

Volume 10, Issue 2

—"The next Reunion is 20 -23 October 2010 in Branson, MO—

June 2010









Seabees at Iwo Jima; Feb. 19, 1945—09:36; (H-Hour + 36 minutes)

THE INVASION OF IWO JIMA BEGAN FEBRUARY 19, 1945. NCB 133 was attached to the Marine Corps. They wore their uniform and accompanied them during the invasion. The Japanese delivered murderous fire from their guns high on Mount Suribachi, and the entire beach was covered by mortar, artillery and machine-gun fire from the surrounding hills. The Seabees were in a very precarious position. When the Marines captured the first airstrip, the runway was sufficiently repaired by the Seabees to be used by light observation planes. On the same day, the order came to begin rehabilitating the second airstrip.

After the first weeks, work went on day and night on the two airstrips. Until then, Japanese resistance had prevented the men from working after dark. The battalion encountered sniper fire and mortar attack until, and even after, the island was declared secure on March 15. During the 26 day battle for Iwo Jima, 133rd NCB suffered 245 casualties, with 3 officers and 39 enlisted killed in action and 12 officers and 191 enlisted wounded in action. This was the highest number of casualties of any Seabee unit in history. 6000 Marines were killed at Iwo; 1/3rd of all the Marines killed in WW II.









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—From Your President—



Arnie packing a radio and M-14

WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE TO GET READY FOR THE REUNION. Start making some phone calls and make some reservations. Get in contact with some old and new friends have them contact Ron Dougal to ensure their address and phone numbers are correct. Thanks, Ron, for providing outstanding service to the association. Ron Sabbatis has been doing a great job with the Reunion along with Billy Boggs. Keep up the good work. Ken Bingham has been keeping control of the treasury along with the new job of editor of the newsletter. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Ken for all the work he has been providing. Thanks again, Ken.

Memorial Day:

In looking back of what seemed to be yesterday, we had a great bunch of men all dedicated to serving our country. We had various responsibilities along with the pride of being part of NMCB-8. As this Memorial Day has come and gone we remember our fallen comrades. I particularly remember Mike Estok, as he was a personal friend. We were on

various detachments together and Mike died in the rocket attack at Chu Lia with only a day left to go home. We also have many members whom we remember every Memorial Day and the list gets longer. I wanted to remind our members not to forget the group of officers we had and especially our deceased members; Capt Phelps, Capt. O'leary, LT. Steffens, Capt. Gilmore, Lt. Riley and LTJG Laime.

I want to share a letter that I received from Lt. Steffens. I received this letter after I wrote an article in the August 2006 newsletter. I wrote an article about my injury. It was in the August 2006 newsletter. Go on line at our web site NMCB-8 "STAND-ING ON THE EDGE". I was the radio operator (see picture front page) for our little group "Rockfish Delta 3". Rockfish was the battalion call sign, Delta was our company, and 3 was our platoon. Rosy "Rosenswig" picked us, Billy Boggs, was in charge, and we couldn't have a better group.

This letter means a great deal to me. It shows the compassion not only Lt Steffens had, but also all our officers had for each and every one of us. We all had a job to do and the men that led us had a bigger burden of responsibility.

—A Letter To Arnie From Gene [Lt. Steffens] Company Commander "Delta Company" The Big "D"—

Gene died on 2-7-2007



TO "BULLET PROOF" ARNIE, 9-10-2006

SOMETIMES A PERSON IS FORTUNATE ENOUGH to be entrusted with the authority and responsibility of directing the actions of others and being responsible for their well being. This can be either by vote or direct appointment (as in my case) by a decision that was made by our Commanding Officer "Capt Phelps of MCB 8. A trust in which I accepted and took very seriously.

When I assigned one entrusted to me to be in harms way I always hoped that he would not get hurt. When one did get hurt, I felt the pain. I know that Capt. Phelps did also.

I will always be grateful to you, Arnold, for trusting me. I am honored.

I hope and pray that you have made a full recovery.

I will forever be grateful to Capt. Phelps Commanding Officer USN-MCB-8 for granting me the privilege of being your boss while we served our country together in South Viet Nam.

