



UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE - SN Mike Woolley exchanges notes with three men from the 101st ARVN Engineering Battalion. The ARVN's live with MCB 62 while receiving construction training.

Chaplain's Communique

By LT R.R. Crowe, ChC

People come in assorted sizes, shapes and natures. Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said, "God must have loved the common people, for he made so many of them." At any rate, God must have loved variety, for he certainly made many different types of people. What a dull place the world would be if he hadn't.

Yet, much prejudice and bigotry springs from these differences in people. We have a bad habit of making friends only with those who are "our kind of people", whatever that means. We also use similar criteria in knocking those who are most unlike us. We gather in little cliques and clans and put down everyone who is not in our group.

Another dangerous thought pattern that many of us have acquired is that of believing that we are "self-made men". We act as though we were instrumental in picking out the brain capacity, height and color of hair, eyes or skin that characterize us. We stand back and admire our good choices in the mirror and pity or dislike others for their bad luck. We strut around belittling others and gathering ourselves into superiority clubs. We hated the Nazi doctrine of a superior race, but secretly we believe that somehow we are superior to others.

God made each person as he saw fit and all were good in his sight. When we look down on God's creations we are actually finding fault with God. Some people actually think of God as a monster who plays jokes on some members of the human race whom they consider not as good as they are. This is twisted thinking.

This kind of prejudiced thinking makes about as much sense as a tall man looking down his nose at a shorter person and thinking to himself, "How dumb to be so short," as if we had any control over our inherited body structure or intelligence or race or place of birth.

How stupid it is to boast about something we have no control over. Practically everything that we have received from God through heredity. Yet, sometimes we act as if we had made ourselves exactly as we are through our own efforts.

The scripture says, "For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why boast as if thou hadst not received it?" I Corinthians 4:7

The answer to many human relations problems is simply to become aware of certain facts. God made people different because he wanted a variety of people. There are no people better than other people per se.

Some people try harder than others to better themselves, but even this drive to be better is somehow given to us. Enjoy all men and be thankful that God made all types of people to enhance each other's happiness.

"Love thy neighbor as thyself!"

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SIXTY-TWO SEABEACON

U.S. NAVAL
MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SIXTY-TWO
CAMP BARNES, DONG HA COMBAT BASE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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FLAG DAY -- JUNE 14

Letter From The Exec

By LCDR C.E. Fegley

Examinations for advancement in rate are coming up in August, and it is not too early to start giving some thought to your promotion possibilities. There are many steps in the advancement process that only you can control. Here is a brief run-down of the basic eligibility requirements for advancement in rate.

1. COMPLETE PRACTICAL FACTORS. The practical factors are those skills and abilities which you must demonstrate by performance before you may be advanced. They are very important because they provide an opportunity for a man to actually prove his ability in the practical aspects of his prospective rate.

2. COMPLETE MANDATORY NAVY TRAINING COURSES. Specific training courses for each rate and rating and courses on the military requirements for Petty Officer grades are mandatory. Material on the advancement in rate and military leadership examinations is taken from these course books and other recommended courses and publications listed in the basic course books. Examinations are based on the latest material available, so if you completed your courses some time ago, check with the Training Office for the latest editions of the course books.

3. COMPLETE PERFORMANCE TESTS IF REQUIRED. Performance tests insure that a man has mastered a required skill prior to being advanced to the next higher rate. For example, yeomen, personnelmen, storekeepers, etc. must pass a test to measure their typing ability before they may be advanced.

4. MEET SERVICE REQUIREMENTS IN MOST RATES. Men being advanced to pay grades E-5 and E-6 are required to remain on active duty for a period of one year following actual date of advancement. Men being advanced to E-7, E-8 or E-9 must have two years remaining.

5. MEET TIME IN RATE AND SERVICE STANDARDS. Time in rate and time in service requirements are listed in the front of each rating course book. Waivers of six months to a year may be granted, and if so, will be authorized in a notice from the Bureau of Naval Personnel published a couple of months before the examination date. Several factors, such as prior military service, lost time, broken service and so on are considered in computing time in service.

6. COMPLETE A MILITARY LEADERSHIP EXAMINATION. For advancement to E-4 or E-5 you must successfully pass the military leadership examination. This test is given once a month by the command, usually on the first Friday of the month.

7. BE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER. There are no annual or semi-annual mark standards to be met for advancement. However, you must show the ability to perform the work and carry the responsibilities of the higher rate. Candidates for Petty Officer grades must show personal integrity and leadership.

8. PASS AN EXAMINATION FOR ADVANCEMENT. The E-3 examinations are administered by the Battalion Training Department monthly. Petty Officer grade tests are administered on the same date throughout the Navy, usually in February and August. While serving in Vietnam, the command can waive the exam and recommend field promotion for outstanding individuals who are eligible for promotion in all other respects and do not have ample opportunity to study due to their service in the combat zone. More information on field promotions will be published at a later date.

As you will note, the completion of most of the steps is up to you. You must take the initiative and complete the required courses, examinations, practical factors and performance test. You must have demonstrated the ability, sense of responsibility, leadership and integrity in your daily work to deserve the recommendation of the Commanding Officer. No one will take you by the hand and lead you through the steps. Promotion means more money in your pocket and greater prestige, so why not get busy now and make up your mind to be promoted as soon as you become eligible. Promotion opportunities in the Navy are currently the finest they have ever been.

