

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

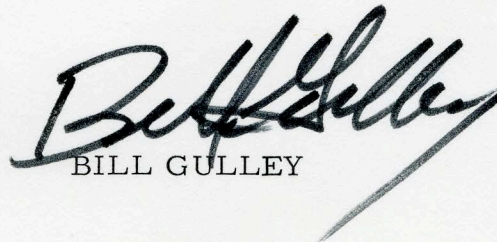
November 18, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR

COLONEL MURPHY

The attached is self-explanatory.

The December 1 suspense date is very hard and every attempt should be made to have this information back at the White House by that date.



BILL GULLEY

WH 20960

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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November 17, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRIG. GENERAL JAMES D. HUGHES
Military Assistant to the President

FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD

SUBJECT: Platoon No. 17 at Quonset Point

You will recall that some time ago you forwarded to me voluminous lists of persons who served with the President in the various organizations to which he was assigned during World War II. That material was a great help to me in completing a project I had been asked to handle -- and the President wanted me to thank you for that particular contribution.

Now, once again, he is mulling over "reunion" ideas, and I will need to know from you if it is possible for the Navy Department to determine from the list of names of those who were in the President's Quonset Point orientation course (attached hereto) which of them were assigned to his platoon -- Platoon No. 17. If the Navy can tackle and complete this project in the next couple of weeks -- preferably by December 1st -- I will be able to follow through with one of the two principal plans being considered. If, on the other hand, it is an unreasonable request, I will concentrate on the remaining reunion plan which involves primarily the bringing together of SCAT people who were on Bougainville and Green Island ... with only a smattering of Quonset pals included.

Many thanks.

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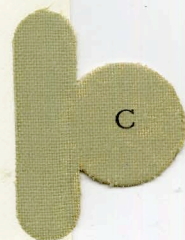
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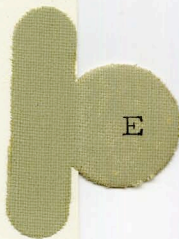
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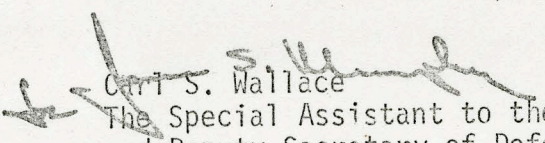
29 NOV 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR Brigadier General James D. Hughes, USAF
Military Assistant to the President
The White House

The list of individuals from the President's orientation course was compiled from a muster roll from the School of Indoctrination which was located in the Navy Archives. The addresses were then procured from each individual's service jacket in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the National Personnel Records Center, St Louis, Missouri.

The muster list was again drawn from the Archives, and there was no breakdown by or indication of platoons on the list. The service jackets of ten individuals from the list, including the President, were thoroughly reviewed and no record of the platoon numbers from the School of Indoctrination could be found. Thus, regrettably, it is not possible to provide Mr. Butterfield with the information which he desires.

Very Respectfully,


Carl S. Wallace

The Special Assistant to the Secretary
and Deputy Secretary of Defense

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THE WHITE HOUSE
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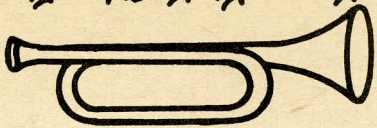
Instr De Sales Harrison

Student Rouse (in R.S.)

Max Vicky sent in your name. He claims you have a suit case full of prints. If so, maybe we could use some.

THE NEW TOM-TOOTER

MAG



25

R. J. Bizzare

See P. 4

NO. 14

PUBLISHED FOR AND BY OVERSEAS VETERANS OF MARINE AIR GROUP 25

MARCH 15, 1959

THE DIN AN' SMOKE:

The late great Robert Service (whom you may know best as author of *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*) poses an interesting question in the lines below—taken from his poem, *The Revelation*. Our editorial staff, hip deep, as always, in problems of rehabilitation of sundry species of raggedyass Marine birdmen, would be interested in your responses thereto:

"The same old sprint in the morning, boys, to the same old din and smur;

Chained all day to the same old desk, down in the same old rut;
Posting the same old greasy books, catching the same old train:
Oh, how will I manage to stick it all, if I ever get back again?"

For some of us smirk in a chiffon shop, and some of us teach in a school;

Some of us help with the seat of our pants to polish an office stool;

The merit of somebody's soap or jam some of us seek to explain,
But all of us wonder what we'll do when we have to go home again."

After fourteen years this problem remains, for some, as yet unresolved. At least seven members of the MAG, we're told, stopped off between trains in Chicago while heading home on leave during 1944 and haven't been heard from since. What a layover *that* turned out to be! Some have solved the rehabilitation problem by staying in the Corps; a few remained in the Sopac—like ex-PX Officer Lt. O'Connor, who reportedly runs the Pink Stucco Shopping Plaza outside of Noumea. It's also rumored that the much publicized Abominable Snowman, who was recently photographed in the wilds of Northern Australia, bears a strange resemblance to one MT/Sgt. Al Pointer who, struck by a sudden attack of amnesia one night in Sydney, disappeared into the darkened lounge of the Carleton Hotel and was never heard from again. But these few men of vision, men who think for themselves, are rare exceptions. The vast majority, while probably still living within the continental limits of the U.S. have scattered to the four winds, lost to our files forever. The remainder, those who read these lines, are the hard core which comprises our present organization—the farmers, lawyers, pickle packers, etc., towards whom all our efforts are directed, with one primary and all-pervading purpose—to convince you to put all this work and worry aside next Labor Day for a grand and glorious weekend reunion in our nation's capital. More on that later.

THE STATE OF THE OUTFIT:

Since this winter issue is usually the one wherein we have to beat the bushes in search of news, we flushed out a few statistics for you. Item: Our roster contains about 560 members for which we think we have correct addresses. Of these, we normally hear from about 200. The others either have broken arms, are illiterate ("Whattdya mean, illiterate," says Rockyczynski, "my parents were married in City Hall!"), or retarded, or have just

plumb gone to seed, or somethin'. The bank balance at the moment stands at \$509.81, a tribute to your generosity, you noble 200! The geographical center of our membership body is still Youngstown, Ohio—home of Leroy Seaborn, some mighty big sheet steel mills, and the biggest batch of "apple-knockers" this side of Covington, Ky. Our biggest need, as an organization is the usual—communication from you, and new names to make up for the stragglers who fall by the wayside. Statistically speaking only a relatively small quota of our chaps have made any headlines. Dick Nixon, one of the SCAT boys, has made Veep and stands a good chance for the top job next year. John Makan (according to Arnold Gilman, ex-Pilot in 152) was a Pilot in 253 and is now National Commander of the VFW. Beyond these, and a few dozen highly-paid (semi-rich) airline pilots, guess the rest are doomed to an eternal oblivion of sorts. 'Course we're really kiddin'. Wish we had space to tick off the marks that some of you guys have made in a variety of careers, military and civil, or both, over the last decade.