Gods Speed, Gene

I want to thank all our officers and let them be know we will always keep them in our prayers, Thank you LT. Steffens. It was an honor to have served under you.

I am in the middle of updating the web site; we will have more pictures added. There will be some pictures from each cruse book along with various individual photos. Please go to the web and give me some feed back.

Arnie, Pesident NMCB-8 (& 8th NCB)

-Seabees Today-

There are currently about 18,000 Navy Seabees serving worldwide. Two thirds of today's Seabees are reservists. Active duty Seabees serve in eight active Battalions, two Amphibious Construction Battalions (ACB's) and two Underwater Construction Teams (UCT's).

The Seabee reserves are organized into 12 battalions, two support units, and four regiments located throughout the United States.

Seabees continue to play a major role in the Global War on Terrorism. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Seabees repaired runway facilities at Camp Rhino and Kandahar in Afghanistan. Twenty-six Seabee units deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 15 Seabees were killed. The construction of multiple 20-acre aircraft-parking aprons, munitions storage areas, a 48,000-square-foot concrete pad, bridges, a 1,200-person camp and repaired various roads have been proven invaluable to coalition forces



—True Facts on Vietnam—

by

Capt. Marshal Hanson, U.S.N.R (Ret.) Capt. Scott Beaton, Statistical Source Vietnam War Facts: Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled



In the last census nearly 14 million Americans claimed they served in Vietnam. Four out of five are lying. I wonder why.

Vietnam Facts vs Fiction

Por over 30 years I...Like many Vietnam veterans....seldom spoke of Vietnam, except with other veterans, when training soldiers, and in public speeches. These past five years I have joined the hundreds of thousands who believe it is high time the truth be told about the Vietnam War and the people who served there. It's time the American people learn that the United States military did not lose the War, and that a surprisingly high number of people who claim to have served there, in fact, DID NOT. As Americans, support the men and women involved in the War on Terrorism, the mainstream media are once again working tirelessly to undermine their efforts and force a psychological loss or stalemate for the United States .

We cannot stand by and let the media do to today's warriors what they did to us 35 years ago. Below are some assembled facts most readers will find interesting. It isn't a long read, but it will....I guarantee....teach you some things you did not know about the Vietnam War and those who served, fought, or died there. Please share it with those with whom you communicate.

9,087,000 (Million) military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975. 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation. 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War

- 1. The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the >509th Radio Research Station. Davis station in Saigon was named for him.
- 2. 58,148 were killed in Vietnam.
- 3. 75,000 were severely disabled.
- 4. 23,214 were 100% disabled.



"True Facts on Vietnam was forworded by Rick Clark". More of the facts will continue in the next Newsletters.

Vietnam Era Seabees wants you! Join-up today!



http://www.vietnam-era-seabees.org/

<u>REMEMBER</u>; Most Lowe's and Home Depots gives 10% off of purchase price upon proof of veteran/service at check-out.

—Our Website—

Are you aware that your Association has a web site? Posted on the web site are all of the newsletters that have ever been published (21 in number). Deployment completion reports, and pictures are also included. In addition, there is a list of all Association members and their states of residence. Addresses and phone numbers are omitted for privacy reasons.

So navigate the site and see what you can find. The web address is: http://www.nmcb8.com. See you on line!

"THERE IS NO PROBLEM THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY THE USE OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES."

— ABOUT DUES—

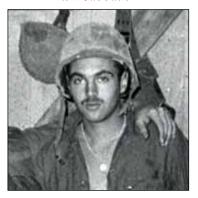
Please note the mailing address space of your newsletter. Next to your name, you will see a date (month & year) denoting when your membership should have been renewed. The word "LIFE" next to your name denotes a life member and no renewal of membership is necessary. If your membership has expired but you would like to renew it in order to continue receiving the newsletter and keep up on the latest reunion information and other news, please submit payment by check to NMCB-8 ASSOCIATION. Send checks to Ken Bingham 1773 Tamarin Ave, Ventura, CA 93003.