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By CDR J.P. Jones Jr.
The man who succeeds in the Navy today must have a thorough knowledge of his military and professional duties, and he must put this knowledge to work and demonstrate good performance.

The man who succeeds in civilian life is faced with exactly the same problem. Obtaining knowledge of your duties and increasing your level of education are basic steps on the ladder to success. What are you doing about it?

If you aren't doing anything, you are probably wasting one of the finest opportunities that will ever be available to you. It is easier now to advance in rate in the SEABEES than it has been during any other period in our recent history.

Furthermore, the opportunities for increasing your level of education during the deployment are many and varied. All it takes is a little effort on your part. Unfortunately, too many of you take the attitude that it can wait until homeport or until next year.

Others may complain that, after ten hours on the job, they just don't feel like studying.

But the point is, excuses and delaying tactics just don't get results.

Now is the time for those of you without high school diplomas to take advantage of the Navy's General Educational Development Program and obtain a high school equivalency certificate.

If you are a high school graduate, take some college courses. The United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) offers correspondence courses in almost any imaginable subject, and college accredited courses are also available. In fact, in the USAFI participating College and University Program, some 46 leading institutions offer more than 6,000 courses ranging from accounting to zoology.

Another Program that is available in NMCC 62 is enrollment in one of the group study courses that will soon be underway.

What you do about them is really up to you. Don't fall into the trap of waiting until tomorrow. Instead, go today to the Battalion Training Office and find out the details on the program best suited to your needs.



CDR JONES

Choice of Assignment For Reup

By W. Meyers, EOC
The U.S. Navy offers one of the proudest careers a man can find. But it also offers a lot more than just the pride of service.

The security provided for the career Navy man and his family is second to none.

There's the guarantee of a steady income, the medical benefits, the advancement opportunities, early retirement (covered in the April SEABEACON), and the many other traditional benefits we often take for granted.

In this issue, I will touch briefly on one of the "Bennies" available to men reenlisting for the first time.

Duty assignment option is available to men serving under their first enlistment contract or an extension of that contract.

A man who qualifies for the option and is eligible for Seavey may request duty in the Naval District of his choice or in any overseas area where there is a billet for his rate and rating.

A man who is not Seavey eligible may request, as an incentive to reenlist, any overseas duty that counts as sea duty for rotation purposes. The Bureau of Personnel will make every effort, in this case, to assign the man to a locale to which his dependents may accompany him.

If you would like to know more about this program or any other of the Navy's benefits, I invite you to drop by my office. No appointment is necessary. As

As the sign on my door says, "Be a winner this year. See your Career Counselor."



SHIP OVER - Equipment Operators Second Class Stephen Mate, Bertram C. Legg and Edmund L. Lish are given the oath of enlistment by Commander Jones. The men received a total of \$15,702.00 in reenlistment bonuses when they shipped over on May 5.

Vietnam Background

Rice, Fruits, Vegetables, Tea Basic Foods for Vietnamese

Editor's Note: This information, taken from the U.S. Navy pamphlet, "A Pocket Guide to Vietnam", is part of a series designed to help MCB 62 men get the most out of their deployment to Vietnam while contributing to international understanding.

The average Vietnamese consumes less than two thirds the calories an American puts away each day. Starvation, though, is extremely rare in spite of the fact that the basically vegetarian diet sometimes lacks proteins, vitamins and minerals.

Rice is the staple food and its preparation is a grave responsibility for the women of the household. All girls are supposed to learn to cook as an essential part of their education.

Apples, pears, plums, bananas, oranges, pomegranates and papayas,

are all important in the Vietnamese diet.

Here also is the jube -- a sort of thorn tree with a fruit that flavors some of our candies -- and the litchi, a fruit known in its dried form as "litchi nut".

Among the common vegetables are potatoes, turnips, carrots, onions and beans. Eggplant, called aubergine and water bindweed, an herb from the same family as the morning glory, are also popular.

When the meal extends beyond rice and vegetable dishes, fish is generally served. Sometimes it is sauteed with onions, mushrooms and vermicelli; or it may be slowly cooked with tomatoes, salted bamboo shoots, carrots and leeks.

Carp are often fried with celery.

Eels make a banquet dish when sauteed in a

sauce made of sugar, vinegar, rice flour and and sweet-and-sour soybean sauce. Another specialty is eel wrapped in aromatic leaves and grilled over charcoal, or boiled with green bananas, vegetables, saffron and onion.

A fermented sauce made of fish and salt -- nuoc mam -- is almost as important to the diet as rice. It is served throughout the country with almost every meal.

Although Buddhism condemns the killing of living things, animals and fowl are killed for food.

Pork is more commonly found than beef on the average family's menu. It is roasted or sauteed.

Lean pork baked in a crisp loaf with various seasonings, including cinnamon, is a tasty dish known as cha-lua.

A popular beef dish is made by cutting raw beef into thin slices and pouring boiling water over it. It is eaten with a dressing of soybean sauce and ginger.

Hens are often prepared to a gourmet's taste by stuffing with aromatic vegetables, seasoning, and basting with coconut milk while roasting.

Tea is the principal Vietnamese beverage in the morning, afternoon and evening -- for any occasion or no occasion at all. At mealtime it is usually served after the food rather than with it.