MORE ABOUT THE DIRECTORY:

This is going to be an expensive venture, so it should be done right, huh? It's going to have to last too, once published. Thus, we wish to make it the most complete effort possible. Fact is, with the response received so far from 3 mailings in which we sent out the 3x5 info cards to be filled in and returned, the Directory would hardly be worth the effort with the present roster. *We have received only about 260 cards to date.* So, in spite of our threat that the last request was our final one, we're making one more stab: with this issue we're sending along a self-addressed stamped postcard to those who have not forwarded the 3x5. All you need do is fill it in and drop in the mail. This will delay your receipt of the new Directory a few more months, but, *se la vie*, wot? Why not do it *now*, before you misplace it? Even if we don't receive any of these cards back, we'll proceed with the printing and have the Directory in your hands by early summer.

FROM THE WEST COAST:

Lee Sparrow, I. Schneider, Bob Morris and others out there have really responded to the suggestion made at Chi last year urging a reunion on the coast next Labor Day weekend. Lee is the focal point and you can reach him at 4048 Laguna Way, Palo Alto, Calif. Tentative reservations have been made for the Marine Club in Frisco. Remember, however, this is dependent on the will of the majority. Your key people tell us that San Diego and Las Vegas have also been suggested. The choice will be the spot that promises the best turnout. So get on the ball and contact either Lee Sparrow at the above address or I. Schneider at 1220 S. Chester Ave., Compton, Calif. Earl Pierce (452 Whitfield Ave., Fremont, Calif.) is also pulling an oar. Some of you may be interested to know, incidentally, that Sparrow will be east in May or June to attend Senior Reserve Global Strategy potlatch at Newport, R. I. and MCROA convention in Washington. Col Harry Van Liew (patron saint of birdmen everywhere) and Col. John Burkhardt will be at Newport too.

Area merchants report a heavy run on long-handled shovels already, we hear, and the local constabulary (as Olizewski used to say) is bracing itself . . . Seriously though, wherever you are, if you favor the idea of a west coast reunion, now is your chance to let these chaps out there know it. They'll need all the help and support they can get. Will you drop a line tonite? Bob Morris, by the way, is at 3565 Washington St., San Francisco. We'll have much more news in our next issue (early summer) on how the details are shaping up (such as the availability of Dave Beck as guest speaker, etc., etc.) so don't go 'way.

FEED-BACK:

The question "What can I do to help (keep the old gang together)?" is often asked by you folks. The best answer is still "Let's hear from you!" Suggestions, criticisms, etc., are welcomed, yea, even urged . . . We're greatly indebted to the guys who have sent us photos like the one by John Morrow, shown herein of a bunch of the boys on Bougainville. Sorry we don't know the date. The plane takeoff is a Defense Dept. pic. If you've got any usable shots in the old seabag send 'em along to Ye Ed, Bob Biggane, 91 Highland Dr., Williamsville, N. Y. . . . Morrow, incidentally plugs Cincinnati for a reunion. Damn good beer town, he sez . . . John Wetzel (805 Buena Tierra Dr., Woodland, Calif.) asks if we have a roster of Hq. Sqn. Sorry, no . . . John A. Myers, Jr., of 1302 E. Oxford St., Philly, had a visit from Sgt. Frank Green (R.F.D. 3, Pleasant Hill, Mo.) and asks for address of T/Sgt. Ernie Newman of 153 which we don't have, nor those of Homer Stokes or Findiesen requested by F. R. Potter (136 Laurel Pl., New Kensington, Pa.) . . . Marv Burk sent us some fine photos showing Bill Monroe (Texas) Red Bean and others. Will run next time and return, Marv. No Jack Day or Townsend in our file, just a Paul Day . . .

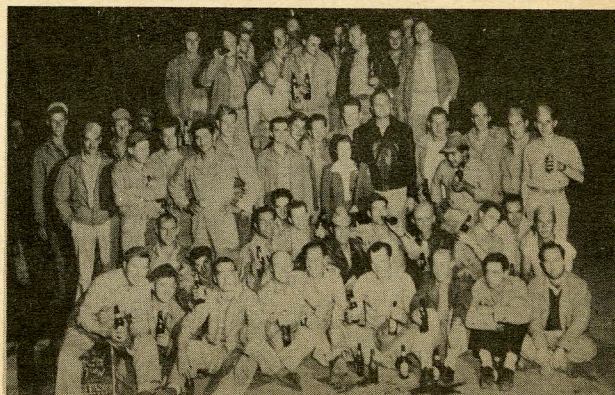
A whole feature could be (has been, in fact) written on the story of *Sunshine Hill*, home of ex-SoPac Mail Officer Jeter E. Whigham and Mrs. W. They've "found the pot of gold at the ends of a whole galaxy of rainbows" in J. E.'s words. The supreme satisfaction in life, lies, they discovered, in giving everything of themselves to others. In this case, to tiny unfortunate infants; abandoned, starving—even literally thrown away at birth; babies lost and alone. They are now caring for their seventh such tiny person. Their biggest heartbreak: not being able to keep them all (the authorities limit their adoption quota). Biggest joy: "When they go, they leave something we never would have had—we get our reward in the house with the little people . . ." The Whighams shun praise for this, just feel a little quiet pride and humility. The story was run in the Tampa, Fla. Times and in Postal Service News. J. E. tells us that he appreciates seeing the names of all you guys who bring fond memories of SCAT . . .

Marge Rahn writes of a Joe McNerny who was in Chi last fall waiting for the reunion and missed it 'cause he thought it was the following week. Joe, get the word, willya! It's always started on the Friday of Labor Day weekend . . . Bob Niehoff and Marv Hook had a brief but stimulating get-together in Milwaukee at World Series Time . . . Henry Duffet writes from Daytona and says he got a boot from the movie "Don't Go Near the Water." The officers building their own Club reminds him of the tennis court that they built near the Officers Club at Tontoota. A lot of eager-beaver effort was furnished by the juniors, and the know-how by two enlisted ex-construction men who supervised. Everybody's morale got a boost—especially the gooks who inherited the place and who now spend their days smashing tennis balls hither and yon. The only losers in the deal, he notes, are the taxpayers who, as always, picked up the tab for

the cement . . . Speaking of movies, if you want to see the spittin' image of Mike Malone in action, get a load of Orson Welles in "The Long Hot Summer" . . . You fellows who are doing the west coast organizing, don't forget Dick Berry (929 Olive, Vista, Calif.) He's on the Highway Patrol and saw service in Hq. Sqn. in post-Stevenson days . . . Darrell Broker (3435 Vienna St., San Diego) sends us Gene Leonard's address—603 Broadway, Chula Vista—he was crew chief on the Blue Goose.