-Our Reunion is Getting Close-

Reunion

20-23rd October 2010 in Branson, MO

Ron Sabbatis



Reunion Update

As of the end of May, we have 59 confirmed reservations. I would like to encourage everyone to at least make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. You can always cancel. Monday, September 20, 2010 is the cut-off date for our specified group rate. I'd also like to mention that Saturday October 23 is the night of our banquet; several people with confirmed reservations have a check out date of October 23. So please check your timing. Since we are so close to reunion time, I'd like to bring up a few points of interest. With over eighty shows to chose from in the Branson area we have decided not to do a large group activity, but leave it up the each person to choose the shows they would prefer. Two great web sites (www.explorebranson.com) and(www.bransontourismcenter. com) have all the shows listed throughout the year by seasons. As well as listing all shows, there is a 2010 Fall Calendar with a plethora of other activities to participate in. They

may also be reached by calling (1-800-296-0463) and they will be happy to mail you more information than you really want!

When you make a choice of a show (or shows), please call the concierge desk at the Lodge of the Ozarks instead of booking on line. Ask for Rose or Holly 1-417-334-7535. They will help make all show reservations and have the tickets waiting for you. There is usually a savings on groups of 10 or more.

We hope to see you in Branson.

Ron Sabbatis

—P.S. Don't Forget To Send Your Old CB Photos To Rick Reese 5363 Via Apolina, Yorba Linda Ca 92886—

Lodge of the Ozarks Dinner Buffet Menu

Appetizers With No host Bar

Salads Fresh Salad Bar Tossed Green Salad with dressing choices Fresh Seasonal Sliced Fruit

Entrees Slow Roasted Beef with Glaze Italian Baked Chicken Steamed Tilapia with Herb Butter

Sides Roasted Red Potatoes Seasoned Green Beans Honey Glazed Carrots

Hot rolls with Butter Chef's Assortment of Desserts Coffee/Tea/Water Let us know of any special dietary needs you may have

\$33 per Dinner (Includes Sales Tax and Gratuity)



From Member James L. Buckley CE1

In the mid-fifties a group was made up from "8", called Detachment Fox, to be TAD to Bermuda for miscellaneous duties, while the battalion bulk was assigned a few months to Argentia. Since most of Fox's group were from D Company, my outfit, I knew the majority of the members - and made some of the best friendships ever, like Leon Jenkins, Heinz Hilmer, John Wall (hl?), Dick Stubblebine, Jack Nowak, "Red" Flannery, Frank Coffey. All BU's, UT's, CE's. My CE gang performed various assignments, mostly rewiring the chow hall, running new streetlight cable, ditching (in coral!) for a new seismograph network. There were about 70 personnel there, commanded by (then) LT Luck.

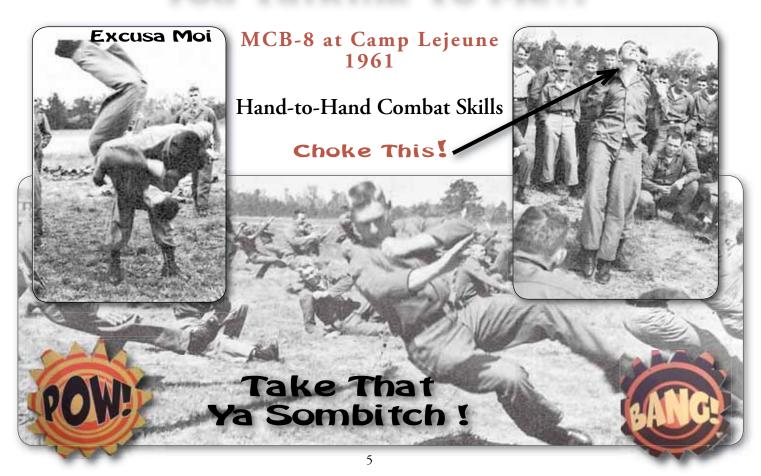
Evidently this was a small Navy base during WW2 for patrol exercises, unused for a few years (behind the barracks was a seaplane ramp; we had our own (concrete!) beach - no sand).