Chinese tea is favored, particularly when flavored with lotus or jasmine. However, it is too expensive for most people.

When coffee is served, it is generally offered with milk as cafe au lait in the morning or black as cafe noir for an after dinner demi-tasse.

Early Separation Given To Qualified Personnel

By PNL J.L. Anderson

Do you rate an early out? SEABEE or Fleet sailor, you may be able to get your discharge earlier than you now expect if you meet certain qualifications.

All early outs but one require you to have served at least 12 months with a construction battalion in Vietnam. Other criteria involve the time you have been in the Navy and the remaining time you have to serve.

For example, if you are a SEABEE (Group VIII rate) who will have

less than 91 days left in the service upon returning to the States, you may be separated or transferred for discharge at the end of this deployment if you don't extend your enlistment.

If you are now serving in your second or subsequent enlistment you may be able to get out up to 180 days early. Anyone who wants to do this must submit a request, via their Company Commander and the Enlisted Personnel Distribution Office, to the Chief of Naval Personnel at least four months before the end of the deployment.

It isn't guaranteed that your request will be approved. If you are needed at the time the request is made, that fact will take priority. However, approval will normally be granted.

Once the Battalion returns to Gulfport, even those of you who have made only one Vietnam tour may get an early separation. If you are in your first enlistment, do not have orders to another activity and will have less than three months to go in your enlistment when 62 redeploy to RVN, you may qualify.

Many SEABEES in their first enlistment can receive cuts of up to 14 months under a special involuntary separation policy.

If you have served the required 12 months and will not extend your tour or redeploy to Vietnam, have 14 months or less remaining in your enlistment contract, and if you don't plan to reenlist or extend, you can be given an immediate discharge.

Fleet sailors have not been forgotten. All men in non-Group VIII ratings except Hospital Corpsmen may receive up to a 90 day cut if they have served 12 months with the SEABEES and will have less than three months obligated service upon return to homeport.

A request for separation over 90 days early must be approved by the Chief of Naval Personnel.

If you think that you are eligible for any of the separations listed above, be sure and check with someone in the Battalion Personnel Office.

You may be shorter than you think.

MCB 62 SEABEES constructed 26 strongback tent frames, four shower facilities and two watch towers, all in less than eight days. The work was part of a cantonment constructed for the 5th Marines at An Hoa in 1968. The work was done despite a shortage of lumber.



Guess he didn't like our "Recommended by Duncan Hines" sign.

Potpourri

E02 R.M. Yager SEABEE of Month

Equipment Operator Second Class Robert M. Yager has been named as SEABEE of the month for April.

Yager was cited for his "exceptional qualities of leadership and professional ability as Battalion automotive dispatcher" by Commander J.P. Jones.

E02 Yager was presented with a check for \$25.00, a Battalion plaque and three days in-country R&R.

Runners-up in the SEABEE of the month contest were CN R. M. O'Shields, SN F.J. Rivera and BU3 B.E. Walpole.

NEW LTJG

Assistant Charlie Company Commander John R. Blackwell was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade on May 24.

LTJG Blackwell is the officer in charge of the Cam Lo River Bridge being built by the Battalion.

The 24 year old native of Little Rock, Arkansas received his new silver bars from Commander Jones in a brief ceremony held in the skipper's office.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, LTJG Blackwell joined the Navy on January on January 20, 1968.

6 ADVANCED

Advancements became effective this month for six Battalion men.

The men advanced and their new rates are: James M. Jacobs, EOC, Leonard R. Bautista, SD3, Dennis O. Weeks, EOCN, Frank D. McCoy, EACN, Michael C. Purvello, EOCN and Michael Mercer, HM3.

Good Conduct Medals have been awarded to DK2 John M. Welch and BU2 Larry D. Cargill.

This is the first award for both men.

MCB 62's hospital corpsmen last year treated more than 20,000 Vietnamese as part of Medical Civic Action.



DOC POPS - Lieutenant Carl Orfuss, MCB 62's Medical Officer, takes his turn at bat at a recent Battalion softball game. Doctor Orfuss was called out on a pop fly.

Breaux Mides

Softball Season Going Strong at Camp Barnes; Basketball, Horseshoe Contests Share Spotlight

By Al Breaux, PNSN

Sports has pushed its way into the headlines as MCB 62 moves into the summer months of the Battalion's third RVN tour with softball, basketball and horseshoe pitching capturing most of the attention.

A make-shift Battalion softball team has been formed and has been fairly successful in games against other teams stationed at the

Dong Ha Combat Base. Under the leadership of player-coach Gene Gorham of Headquarters Company, the MCB 62 "Green Sox" have chalked up five victories in seven outings.

Strong pitching performances by Chief Whitney Meyers, "Boats" Mitchell and "Doc" Bruce Jennings, all of Headquarters Company, along with solid bat work from Don Haskins of Bravo Company, Ronnie Battistoni and Bernie Harris of Delta Company, Mike Nesbit of Charlie Company, Jim Swank of Alfa along with Gorham and "Doc" Carl Orfuss and Dennis

Bloomington of Headquarters Company has paved the way for the early season triumphs.

Gorham is presently making plans for entering his Green Sox in a softball league at the Combat Base. The league is scheduled to begin action sometime in June.