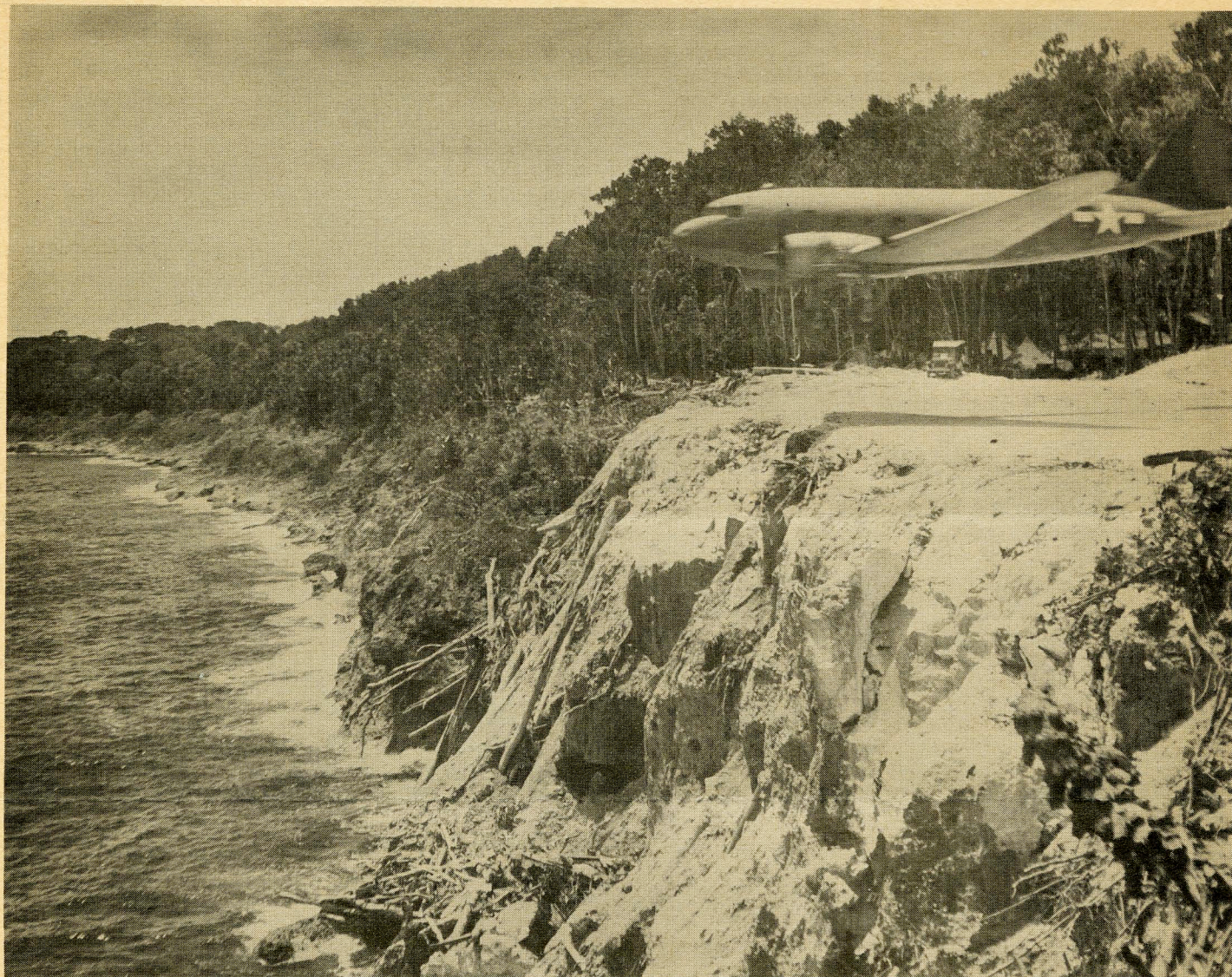
The mail sometimes brings us the sad news of some who have passed away. R. G. Rees tells us Lt. Col. Stuart Kilgour was killed in a PBY which crashed while dropping chemicals on a California forest fire . . . C. W. O. Mike Davidovic passed away on Sept. 20, 1958 . . . Ed Cracraft tells us that three 253 pilots, T. W. Bull, John Aske and Tom Hill are growing old gracefully (why fight it?) in the respective villages of Ellensburg, Bellevue and Seattle in the State of Washington . . . Ol' Pardner writes that his nephew H. J. Seaborn III is now a Marine private at P. I. Wonder if the cries of "You'll be sorri-ieee!" still greet the newcomer to that unholy place . . . Oh yes, Luther Inge is another in the ever-growing list who hope to met 1st Sgt. Stevenson at a reunion. He was Luther's D. I. in Dago boot camp, the place where they make Hollywood Marines, remember? . . . Arnold Helgeson, 6602-28th Ave., S. Seattle) saw our ad for stray MAG-25 folks in the Reserve Marine and is now in the fold . . . Ralph Yeaman (currently President of this outfit) sends us greetings from Bob Bell, Vern Peterson, Major Campo and one W. C. Russell who's at 405 E. 54th, N.Y.C. Ralph has also seen Ed Jodoin in Washington and Ed has a lot of wheels in motion already in preparation for this year's reunion. He's chairman, and with the aid of Bill and Iris Trimer, it'll be, as he says, a "wopper." . . . Robt. Joseph Allen, the author, has recently been promoted to Lt. Col. Res. He has an article in the January *American Mercury* as well as a piece on Marine training in the February *Ladies Home Journal*. He's at 9903 Buena Vista Dr. in Phoenix and would like to join you fellows on the coast for the reunion . . . Had a very long and interesting epistle from Chas. Spainhour (912 Royal Ave., Royal Oak, Mich.). Says he's been trying to locate

TEST YOUR MEMORY . . .



The Editor, unable to recognize any of these stalwarts, or even to recall by whom shot was submitted, hazards a guess that it represents the latrine detail from the main body of Castro's regulars. That's Fidel at lower right.

Remember When . . .



A SCAT C-47 roars over the end of the cliff-fringed runway at Treasury. Dropping off a sheer 85 feet, this is one of the most spectacular of all fields opened by SCAT. The trees covering the island are solid stands of mahogany.

various ex-MAG'ers in the nicer messhalls and slopchutes of Hamtramck, but they seem to be well dug in. He attended a concert by the U.S. Marine Band and it was so good he almost re-enlisted. But before he could, he was dragged, wide-eyed and panting from the outer lobby recruiting desk by Mrs. S. Even old "Gum-Beater" Hoover would have been impressed enough to cease his chopper-clacking for an hour or two, says Chas. He adds that Lt. Col. Al. Schoepper, Band Director, has come a long way from the role of drummer-boy in the rear rank of the old Quantico Drum and Bugle Corps. Dunno if he's kidding or not. He also met Malone recently and reports that one reason we didn't see Mike at Chi was that he was recuperating from an attempt to pass an oncoming motorist at the mid-point of one of those famous one-lane bridges up Michigan way. Chuck Rufing is still in Lansing, engaged in some sort of shaft duel with the University of Michigan. Finally, he reports a card from "Fearless Fosdick" Fraser, who reentered the "Old Core" and is now a T/Sgt. in the consulate service branch in Angora, Turkey. He evidently has it, as they say, made. Charlie says that ol' Fosdick has enough material to write a doctoral thesis on the merits of why the SoPac was never like this . . .

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND:

Washington, its' said, is a name famous for being first in war, first in peace, and last in the American League. After Labor Day it'll be famous for its survival of MAG-25 and SCAT Veterans Reunion. Aside from that, Ed and his committee down there have lined up a beautiful motel as the reunion site. It's 10 minutes from the center of Washington, huge banquet room, excellent food, swimming pool—and the program that's being planned is a corker. We'll give complete details in the next issue. Meanwhile, how about making plans for this trip now before you get lost in other pursuits? Oh yes, since it's the nation's capital, many members will be bringing their youngsters along.