We had a real "thrill" next: our duties over after six months, we boarded "Old Reliable" USS LST 880 at a Hamilton pier (she delivered us there, for a fourth trip). As the chow line encircled the wheelhouse, we could overhear through an open port hole a reply the LT skipper was having with Norfolk concerning an impending cross-course hurricane one day out; embarking decision was the CO's. He decided to get underway, promptly. Seas gradually roughened, and for chow we had unsalted crackers - supposed to lessen seasickness. That night, first of what is normally a three-day voyage, the storm was upon us. Couldn't even stay in our Army cots - went topside, flattened out on the stomach, and strapped my web belt to a chain link. The ship's QM "joked" when he found out the East was on the port side, as, during the night. heaving articles in the wheelhouse destroyed the binnacle - no compass heading., and no other ships for a RDF/radio relative bearings. The poor ole' ship had gotten turned around in the middle of the storm. To correct the order was given the heave the two D-8's overboard: they were factory-new, chained within the bow's 40mm gun tubs, but "letting go "those 50 tons corrected for inaccurate steerage. As it was, the ocean swells were very high, with deep troughs, and one could see the ship's bottom from side-to-side, with the stern and bow suspended, props mostly out of the water - and, a main deck weld/seam beginning to rupture! Sure not a Celebrity Cruise Line vacation trip.

Supposed to take three days/nights to Newport; took us five. All of us were topside as she limped into Newport Bay, and were sure glad to see/hear a Navy Band playing marches for us. I think the people cheering was what I recall the most.

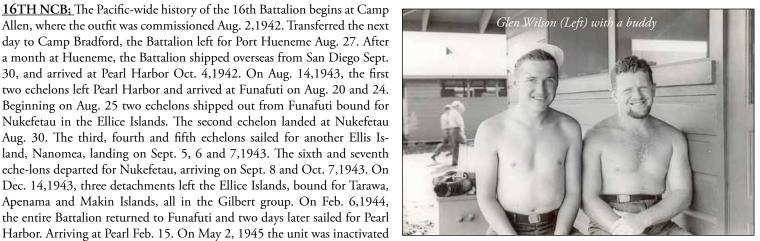
All MCB8 was one great outfit - always came in under project budget, and on time. Esprit de Corps that was unbeatable!!

You Talking To Me?!

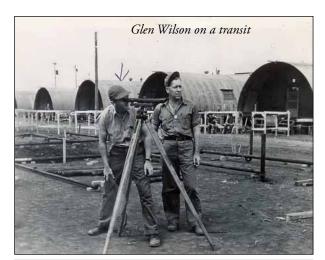


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16TH NCB; The Pacific-wide history of the 16th Battalion begins at Camp Allen, where the outfit was commissioned Aug. 2,1942. Transferred the next day to Camp Bradford, the Battalion left for Port Hueneme Aug. 27. After a month at Hueneme, the Battalion shipped overseas from San Diego Sept. 30, and arrived at Pearl Harbor Oct. 4,1942. On Aug. 14,1943, the first two echelons left Pearl Harbor and arrived at Funafuti on Aug. 20 and 24. Beginning on Aug. 25 two echelons shipped out from Funafuti bound for Nukefetau in the Ellice Islands. The second echelon landed at Nukefetau Aug. 30. The third, fourth and fifth echelons sailed for another Ellis Island, Nanomea, landing on Sept. 5, 6 and 7,1943. The sixth and seventh