Expansion, having

Medic Helps on Highway

(Cont'd from Page 1)

The people refused to allow him to examine the woman. He was trying to persuade them when his attention was called to the Army men.

Two of them were uninjured, but one was bleeding from the ears, nose and mouth. After checking for broken bones and pulse rate, Bloomington had the two uninjured soldiers get a stretcher from his ambulance and carry the wounded man to the vehicle. He then went back to the Vietnamese woman.

Finally persuading the people to allow him to attend to the woman, Bloomington saw that she was suffering from a cut in the back of her head.

He carried her to the ambulance and drove both victims back to the Medical Battalion at Quang Tri where they were treated for their injuries.

The first time that HM3 Bloomington aided someone on Route 1 was in early May.

Petty Officer Bloomington was driving along the highway near the same spot where the accident happened. His ambulance was flagged down and he was directed to a young girl suffering with a severe fever.

Bloomington put her into his ambulance and took her to Quang Tri where it was discovered that she had malaria.

Grunts, Moans Common During Karate Classes

If you happen to be passing the chow hall some Monday, Wednesday or Friday evening about 7:00, don't go rushing in to give first aid when you hear screams, grunts and groans coming from inside.

There will have been no accident. The screams won't mean someone is dying. They'll come from students in a karate class conducted by Chief Steelworker Donald LaFlamme.

Chief LaFlamme, who holds a first degree black belt in karate, has been teaching the classes three times a

week since shortly after the Battalion arrived in Camp Barnes.

SWC LaFlamme first began studying karate in Ventura, Calif. while he was stationed at Port Hueneme three years ago. Physical fitness was his main reason for taking up the oriental form of self defense, but he soon developed a keen interest in karate as a sport.

The orientals consider karate to be an art form as well as a sport and they have developed a rigid set of rules and rituals which must be followed by the serious student.

There are many different styles of karate but they are all basically similar. Chief LaFlamme first began studying the Okinawan style but switched to the Korean style, called Tae Kwon Do, which puts greater emphasis on movements of the feet.

A student of karate works his way up to higher degrees of skill through a series of stages called Kups. A beginning student is placed in the tenth Kup and works up to the ninth, eighth, etc.

At the eighth Kup a blue belt is awarded. A green belt is given for the fifth Kup and a brown belt for the second. The next step is a first degree black belt. The student works up to a second degree black belt, third degree, and so forth.

While in Gulfport, Chief LaFlamme continues his studies at a school of karate taught by Mr. Vern Foster, a second degree black belt holder.

Besides the advantages of being skilled in self defense, Chief LaFlamme says karate also provides an excellent means of developing physical fitness, self control and self respect.

There are now 12 MCB 62 men enrolled in Chief LaFlamme's classes. He invites anyone interested to join the group.

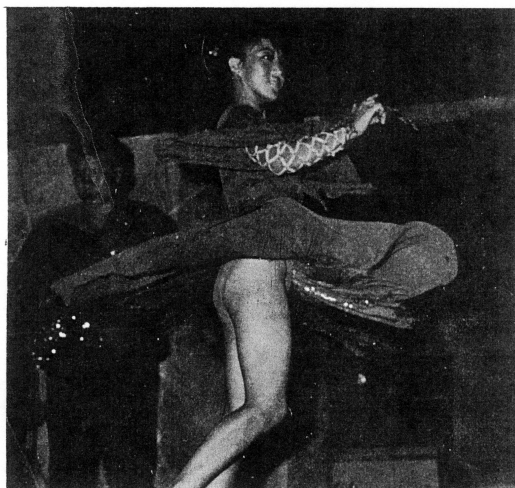
Wives' Club Names Pres.

Mrs. Doreen Vollono has been elected as President of the MCB 62 Wives' Club.

The election was held at a recent Club meeting in Gulfport.

Mrs. Vollono is the wife of BUC Francis Vollono, Charlie Company chief.

Other officers elected at the meeting were Vice President: Maureen Jacobs, wife of EOC J. M. Jacobs, Secretary: Lola Austin, wife of BUC C.M. Austin, and Treasurer: Reba Lish, wife of E02 E.L. Lish.



ROUND SHE GOES - A dancer with the New and New musical group entertains the men of MCB 62 at a show held on May 22.

BEES Join Marines to Dump NVA

Marines in Vietnam have gone into battle in tanks, trucks, tractors, jeeps, bulldozers and now, a giant earth-mover.

Two MCB 62 men, EOCA Tommy J. Giddens and EO1 C.M. Vail, are responsible for this latest innovation in combat transportation.

The two equipment operators were working at 62's Cam Lo Bridge project when "B" Co., 1st Bn., 9th Marines, received a call for help from a reconnaissance team nearby. The recon team was engaged in a fire fight with the enemy and needed reinforcements.

When the Marines grabbed their weapons and began looking for transportation to the battle site, the two SEABEES volunteered their TS-24 earth mover.

The marines scrambled into the scoop of their new assault vehicle and, with the SEABEES driving, off they went.

EOCA Giddens at the controls took the Marines to the edge of the fighting and waited there for their return. The enemy forces withdrew when the reaction force arrived.

EO1 Vail went into the bush with the Marines to assist them in getting back to the earth mover for the return trip.