ODDS AN' ENDS:

There are two books which have come off the presses since the war—one just recently—that should interest some of you people. The most recent is "Pappy" Boyington's "Baa Baa Black Sheep," and the other is "History of Marine Corps Aviation in

Bougainville 1943:



This photo, taken in Bougainville in 1943 was submitted by John Morrow (2nd from right, front row). Few people, looking at this, have been able to identify the familiar face of the chap in the back row. Front (l. to r.): Bill ?, Ross Offenstine, A. L. Yezzi, Unknown, Morrow, J. J. Whitmore. 2nd row: F. Ulrich, T. J. Massingill, T. McIntyre, D. C. Throneburg, A. C. Nelson, D. Meyer. Rear: Lt. (j.g.) H. M. Dole, Lt. Richard Nixon, Lt. M. A. Dupree, Jr., Lt. P. L. Peterson.

W.W. II," by Bob Sherrod. The latter is a 600 page epic and as we've previously mentioned is *free* to vets of Marine Aviation groups. It refers to our outfit in several places, for example on p. 112, "Before SCAT was dissolved in Feb. 1945 its flying boxcars had flown enough miles in the South Pacific to engirdle the earth 340 times . . ." and "before the 1st Marine Division left Guadalcanal in December ('42) Perry K. Smith's planes had flown out 2,879 casualties, nearly three times as many as were evacuated by ships." You can find out more on the availability of this book by writing Combat Forces Press, 1115-17th Street N. W., Washington 6, D. C. . . . Speaking of the "Canal," a recent news item states, "Telephone calls may now be placed to Guadalcanal, W. W. II battleground in the South Pacific. The Pacific Tel. & Tel. Co. said the service will cost \$12 for three minutes from any point in the U.S." Person to person? Can't say . . .

Here's one for you to mull over: Some friends of ours who served with the 101st Airborne Div. in Europe are having a reunion this fall too. But it will be in Eindhoven, Holland, the

place they liberated 15 years ago, and the local townsfolk will put them up for free. Besides, the Dutch Airlines (KLM) will provide dirt cheap transportation for the vets and wives. The moral is, why don't some of you airline execs arrange a deal like that whereby we could set up a bargain rate passage to say, Sydney? All in favor signify by wiring Juan Trippe or Bob Bell . . . Finally ye old tired and salty Editor hopes that one of you loyal souls out there will lift this pen from his gnarled fingers, and the green eye-shade from his weather-beaten brow in order, as we said, for awhile at least, to give the *Tooter* some new life. Thus, we'll turn it over to someone else after the next issue, and whoever that someone might be, he can rest assured that he'll have our full cooperation and help—in fact, we'll be glad to handle the files, printing, mailing, etc. so he'll need only to write the copy. Meanwhile, we'd like to hear from you within the next month or two. Let us know if you can make it to Washington on Labor Day weekend. Lots of people would like to know that in the next issue. Oh yes, before we forget, the return envelope is the usual hint that anything you can contribute to the cause will be appreciated. Semper Fi, and all that!

April 17, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR ALEX BUTTERFIELD

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I want entertainment for my reception for the men who were in the service with me. I think the Army Chorus would be good for that one too - have them with good colorful uniforms and a good program.

cc: Lucy Winchester

THE GREYHOUND CORPORATION
SUITE 406
1000 16TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

CARL J. FLEPS
VICE PRESIDENT — GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

March 6, 1972

Mr. Alexander P. Butterfield
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Alex:

Here is the correspondence I mentioned during our telephone talk this morning which I had just received from Bob Biggene.

Also, as I reported to you, I have asked Major General Homer Dan Hill, USMC, to try to dig up the MAG-25 and SCAT rosters for the 1943 and early 1944 period. He promised to have Marine Corps Headquarters Historical Section see what could be found. Perhaps by the time you call on Friday I will have something more to report.

Sincerely,

Carl

Enclosure

CJF:sg

ROBERT J. BIGGANE
2 NIEMAN DRIVE
ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK 14127

March 2, 1972

Mr. Carl Fleps
1000 16th St. N.W.
Suite 406
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Carl:

Attached is a copy of the letter which is going out this weekend to all those on our mailing list.

Also, a listing of the names which we had previously sent to Mr. Butterfield. I believe you gave us the last two on this list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob", is written over the typed name.

Robert J. Biggane

RJB/rc
Enclosures (2)

Brig. Gen. P.K. Smith, (Ret.)
1134 La Mirada
Laguna Beach, Calif. 92651

Fiske Marshall
Box 2
Hawley Lake, Ariz. 89530

Robert Bender
6031 W. 127th Place
Palos Heights, Ill.

Norman Bone
1144 E. 24th St.
San Bernardino, Calif.

Marion Schoney
404 Ladue
Greenville, Ill.

Al Yezzi
14 Marinello Terr.
Albany, N.Y.

Joe Whitmore
303 Edmonds Ave.
Drexel Hill, Pa.

Tom Hussey
186 Bower St.
Jersey City, N.J.

James Stewart
67 Wall Street
New York, N.Y.

Joe Wile
204 Barrow Rd.
Lexington, Ky.

Frank Collins
Bar Harbour, Maine

M E M O R A N D U M

February 29, 1972

TO: ALL SCAT-MAG-25 VETS EVERYWHERE...

Gentlemen:

Here are two(2) very important announcements:

I. All members of the MAG who served with President Nixon and who had personal contact with him overseas (New Hebrides, Guadalcanal or Green Island) please contact the undersigned immediately. Use enclosed envelope and give name and address. If you know of someone else who served with the President send us his name and address. This is urgent!

II. As reported in the last Tontooter a number of folks in our group are excited about holding the 30th Reunion in San Diego this summer. All we need now is some loyal member from that general area to act as Chairman -- all he need do is make contact with a suitable hotel, set the date and communicate with us. We'll do the rest as far as member contact, program, etc.

(On the east coast, Christians, Heathmans and Charlie Davidson are reportedly leaving no stone unturned in preparing for the August reunion to be held "somewhere in Kentucky" -- probably around the Mammoth Cave sector.)

Finally, if you haven't sent us your name, address squadron, rank and job in the MAG for the forthcoming Directory, this is your last chance! Use the envelope enclosed for this, or, for a contribution to handle costs of publication and mailing, or both -- or everything.

Semper Fi -

Bob

Robert J. Biggane
Editor

Enclosure

ROBERT J. BIGGANE
2 NIEMAN DRIVE
ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK 14127

November 3, 1971

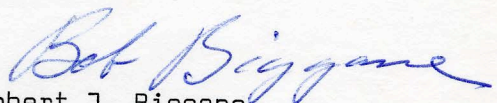
Mr. Alex Butterfield
Deputy Secretary to the President
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Attached are two copies of our SCAT veterans newsletter. One is the latest issue covering the August 1971 reunion in Washington.

The other, from our files, was published in 1959 prior to Mr. Nixon's visit to our reunion, also held in the D. C. area that year. He may be interested in the photo on page 4 thereof.