Wind driven Washing Machine in camp

—NO PRISONERS DURING CHOW!—

Notes from 8th NCB at Iwo Jima 1944

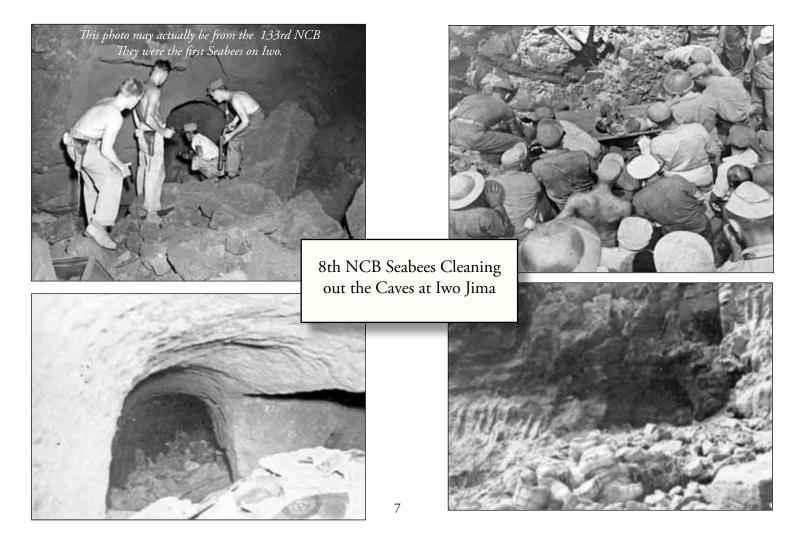
It is one of the incongruities of war that in the midst of the serious business of disposing of the enemy, there occur incidents stranger than fiction.

Before bringing in the main body of the Battalion, an effort was made to eliminate as many as possible of the Japs hiding in the cave systems which honeycombed the new area. The grading crew opened many of these caves while leveling the area. The demolition crews discovered and blasted shut many more, but at the time of the move there were still many undetected. Some of the Japs, adept at stealing food and water, managed to live on, despite the effective work of the night perimeter guard in placing many of them in the "good" [shot dead] category.

One morning at 0600, while the men lined up for breakfast and after the guard had been secured, two shaggy Nips appeared just outside the camp fence, waving a white flag and following strict surrender procedures. Finding themselves unnoticed, and probably catching the scent of powdered eggs and spam from the chow hall, they called attention to themselves by waving their arms vigorously and yelling. The chow-bound Bees took one quick look at the visitors and continued on their slow way in line. Finally the last Seabee in line waved them in with his mess kit and lifted the barbed wire barricade so they could crawl under. Soon afterward a guard appeared and took them into custody.

They later proved very valuable in pointing out the entrance to a large, concealed cave. The efforts of the guards to effect a surrender of the remaining occupants proved effective, and when the morning's work was done, our guards had sixteen more Japs that could cause us no more worry.

Another time, several Japs just taken from a cave were offered cigarettes. The psychology that prompts a man to shoot at another one minute and offer him cigarettes the next has never been explained, but it happens often. Occasionally some brands make an appearance in a forward area that are not too well thought of, and this particular package was in that group. One of the Japs looked disdainfully at the offered package, reached inside his jacket, and. produced a brand new pack of a choice brand. However, he was not entirely independent, for after extracting a cigarette for himself and returning the pack to his pocket, he leaned forward for a light.



—OUR NEW SEABEE MUSEUM AT PORT HUENEME—

EACH YEAR THE BOARD, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF WORK TIRELESSLY to preserve the history of the CEC and Seabees. To continue our work in the CEC/ Seabee community, we need your support. Please consider making an annual donation today. On behalf of the CEC/ Seabee Historical Foundation, thank you for your support. Sincerely,

Captain Bill Hilderbrand, CEC, USN (Ret.) CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation President

Go on-line and see it: http://www.camarillositecameras.com/RQC/Seabee/

		Donor Pledg	e Card				
(Name/s)			, hereby pledge (full amount) \$				
support of	the US Navy CE	C/Seabee Museum project at Port Hueneme,	CA. This pl	ledge will	be retired in (circ	ele one) 1 2 3 4 5 years	
The first	payment is e	enclosed, or will be forwarded on or	about (mon	th/day)_		/2010. In the case of	
multiple	vear pledges, this	date becomes the anniversary for future	aumante L	Dequest for	e futura payman	t will be cont at least 2	
munipic-	tem breekest mis	dute occomes the anniversary for future	ayments. r	reducst to	a ruture paymen	t will be sent at least 5	
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days ahea		rsary date.		/	1 1 1 1 1 1))	
days ahea	d of each annive	rsary date. Date:		J_	Phone: (

Customized bricks are also available for \$125.00. A name of your choice will be molded into the brick and displayed at the new museum ("Forever").