Staff Sergeant W.W. Miles, leader of the Marine reaction force, said, "It would have taken us at least 35 to 40 minutes to get there on foot, but the SEABEES got us there in five minutes, and they drove us close in toward the fire fight."

Captain K.E. Junkins, commanding officer of "B" Company commented, "The can-do attitude of the SEABEES and the working rapport of the Marines and SEABEES has proven that they are a winning team."



SEW AND SEW - BM2 J.R. Massey hems a uniform in the MCB 62 tailor shop. Tailoring is one of the many jobs handled by the Battalion's Master at Arms force.

Battalion's Master at Arms Force Busy Group; Acting as Policemen, Firemen Part of Their Duty

A fireman, a policeman and an orderly at a military ceremony -- what do they have in common?

In MCB 62, they have everything in common, for their duties are among those assigned to the men of the Battalion Master at Arms force.

The Master at Arms (MAA) force has overall responsibility for appearance, safety and discipline within camp.

As in most SEABEE Battalions, Boatswain's Mates make up most of the MAA force. A Boatswain's Mate on board a ship is in charge of almost all aspects of seamanship, but in 62 the BM's are responsible for keeping everything shipshape.

Working directly under Lieutenant Commander Charles E. Fegley, Battalion Executive Officer, Boatswain's Mate Chief Freddie J. Peele supervises BM1 Arthur L. Mitchell, BM2 James C. Massey and BM3 Richard P. Duncan.

Also working on the MAA force are Seaman Roger L. Tudor, Seaman Keith A. Goodwin and Constructionman Larry Hammer.

One of the main jobs of the MAA's is internal security. The men act as a Battalion "police force" to quell all disturbances and

maintain order in Camp Barnes.

They are responsible for enforcing Navy, Battalion and camp regulations, supervising the pay lines on the first and 15th of each month, maintaining order at Special Services shows, and insuring that all 62 men wear correct uniforms.

In addition, they keep order at all court martial sessions, keep prisoners in custody, muster restricted men, and supervise those who receive extra military instruction for infractions of rules.

During each normal working day, members of the MAA force act as duty watch standers.

Each morning at 6:00 BMC Peele assumes the duties of Junior Officer of the Day. BML Mitchell takes over as Sergeant of the Guard, and BM2 Massey becomes Corporal of the Guard. They hold these duties until the duty section relieves them following muster at 6:45 in the evening.

SN Goodwin and CN Hammer take care of another aspect of internal security, the gate guard watches. They also make periodic patrols of the camp to check for unauthorized persons.

Equally important to the safety of the Battalion is the MAA force role as MCB 62's fire department.

Since 62's arrival at Camp Barnes, the MAA force has been instrumental in the fighting of two fires. The first was at the Bravo Company linemen's shop and the other in a pile of hydromulch near the Material Liaison Office storage yard.

In both cases the MAA's helped to prevent the flames from spreading to adjoining areas.

For their action at

the hydromulch fire, BM1 Mitchell, BM2 Massey and SN Tudor have received letters of ap-

SEABEE Team Assists Vietnamese at Go Cong

By LT R.R. Crowe

The thought of working in an area of Vietnam where there is almost no enemy activity may seem like a dream to many SEABEES, but the men of SEABEE Team 6202 are in just such a place.

The Team is deployed to the Go Cong Province about 40 miles south of Saigon.

The SEABEE Team, composed of one officer, 11 enlisted construction workers and a hospital corpsman, is a specially selected Battalion men who work exclusively on Vietnamese civil assistance jobs.

The Viet Cong apparently consider this a low priority area and, therefore, spare the

people of Go Cong the military action so rampant in surrounding provinces.

The people have cordially received the men of the SEABEE Team. Many of the children doff their hats and bow as Team members drive by.

The people of Go Cong are proud and ingenious. Although salt water intrusion has reduced the land's rice-growing capacity, the people have capitalized on their misfortunes by turning their paddies into evaporating beds. In this way they reclaim salt for sale at Saigon markets.

SEABEE Team 6202's construction specialists are engaged in several projects currently. Each member of the Team runs a separate construction job and trains Vietnamese laborers who work along with him.

Roads to isolated villages are being built by the Team and their trainees.

One outlying village now has a Team-built electrification system complete with generators, concrete poles and wires reaching a hundred homes.

The scarcity of unpolluted water has necessitated the building of large concrete cisterns to store rain water. Team members are teaching the local residents to build these cisterns at strategic locations in the province.

Rice storage warehouses, dormitories for Vietnamese soldiers and bridges for isolated villages are now under construction by SEABEE Team 6202.

Team Commander, Lieutenant Junior Grade John T. Bouey, is hoping to be able to build a 160-foot steel bridge that would enable the people of a fishing village to use the land across a river from their present location.

The village and district chiefs have put a high priority on the job and LTJG Bouey has prepared the tentative plans for the project.

The Team will have to improvise a pile driver from a derelict trailer chassis to do the task, but the whole Team is enthusiastic about the challenge of the job.