Sincerely,

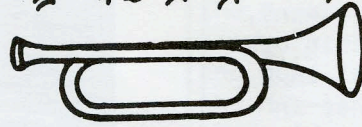

Robert J. Biggane

RJB/rmc
Enclosures(2)

THE NEW TOM-TOOTER

MAG

25



No. 40

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS OF MARINE AIR GROUP-25

October 1971



The Wash. D.C. male delegates, L. to R., front, are: Phil Oliver, Bill Rahn, Henry Ellis, Al Vermeulen, Ray Gravilla, Frank "Meatball" Cilfone, Lou Szmodis, Fred Pratt, Jesse Tebbetts, C.O. Peterson & Paul Tanner. Back row, L. to R. Howard "Derby" Durborow, "Red" Hamilton, John McCain, Chuck Lumsden, Dave Lasater, "Tiny" Christian, Bob Biggane, Tom Heathman, Joe Milauskas, Curtis Larsen, George Howe, Harry Wilber, Charlie Davidson and LeRoy Seaborn.

WASHINGTON REVISITED

In terms of total attendance, the 1971 Reunion of the MAG-25 Veterans of WW II was not the greatest - - but in terms of the really vital mainsprings of social intercourse in action - - well, few could ask for anything more.

In a lengthy business session, conducted on Saturday afternoon of that memorable weekend, TOM HEATHMAN, former hillbilly crew chief in VMJ-253 (and presently a leading citizen of Versailles, Kentucky) made an impassioned plea for a number of items, among which were tobacco parity, revision of our China policy, speedy integration in the Carolinas and more reunions in the bluegrass country. He was elected President of our venerable group for the coming year. . . but we're getting ahead of the story.

A number of stalwarts arrived on Thursday. Some, in fact, several days earlier; and some, we think, are still there. Thursday arrivals found Handsome HARRY WILBER ensconced in a poolside Cabana, well stocked with anti-snake-

bite serum and handy to the ice machine. Outside, a platoon of WAVES cavorted in fish-net bikinis, while the languid strains of "Bless 'em All" wafted skyward from the environs of the Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel. This then, was the setting for what your grizzled (that word again!) ol'editor and others concluded was one of the most enjoyable of the many (18) annual conclaves of this congregation.

The two main days, Friday and Saturday, were busy ones indeed. Friday morning, the main contingent shifted, for tactical purposes, from Wilber's now-cluttered annex to the CP on the fourth deck, from whence the merrymakers had a commanding view of the Pentagon, Potomac, Arlington and a variety of the monuments to bureaucracy over on the other side of those twin bridges.

Several calls were made to the White House, by the way, in hopes that ex Lt. (j. g.) R. M. Nixon could be persuaded to drop by. It was not to be however, but as you look at the calendar you'll note that this was the weekend on which the historic wage-price freeze formula

was hammered out at Camp David nearby.

Friday evening provided what was to many, including yours truly, a highlight of this or any reunion and an experience which was, in itself, worth the trip. Following dinner in the Officers' Club at the Washington Navy Yard, a bus load of our delegates was transported to the Marine Barracks to watch, from a specially reserved section, the Friday evening parade and review. This event was referred to in the Aug. 9th issue of Time as "the most brilliantly executed military parade in the U. S." Says Time: "To alternating music from the Marine band, at one end of the field, and the Marine drum and bugle corps at the other end, the marching companies move in swiftly, line up and fix silver bayonets on their M-1 rifles. They march in quick 30-inch steps, keeping their feet within two inches of the ground in a motion they call 'slide and glide.' Momentarily, the parade deck is cast into darkness. High on the ramparts of the east barracks, seven red-coated trumpeters bathed in a floodlight, blow a fanfare. . . The musicians and the drum and bugle corps take charge - - 50 horns and drums sounding and pounding out a rhythm that fills the quadrangle and overflows down I Street.

"Then the Marine Silent Drill Team appears. Ten minutes of movements without commands, every exercise counted out; circles, squares, lines through lines and, finally, one long line of 24 Marines ready for inspection. Sergeant John Marley, the inspector, grabs a presented rifle. He whirls it, twists it, winds it around his shoulders, again and again with baton-twirler precision, and then flings it back. . . It is the ultimate in precision drill. . ."

Our gang was transported from the hotel and back by a chartered bus which was thoughtfully and efficiently commissioned by PHIL OLIVER. From the Navy Yard to Marine Barracks, the Corps bus was used. Both areas are in the heart of the D.C. ghetto and according to G. D. TAYLOR, who was there and should know, "you're safer at night in Saigon." Thus, no skirmishes or casualties were reported. . .

Back at the Marriott, a bull gang detail, commanded by a few rugged survivors of early Tontouta assignments under the likes of Swede Nielsen, Al Pointer et al, and made up of off-spring (including a few grandchildren) of the main detachment, was hard at work. Among other chores, they kept the grog bar stocked and the bathtub brimmed with ice and beer. It was near dawn on Saturday morning when the last of the merrymakers departed and your scribe and frau finally secured the battle area - - at least for a few hours.



Warm-up for no-nonsense business meeting ...



Last bus to Miramar ...



Wilbur and McCain, long way to go ...



Pratts and Bigganes

-- remember that nite in L.A. ?



Tebbetts and Fred --

They met in the Romance Ward at Tontouta ...



No-nonsense meeting -- Taylor, McCain, Mary Taylor, Heathman, Pratt, Lasater, Lumsden and Chas. Davidson in foreground ...



George Howe (center)
senior crew chief in VJ-153



Durborows, with Milauskas,
Heathmans and Taylors in background ...

It was around 1000 hours (10:00 A.M.) when the first bleary-eyed advance guard returned, ready for the business meeting (set for noon) and questioning the quality and durability of the now-liquified bathtub ice. Hastily recruited handmaidens and wenches put together a buffet and the meeting was called to order.

EAST IS EAST. . .

In our last issue we reported that the year 1972 A.D. will represent the 30th Anniversary of the debarkation of MAG-25 from San Diego. That's a long time and a lot of air miles ago, and it's certainly worth celebrating. For this reason a number of our faithful correspondents have argued that the 1972 GRAND REUNION should be held on the west coast, where it all started, probably in San Diego, or some other appropriate site.

AN ALL OUT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE ON THIS ONE -- BUT ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON THE EFFORTS OF YOU PEOPLE ON THE COAST -- ESPECIALLY THE ACTIVE AND DEDICATED ONES, AND YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SOMEBODY OUT THERE MUST TAKE THE LEAD, FORM A COMMITTEE AND SELECT A SITE. THE REST WILL BE EASY. A NUMBER OF YOUR OL'BUDDIES FROM ACROSS THE U. S. WILL MAKE THE MUSTER -- BUT IT MUST BE SET UP EARLY -- LIKE NEXT MONTH. . .

Meanwhile, it was resolved during the business meeting that there would also be an east coast reunion in '72 for those who can't make it out west. This will be around the Mammoth Cave, Ky. area and we understand that the HEATHMANS, CHRISTIANS, CHARLIE DAVIDSONS, VERNON REEDER and others will have shoulders to the wheel on this one. You'll recall that there were two reunions, east and west, in 1959 and RALPH YEAMAN made both. . .