Buy A BRI

For ordering a memorial brick, go on-line to: http://www.seabeehf.org/museum/index.htm

-19 year old "Instant Petty Officer" (IPO), Davisville RI 1966-

During My short stay at Davisville/Quonset Point, a few young Air Force men saluted me while near the Naval Exchange. My 3rd class crow made them impulsively react as if I were a Bird Colonel. I asked a senoir P.O. what I should do. He said salute back and say—*CARRY ON, SON* and keep walking—and I did. *Ken Bingham*

—Social Security News—

NOTE: Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 and December 31, 2001 and planning for retirement.

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit will be credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon retirement. You must take your DD-214 to a Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it.

For service from 1978 through 2001. For every \$300 in active duty basic pay you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details at www.ssa. gov/retire2/military.htm.

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is not just for retirees, but for anyone who served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001. But this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it.



Ron Wunderlich (EO2) Remembers 1968-69 RVN

Part Two



A FTER THE AN HOI DETACHMENT, I went to bridge 5 on the north side of Hue. I was in charge of the cranes. We unloaded aggregate from barges for road bed and the two asphalt plants. Lt. Shroeder and Chief Starret were in charge of the asphalt making and laying on Route One north.

Clyde Groshong (Clydie poo poo, his nick name) was one of the crane operators. Clyde was a huge man from Oregon he was one of the strongest people I have ever seen. I should also mention that Clyde liked his whiskey.

One night we had a red alert and manned the lines. Clyde and I shared the same fox hole, which was shallow. I was sitting on a row of sand bags with my feet in the hole. Clyde had his rear in the hole with his legs hanging over the front and his elbows on the sandbags at the rear. Lt Shroeder and Chief Starret came by looked down at us and said "Wunderlich and Groshong do you honestly believe you can defend this position?" Before I could say anything Clyde rolled his head back and

looked up at the Lt. and Chief and said "Sir you put a quart of whiskey here and no (expletive) will take this position. I tried to hold my laughter.

As usual for Clyde, this did not amuse the Lieutenant. Clyde got extra duty filling sand bags after supper. A couple of weeks after Clydes extra duty, security went to get some sand bags. As they were throwing them on the truck they noticed they were not very heavy. Upon future inspection they saw the bags were filled with empty beer cans. Did I mention Clyde also liked his beer.

I don't want anyone to think that Clyde was the only one that drank. He had a lot of company me included.

Speaking of drinking does anybody remember the monsoons of 1968 in Hue? One night coming back from the club I heard someone hollering HELP HELP. I saw Gup Meyers in one of the trenches, that was full of water, I went over and offered Gup a hand to pull him out. When he got my hand, he pulled me into the water. I can't remember how many people were pulled into the trench that night.

1944—CBMU 629 In The Thick Of The Last Battle For Germany

Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 629 was formed in November 1944 when 200 men were detached from NCB 114 in Le Havre, France and went in effect when the 25th Naval Construction Regiment was dissolved.

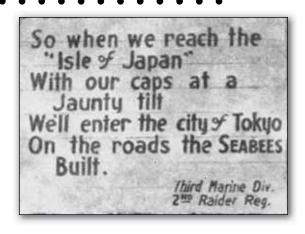
CMU 629 was with the allied armies as they smashed into Germany and the low countries. These Seabees, split into 4 groups, had an important part in the crossing of the Rhine river, including the surge into the Remagen bridgehead.

One detachment was in the thick of the vicious battle at Aachen. The Seabees were in the city at the height of the German winter counter offensive. Three of the four detachments assigned to the Rhine operation left le Havre, France in November, 1944. The fourth took off from Orly Field, near Paris, on March 6, 1945.

CBMU 629 was inactivated 24 July 1945. (Researched by Pete Magoon)



WW II Seabee Reminders





-Henry B. Hamilton Jr. E-5 Equipment Operator-MCB-8



S AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR IN VIETNAM, Henry traveled to many parts of Vietnam—many of them remote. Henry is alive and Awell and hails from Chino Hills, Calif. Thank you, Henry!