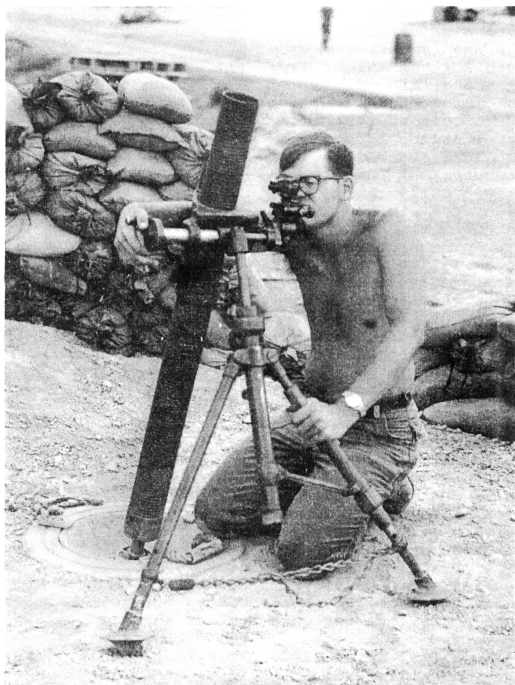
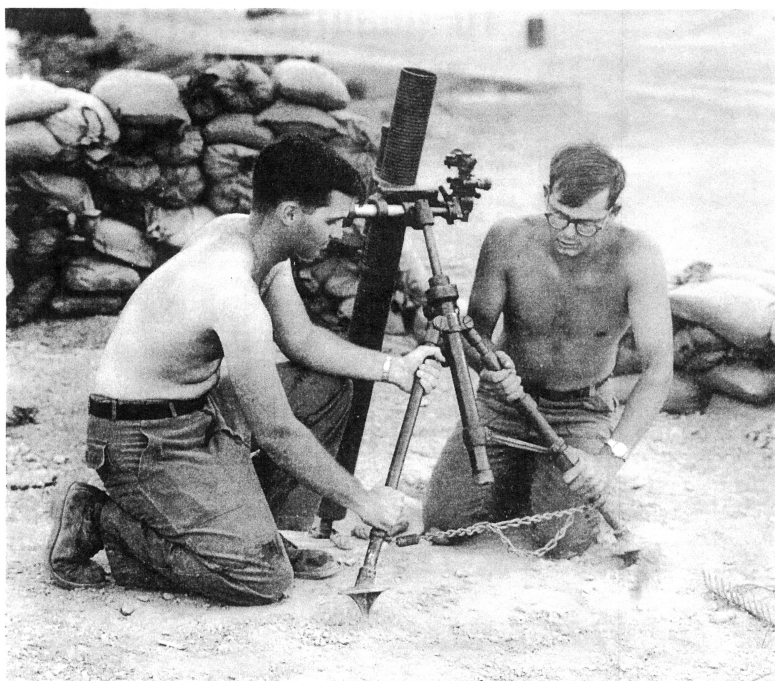
Members of MCB 62's Alfa Company used more than 16,000 tons of crushed rock and 400 tons of asphalt in paving the roads, parking lots and storage areas at the Marines First Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion camp.

The camp was just one of many projects Alfa completed in 1968.



No, No, you idiot. That's U...S...M...C

MORTAR TEAMS, SECURITY DEFEND CAMP



Security for Camp Barnes is provided by the Battalion's security force and by mortar crews from Headquarters Company's Second Platoon.

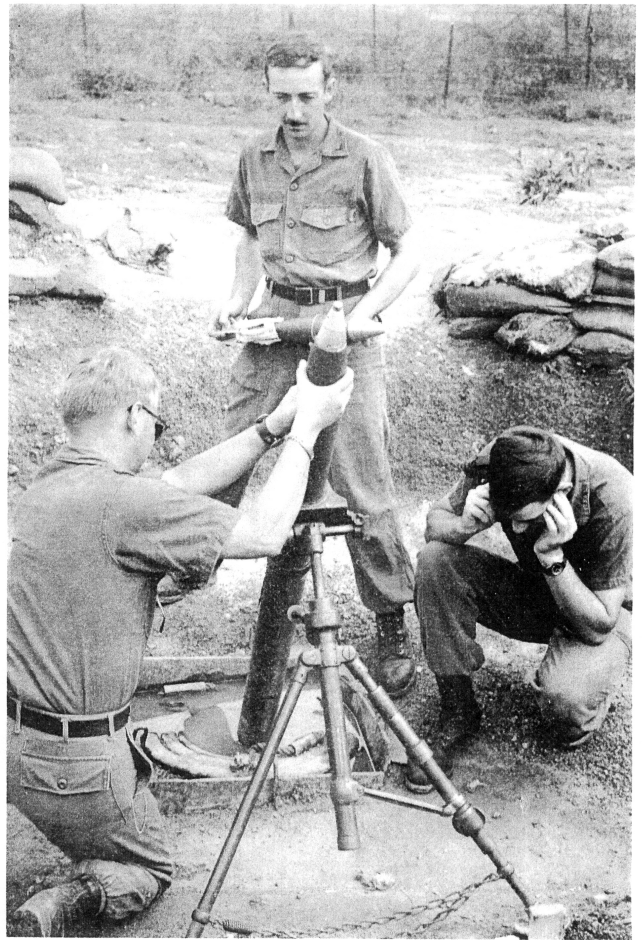
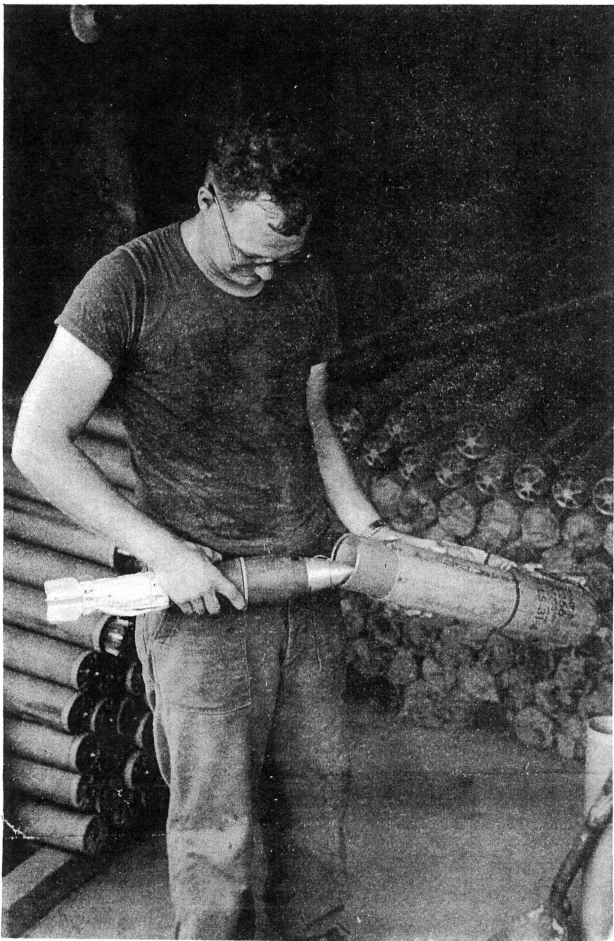
The "H" Company mortar teams carry out fire missions each night in support of other military groups in the Dong Ha Combat Base.