By the way, your editor and his endorser (wife) expect to be in San Francisco for a quick visit (by way of Vegas) at the end of this month. We'll try to shake some of you out of the trees there at that time and maybe sketch a few thoughts for the summer of '72. We've attempted to contact LEE SPARROW to engineer a little dinner meeting in San Fran on the 29th or 30th. If you have an interest in such carryings on, why not contact Lee -- last we heard he was at

There are those, of course, who have suggested New Caledonia as the ideal site for the 1972 bash. Sounds logical, but it's been said that "time changes everything." An article on the "Pearl of the Pacific," which we read

recently said that New Cal is booming these days from the vast nickel mining operations (they have over half the world's reserves) and all the natives, joined by workers from France, N. Zealand and Australia, spend their time either working for up to \$1000 a month or drinking their earnings - - an' we accused OLIZEWSKI of spoiling them by paying 35¢ (instead of 25¢) for laundry. . . The item also says, "The first thing tourists notice at Tontouta international airport - the runway was constructed by American forces during World War II - is a large, and welcome, sign that tipping is against New Caledonian custom. The second thing that hits the budget-conscious is that they probably wouldn't have enough money to do so anyway.

"The unknowing or unwary might be tempted to take a taxi rather than wait for an airport bus to escape the bedlam of the small and ill-organized Tontouta airport terminal. Even those aware that it is 35 miles to Noumea are shaken by the taxi fare which ranges from \$25 to \$50, the latter applicable on rainy nights."

But getting back to the D. C. function for a moment, we wish to pay homage to the fine group who took their time to make it. You'll note that G. D. "Punchy" TAYLOR is not in the group shot. He was conked out at that moment but appeared shortly thereafter with his lovely wife, Mary, a souvenir of Hawaii who did a neat hula for the delegates and was promptly named an honorary Grand Dragoness of the Juniper Grove, N. Carolina, KKK. Following this FRED PRATT sang a few ballads. Then, a fabulous newcomer to the group, McCAIN of Emmetsburg, Iowa regaled the audience with the most extensive repertoire of Irish songs this side of Glocamorra. Jack McCain and Emmetsburg apparently were made for each other--and both seem unbelievable. The town itself is an Irish community smack dab in the middle of the Iowa prairie, and each year holds a 3-day celebration(my kind o' people)in honor of its patron saint, St. Patrick, and the town's namesake, Robert Emmet. The latter was an Irish patriot who gave his life for Irish principles at the end of a British rope in 1803. However, Emmetsburg's modern history, says a recent issue of The Sioux City Journal, "revolves around a man named John McCain." Under his leadership, a St. Patrick's Association was formed there, coins minted and each year an honored guest from the Irish Parliament is flown in. But that's not all. Continues the reporter: "One Year when McCain and cronies were working late on St. Pat's preparations, Barbara McCain called her husband, 'If you know what's good for you, you'll can all that blarney and get yourself home.'

" 'That's it', McCain exclaimed. 'We'll can blarney !'" And that they did. Now the town's blarney canning factory hums day and night, all shifts quietly manned by the "wee people," who reportedly work with face masks to prevent too much inhalation. Oh yes, the product has been so well received that in recent years it has become necessary to add a new line. This, also canned, is labeled "Blarney Repellant". It's available in quantity for the many of our members who, in your opinion, might be in need thereof.

Another member of the group who is not shown in the photo is ALFRED PRESTON MOORE of Woodberry Forest, Va. He and Mrs. M joined us at the Marine Barracks and then had to rush off on another commitment. Also Dick(Blood Bank) HAVEN who resides in Wash. would've made it but was on vacation at the time.

This report would not be complete without paying homage to all the fine folks, who made the effort to get to D.C. Many of them came from quite a distance and a number of them have been faithful participants for these many years -- no need to recite their names, the're on the front page of this document. We missed a segment of the regulars who, for one reason or another, were unable to make the scene. The ones who could have shown without much effort and didn't, well, to each his own . . .

Above all, 1972 will, we think, tell the story. This should be the year in which all of you-- and there are scores -- who have told us, "one of these years, I'll be there" -- should make it, perhaps for the first and last time. The sands are running out, and 30 years is half a lifetime. So, whether your dish is the east coast or the west, you should start making your plans now.

You'll find enclosed a self addressed envelope. Use it to send us your name, address, function in the MAG and present occupation. These will be included in the Directory which we'll publish this winter and this is the last call for the data. Further, send whatever donation you can to help float the cost of publication, postage and ink (no charge for the blood or sweat). Quality mailing envelopes, with scotch-flavored flaps, are courtesy of Col. Bill RIDER.

So, we'll look for you at some future reunion and who knows, it may someday be in Emmestburg, where the rain falls soft upon the praire, etc. etc. 'Til then, may the good Lord, Jim Beam and EARL PIERCE watch over you. SEMPER FI ...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Navy - Quonset - Platoon 17 (ALEX)

{ SCAT - enlisted - NAVY -
(generally restrict aviators)
(CARL)

Others -

Files
Photos) SCAT

CARL J. FLEPS

Vice President Government Relations



THE GREYHOUND CORPORATION

1000 16th Street, N. W., Suite 406

Washington, D. C. 20036

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

LOG NO.: P-1848

Date: September 21, 1971

Time: 9:00 am

FOR ACTION: A. Butterfield

cc (for information):

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: October 20, 1971

Time: 2:00 pm

SUBJECT:

Possible Service Gang Reunion.

ACTION REQUESTED:

☒ For Necessary Action

☐ For Your Recommendations

☐ Prepare Agenda and Brief

☐ Draft Reply

☐ For Your Comments

☐ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

JON M. HUNTSMAN
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1971

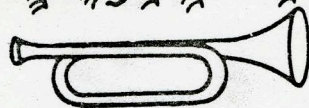
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD
SUBJECT: Possible Service Gang Reunion

When you have some leisure time this weekend, you may want to glance through the attached lists of names of persons with whom you served during World War II ... with an eye toward our possibly arranging for you later this year a reunion with those you knew best. The names are in alphabetical order and categorized at tabs as indicated below:

- Tab A School of Indoctrination, NAS, Quonset Point, R.I.
... Oct 1942 (Faculty)
- Tab B School of Indoctrination, NAS, Quonset Point, R.I.
... Oct 1942 (Students)
- Tab C Naval Air Reserve Base, Ottumwa, Iowa
... Oct 1942 - May 1943
- Tab D SCAT ... Mid-1943 - Mid-1944
- Tab E Fleet Air Wing Eight ... July - Dec 1944
- Tab F BuAer, Eastern District ... Jan 1945 - Mar 1946

Finally, at Tab G you will find the names of most of those who contributed to this compilation. Everyone asked made an effort to help, and was delighted to do so; and a few sent special messages which are included also.