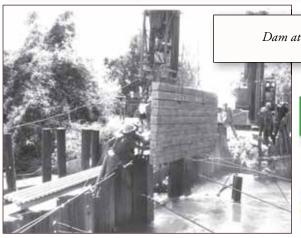
Equipment Operator 2nd Class Henry Hamilton Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hamilton Sr. of Inglewood, has completed his third tour of duty in Vietnam with the Navy Seabees. He will be returning to the United States for discharge after completing 31/2 years in the U.S. Navy. He is a graduate of Inglewood High

M. S. Manal Schools Constituction Special Award Ronor Certificate This Certifies That Henry B. Hamilton, Jr., EONCA, USN has completed, with honor, the 12 week Equipment Operator

San Diego Boot—1966 Port. Huen. EO School 1967 Chu Lai RVN, 1967 Phu Bai RVN 1968 Danang RVN 1969 Discharged 1969



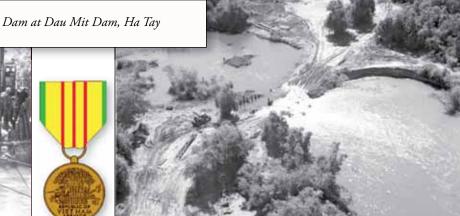




maintaining a grade of 90 percent.

Mar. 10, 1967





Seabee Memorial, Washington, D.C.





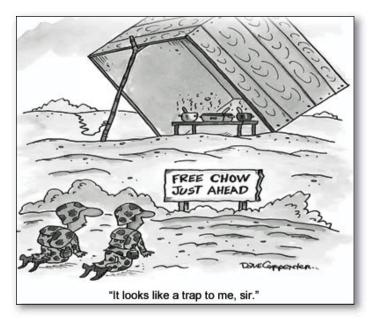
Sculptor - Felix de Weldon

IN MEMORIAM

In Remembrance Of Those Who Served With Us

In 1968, MY HUSBAND, CHIEF MACHINERY REPAIRMAN THOMAS R. CODE, was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eight in DaNang, Vietnam. He was not a SeeBee but was assigned from the regular Navy to serve with the SeeBee's. He died in 1972 while on active duty as a result of cancer which was caused from his exposure to Agent Orange while serving with the Seabee's in Vietnam





FROM HANK CAMPBELL: 148 Snow Hill Road Dublin NH 03444 If possible I would like to find out any information about South Pole Station. I was involved in Operation Deep Freeze in 63 - 64 I was also in Greece building the communication station with MCB 8. I have pictures of same.

NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL INCLUDE:

- Gary Thede's submittal about Operation Overlord—Normandy, June 6th, 1944.
- Rick Clark's Vietnam Story (TET 1968)



NMCB-8 Seabees' Association 1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

To:



Note: The above numbers denote your membership dues status (Month–Year). (Due date)

Example 1-10 = Due on Jan. 2010

NMCB-8 Seabees' Association

1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

President ------ Arnie Cicerone
Treasurer ------ Ken Bingham

Newsletter Editors Ken Bingham/ Arnie Cicerone/ Rick Clark/Harry Davis

RECRUITING Ron Dougal (9 Years)

Past Presidents Gorden Gilmore, Ken Kerr, Rick Reese

Previous Editor Capt. Harry Davis (9 years)



-NMCB-8 Association Roster Update-

Name:	 	
Address: ———	 	
Phone & E-mail: _		



The mailing list and roster for the NMCB-8 Association needs to be continually updated. Only through a current roster can we ensure your receipt of the newsletter and information of current and future reunions. If you have had a change of address within the past year, you can update this information by filling out the above form. Please include your e-mail address, if you have one. Detach the form at the dotted line and return to:

Ken Bingham, 1773 Tamarin Ave., Ventura Ca. 93003. If you have e-mail and want to make your update electronically, please do so. Send updates by e-mail to; <u>jorden2323@msn.com.</u>

Thanks for your support!