In the pits the teams set up their mortar tube, sight the coordinates relayed to them from Base Security by telephone talkers, break out the rounds and fire.

Out on the lines the security force maintains a constant vigil against enemy attack.



PIT CREWS FIRE ILLUMINATION, EXPLOSIVES



LICK AND PROMISE KEEP ASPHALT PLANT OPERATING

Looking like a Rube Goldberg contraption with its elevators, cogs, tanks, conveyor belts and smoke stacks, MCB 62's asphalt plant is one of the most important pieces of equipment in the Battalion.

The plant is responsible for producing tons of asphalt which 62 uses in modernizing Routes One and Nine, two of the most important lines of communication and supply in the Vietnamese highway system.

Operated by Equipment Operator First Class John Parmeter and his 16-man crew, the plant, capable of producing 30 to 50 tons of asphalt an hour, is now averaging almost 48 tons despite numerous problems with the old equipment.

The process of making asphalt paving is long and complicated.

Two materials are used -- asphalt, a tar-like substance which comes in 55 gallon barrels, and rock which is brought to Dong Ha in barges and trucked into Camp Barnes from a dock on the Cuà Viet River.

The barrels must be broken open with hand axes and the asphalt poured into one of two 1,000 gallon melting tanks to decrease its viscosity. It is then pumped into heated storage tanks where it is kept until ready for use.

The rock used for the asphalt paving material goes from a stockpile into cold feed bins. Then the two grades of rock used, fine and coarse, are mixed and fed out onto a conveyor belt. The belt dumps

the rock into buckets which carry it to the drier where it is heated to 300 degrees Fahrenheit to remove most of the moisture.

The next step is the hot elevator which carries the rock to a series of vibrating screens and a gradation unit which grades the rock through several gates.

The rock next goes onto another conveyor belt leading to an elevator. From there it goes to the pug mill where it is mixed with the asphalt.

The finished product is dumped into waiting trucks, ready for delivery.

The asphalt crew runs into numerous problems, and they usually work out unique ways of solving them.

Despite what it may sound like, the term jury-rigging does not mean tampering with a court of law. It means improvising something for temporary use in an emergency.

For the MCB 62 SEABEES who operate the asphalt plant, jury-rigging is the secret of keeping their equipment running.

The plant is so old that the Alfa Company operators are faced with a break-down of one kind or another daily.

The men frequently must repair the plant in spite of a scarcity of the proper parts and materials. Their rules are simple: if they haven't got it, they make it and if they can't make it, they use something else.

One such make-do part now being used on the plant is an exhaust blower which expels fumes and carbon from the drier ovens. The original blower burned out and a replacement of the same type was not available.

The problem was solved by cannibalizing a

much larger blower from an inoperative plant at Phu Bai, cutting down its size with a half-size engine, and chopping off the smoke stack.

The result may look a bit crude, but it works.

Another setback occurred when the fire brick in the drier became loose, fell out of place and was broken.

The only available fire brick in the area was taken from an unused forge and placed in the drier with regular cement, as no fire-

proof cement was to be found. So far, it has worked and the plant is continuing to operate.

Many similar problems have also been solved with typical SEABEE ingenuity. The buckets in the elevators which carry rock, for example, are hand made. Leaks in the melting tanks have been patched or plugged.