THE NEW TOM-TOOTER MAG



25

*Note
for
reunion
party*

No. 40 PUBLISHED BY AND FOR OVERSEAS VETERANS OF MARINE AIR GROUP-25 October 1971



The Wash. D.C. male delegates, L. to R., front, are: Phil Oliver, Bill Rahn, Henry Ellis, Al Vermeulen, Ray Gravilla, Frank "Meatball" Cilfone, Lou Szmodis, Fred Pratt, Jesse Tebbetts, C.O. Peterson & Paul Tanner. Back row, L. to R. Howard "Derby" Durborow, "Red" Hamilton, John McCain, Chuck Lumsden, Dave Lasater, "Tiny" Christian, Bob Biggane, Tom Heathman, Joe Milauskas, Curtis Larsen, George Howe, Harry Wilber, Charlie Davidson and LeRoy Seaborn.

WASHINGTON REVISITED

In terms of total attendance, the 1971 Reunion of the MAG-25 Veterans of WW II was not the greatest - - but in terms of the really vital mainsprings of social intercourse in action - - well, few could ask for anything more.

In a lengthy business session, conducted on Saturday afternoon of that memorable weekend, TOM HEATHMAN, former hillbilly crew chief in VMJ-253 (and presently a leading citizen of Versailles, Kentucky) made an impassioned plea for a number of items, among which were tobacco parity, revision of our China policy, speedy integration in the Carolinas and more reunions in the bluegrass country. He was elected President of our venerable group for the coming year. . . but we're getting ahead of the story.

A number of stalwarts arrived on Thursday. Some, in fact, several days earlier; and some, we think, are still there. Thursday arrivals found Handsome HARRY WILBER ensconced in a poolside Cabana, well stocked with anti-snake-

bite serum and handy to the ice machine. Outside, a platoon of WAVES cavorted in fish-net bikinis, while the languid strains of "Bless 'em All" wafted skyward from the environs of the Marriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel. This then, was the setting for what your grizzled (that word again!) ol'editor and others concluded was one of the most enjoyable of the many (18) annual conclaves of this congregation.

The two main days, Friday and Saturday, were busy ones indeed. Friday morning, the main contingent shifted, for tactical purposes, from Wilber's now-cluttered annex to the CP on the fourth deck, from whence the merrymakers had a commanding view of the Pentagon, Potomac, Arlington and a variety of the monuments to bureaucracy over on the other side of those twin bridges.

Several calls were made to the White House, by the way, in hopes that Mr. (J. E.) M. Nixon could be persuaded to drop by. It was not to be however, but as you look at the calendar you'll note that this was the weekend on which the historic wage-price freeze formula

H-I hope they got a spirit over

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 11/22/71

TO: ALEX BUTTERFIELD
FROM: BRUCE KEHRLI

Haldeman has not seen the attached. It came back via Rose Woods.

FYI - regarding the service party.

was hammered out at Camp David nearby.

Friday evening provided what was to many, including yours truly, a highlight of this or any reunion and an experience which was, in itself, worth the trip. Following dinner in the Officers' Club at the Washington Navy Yard, a bus load of our delegates was transported to the Marine Barracks to watch, from a specially reserved section, the Friday evening parade and review. This event was referred to in the Aug. 9th issue of Time as "the most brilliantly executed military parade in the U. S." Says Time: "To alternating music from the Marine band, at one end of the field, and the Marine drum and bugle corps at the other end, the marching companies move in swiftly, line up and fix silver bayonets on their M-1 rifles. They march in quick 30-inch steps, keeping their feet within two inches of the ground in a motion they call 'slide and glide.' Momentarily, the parade deck is cast into darkness. High on the ramparts of the east barracks, seven red-coated trumpeters bathed in a floodlight, blow a fanfare. . . The musicians and the drum and bugle corps take charge - - 50 horns and drums sounding and pounding out a rhythm that fills the quadrangle and overflows down I Street.

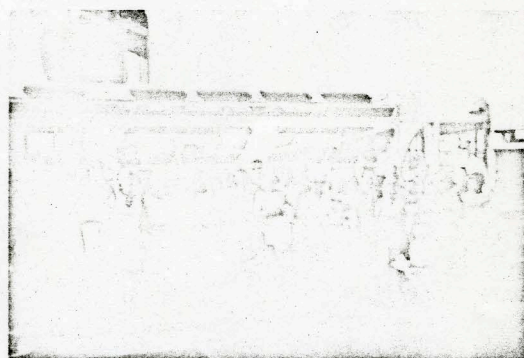
"Then the Marine Silent Drill Team appears. Ten minutes of movements without commands, every exercise counted out; circles, squares, lines through lines and, finally, one long line of 24 Marines ready for inspection. Sergeant John Marley, the inspector, grabs a presented rifle. He whirls it, twists it, winds it around his shoulders, again and again with baton-twirler precision, and then flings it back. . . It is the ultimate in precision drill. . ."

Our gang was transported from the hotel and back by a chartered bus which was thoughtfully and efficiently commissioned by PHIL OLIVER. From the Navy Yard to Marine Barracks, the Corps bus was used. Both areas are in the heart of the D.C. ghetto and according to G. D. TAYLOR, who was there and should know, "you're safer at night in Saigon." Thus, no skirmishes or casualties were reported. . .

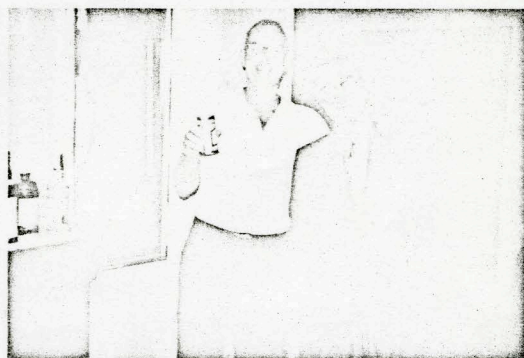
Back at the Marriott, a bull gang detail, commanded by a few rugged survivors of early Tontouta assignments under the likes of Swede Nielsen, Al Pointer et al, and made up of offspring (including a few grandchildren) of the main detachment, was hard at work. Among other chores, they kept the grog bar stocked and the bathtub brimmed with ice and beer. It was near dawn on Saturday morning when the last of the merrymakers departed and your scribe and frau finally secured the battle area - - at least for a few hours.



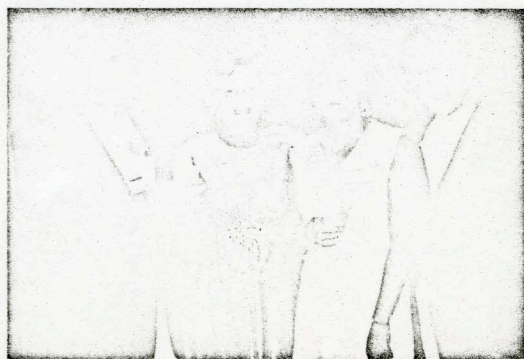
Warm-up for no-nonsense business meeting ...



Last bus to Miramar ...

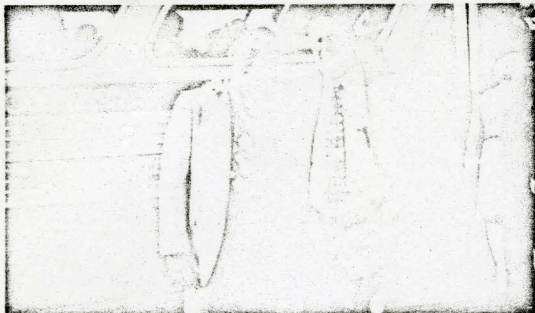


Wilbur and McCain, long way to go ...