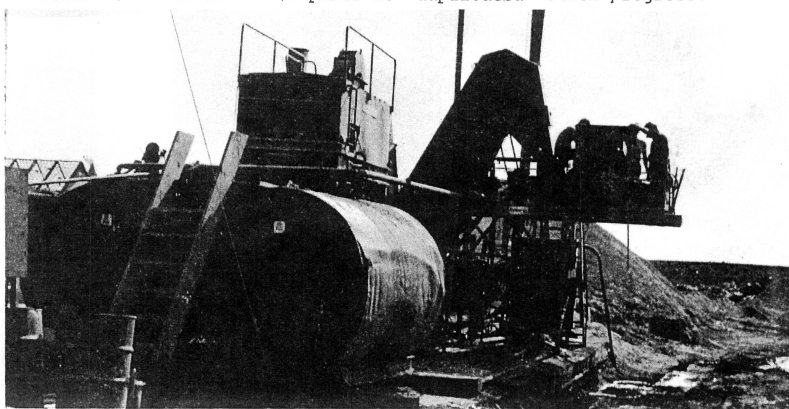
Clutches are wired together, motors are rigged to do jobs for which they were never intended, and the function of rusted or broken parts is duplicated

by home-made gadgets.

Despite all this, EOL Parmeter and his crew keep the plant going to supply asphalt for the huge highway projects the Battalion is working on.

A new plant is scheduled to be built soon at Vinh Dai. That plant will supply all the Battalion's asphalt needs, and the one in Camp Barnes will shut down.

Until that time, however, 62's asphalt crew keeps working to back up the highway construction progress.



ASPHALT PLANT - Alfa Company men work to keep MCB 62's old asphalt plant producing. The plant runs 24 hours a day to produce paving material for the Battalion's highway modernization projects.

SEABEACON Spotlight

Former School Teacher Works on Line Crew; CE3 Barringer Serving with Bravo Company

If you make a mistake while working on a job with Construction Electrician Third Class David C. Barringer, don't be surprised if he makes you write the correct procedure one hundred times on a blackboard.

Before joining the SEABEES, Barringer was a school teacher.

The teacher-turned-electrician was born 25 years ago in Emmetsburg, Iowa, where he lived on

his family's farm until the age of 11.

His family then moved to Ruthven, Iowa. There he attended Consolidated High School and was graduated in 1962.

In 1963 Petty Officer Barringer went to Wayne, Neb., to attend Wayne State University and to work toward a degree in economics.

While in college, he worked full-time in the summers and part-time during the school year as a lineman for a local telephone company.

Receiving his degree in 1966, Barringer did his practice teaching in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Then he joined the Iowa State Education Association and began teaching at the Whiting Community School in Whiting, Iowa. To students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades he taught Economics and Political Science.

Realizing that he would soon be called into the military, Barringer decided to join the SEABEES to make use of his experience as a lineman.

In July of 1968 he enlisted under the Direct Procurement Petty Officer Program and reported to Gulfport for his recruit training.

The construction electrician joined MCB 62

in October of 1968 and was assigned to Bravo Company.

While in homeport, he worked in the Bravo Company office and went through military training.

He deployed with the Battalion's main body to Dong Ha in early April of this year.

Recently Barringer was transferred out of the Bravo Company office, and he is now working with the crew of linemen on the electrical distribution system being installed in the Dong Ha Combat Base by "B" Company.

CE3 Barringer plans to go back to teaching when he finishes his enlistment with the SEABEES. He says he feels that teaching is a "worthwhile and rewarding profession, although it has its problems." He says he is taken with the "challenge and innovation of teaching" and the way that a teacher "keeps on learning, adapting to the needs of his students."

Now Barringer has a chance to combine his SEABEE duties with his teaching interests. He has been selected for special duty in Saigon teaching English to Vietnamese.

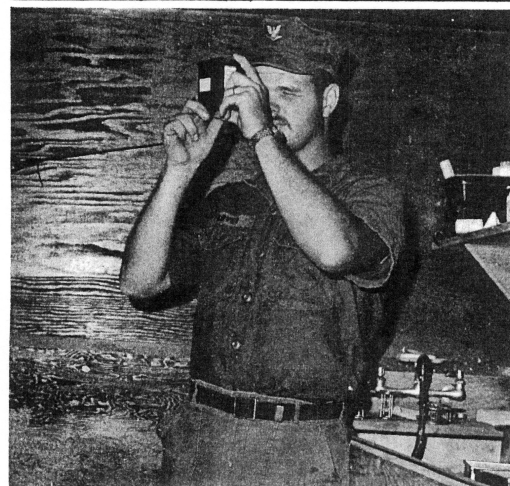
ARVN Engineers Training Here

(Cont'd from Page 1)

any problems that result from language difficulties.

The nine ARVN's first checked into MCB 62 on May 19. Their first stop was the Battalion's Plans and Intelligence conference room where they were given a short talk by Training Officer, Lieutenant Junior grade Jeffrey E. Howard.

The ARVN training program is geared to emphasize personal relations between Americans and Vietnamese as well as to teach construction skills. To further this end a lecture on "Personal Response" will be given to all the men of the Battalion by 62's Chaplain, Lieutenant Richard R. Crowe, and Hospital Corpsman First Class Otto F. Christ, both of whom recently attended a course in this subject in Saigon.



UT3 Ray Garvey tests the water in the MCB 62 Photo Lab. Garvey, who works in the water treatment plant, makes periodic checks of the water in Camp Barnes.