Pratts and Bigganes

-- remember that nite in L.A. ?



Tebbetts and Fred --
They met in the Romance Ward at Tontouta ...



No-nonsense meeting -- Taylor, McCain,
Mary Taylor, Heathman, Pratt, Lasater,
Lumsden and Chas. Davidson in foreground ...



George Howe (center)
senior crew chief in VJ-153



Durborows, with Milauskas,
Heathmans and Taylors in background ...

It was around 1000 hours (10:00 A.M.) when the first bleary-eyed advance guard returned, ready for the business meeting (set for noon) and questioning the quality and durability of the now-liquified bathtub ice. Hastily recruited handmaidens and wenches put together a buffet and the meeting was called to order.

EAST IS EAST. . .

In our last issue we reported that the year 1972 A.D. will represent the 30th Anniversary of the debarkation of MAG-25 from San Diego. That's a long time and a lot of air miles ago, and it's certainly worth celebrating. For this reason a number of our faithful correspondents have argued that the 1972 GRAND REUNION should be held on the west coast, where it all started, probably in San Diego, or some other appropriate site.

AN ALL OUT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE ON THIS ONE -- BUT ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON THE EFFORTS OF YOU PEOPLE ON THE COAST -- ESPECIALLY THE ACTIVE AND DEDICATED ONES, AND YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SOMEBODY OUT THERE MUST TAKE THE LEAD, FORM A COMMITTEE AND SELECT A SITE. THE REST WILL BE EASY. A NUMBER OF YOUR OL'BUDDIES FROM ACROSS THE U. S. WILL MAKE THE MUSTER -- BUT IT MUST BE SET UP EARLY -- LIKE NEXT MONTH. . .

Meanwhile, it was resolved during the business meeting that there would also be an east coast reunion in '72 for those who can't make it out west. This will be around the Mammoth Cave, Ky. area and we understand that the HEATHMANS, CHRISTIANS, CHARLIE DAVIDSONS, VERNON REEDER and others will have shoulders to the wheel on this one. You'll recall that there were two reunions, east and west, in 1959 and RALPH YEAMAN made both. . .

By the way, your editor and his endorser (wife) expect to be in San Francisco for a quick visit (by way of Vegas) at the end of this month. We'll try to shake some of you out of the trees there at that time and maybe sketch a few thoughts for the summer of '72. We've attempted to contact LEE SPARROW to engineer a little dinner meeting in San Fran on the 29th or 30th. If you have an interest in such carryings on, why not contact Lee -- last we heard he was at

There are those, of course, who have suggested New Caledonia as the ideal site for the 1972 bash. Sounds logical, but it's been said that "time changes everything." An article on the "Pearl of the Pacific," which we read

recently said that New Cal is booming these days from the vast nickel mining operations (they have over half the world's reserves) and all the natives, joined by workers from France, N. Zealand and Australia, spend their time either working for up to \$1000 a month or drinking their earnings -- an' we accused OLIZEWSKI of spoiling them by paying 35¢ (instead of 25¢) for laundry. . . The item also says, "The first thing tourists notice at Tontouta international airport -- the runway was constructed by American forces during World War II -- is a large, and welcome, sign that tipping is against New Caledonian custom. The second thing that hits the budget-conscious is that they probably wouldn't have enough money to do so anyway."

"The unknowing or unwary might be tempted to take a taxi rather than wait for an airport bus to escape the bedlam of the small and ill-organized Tontouta airport terminal. Even those aware that it is 35 miles to Noumea are shaken by the taxi fare which ranges from \$25 to \$50, the latter applicable on rainy nights."

But getting back to the D. C. function for a moment, we wish to pay homage to the fine group who took their time to make it. You'll note that G. D. "Punchy" TAYLOR is not in the group shot. He was conked out at that moment but appeared shortly thereafter with his lovely wife, Mary, a souvenir of Hawaii who did a neat hula for the delegates and was promptly named an honorary Grand Dragoness of the Juniper Grove, N. Carolina, KKK. Following this FRED PRATT sang a few ballads. Then, a fabulous newcomer to the group, McCAIN of Emmetsburg, Iowa regaled the audience with the most extensive repertoire of Irish songs this side of Glocamorra. Jack McCain and Emmetsburg apparently were made for each other--and both seem unbelievable. The town itself is an Irish community smack dab in the middle of the Iowa prairie, and each year holds a 3-day celebration (my kind o' people) in honor of its patron saint, St. Patrick, and the town's namesake, Robert Emmet. The latter was an Irish patriot who gave his life for Irish principles at the end of a British rope in 1803. However, Emmetsburg's modern history, says a recent issue of The Sioux City Journal, "revolves around a man named John McCain." Under his leadership, a St. Patrick's Association was formed there, coins minted and each year an honored guest from the Irish Parliament is flown in. But that's not all. Continues the reporter: "One Year when McCain and cronies were working late on St. Pat's preparations, Barbara McCain called her husband, 'If you know what's good for you, you'll can all that blarney and get yourself home.'

" 'That's it', McCain exclaimed. 'We'll can blarney !'" And that they did. Now the town's blarney canning factory hums day and night, all shifts quietly manned by the "wee people," who reportedly work with face masks to prevent too much inhalation. Oh yes, the product has been so well received that in recent years it has become necessary to add a new line. This, also canned, is labeled "Blarney Repellant". It's available in quantity for the many of our members who, in your opinion, might be in need thereof.

Another member of the group who is not shown in the photo is ALFRED PRESTON MOORE of Woodberry Forest, Va. He and Mrs. M joined us at the Marine Barracks and then had to rush off on another commitment. Also Dick (Blood Bank) HAVEN who resides in Wash. would've made it but was on vacation at the time.

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**ROBERT J. BIGGANE
2 NIEMAN DRIVE
ORCHARD PARK, N. Y. 14127**

MAG 25 & SCAT

Veterans of W. W. 2

2 NIEMAN DRIVE

ORCHARD PARK, N. Y. 14127



Rosemary Woods
Secretary to Richard Nixon
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington DC 20005



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

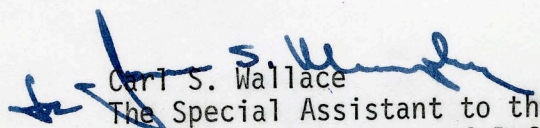
29 NOV 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR Brigadier General James D. Hughes, USAF
Military Assistant to the President
The White House

The list of individuals from the President's orientation course was compiled from a muster roll from the School of Indoctrination which was located in the Navy Archives. The addresses were then procured from each individual's service jacket in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the National Personnel Records Center, St Louis, Missouri.

The muster list was again drawn from the Archives, and there was no breakdown by or indication of platoons on the list. The service jackets of ten individuals from the list, including the President, were thoroughly reviewed and no record of the platoon numbers from the School of Indoctrination could be found. Thus, regrettably, it is not possible to provide Mr. Butterfield with the information which he desires.

Very Respectfully,


Carl S. Wallace
The Special Assistant to the Secretary
and Deputy Secretary of Defense