

SHOTGUN BLASTS

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February 2010

The Boy and the Tower

I was worried that we were going to get bit.

By Noah Dillion, Hangar Rat '68 – '69

Editor's Note: I need to apologize up front because I was unable to download some really good photos that Noah sent me with this article. I hope to be able to send them to you in a future newsletter.

Don

This tower holds particular memories for me because of the events one night as I was pulling guard duty at this post (which we inherited from the 9th Infantry when they were sent back to Hawaii leaving us to pull our own perimeter guard duty).

I liked working nights, and being on Dave Chandler's crew worked out well for me. Pulling guard duty was no different than my regular work shift. Most of the guys I pulled guard duty with were the same guys every time, I have many pictures of us on different bunkers, including the command bunker.

On this particular night, at about 0200 hours, I started my

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Chaplain's Corner

Do you love me...?

By Ned Moore, Shotgun Chaplain

Back in my Seminary days, I was required to take at least one course in either Greek or Hebrew. I quickly determined that the Hebrew language was by my reckoning, completely devoid of anything that even came close to being an alphabet. Besides, that word, alphabet, is made of the first two Greek letters: Alpha and Beta. Wow, I was a natural – **Not!** I was further amazed when I discovered the Greeks had **NINE** Words for our word – Love. Uh-Oh.

I was given, one class period in late semester, the task of translating John 21: 15-17.

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

For the record – I almost got it right, even though the Koine Greek of the New Testament is not a bit concerned with word order in the sentences. But what really struck me between the eyes, so to speak, were the two words (here transliterated so I can spell them) for "love" that were used by Jesus and Peter in this Q&A dialog. In verses 15 and 16 Jesus said to Peter, "...do you...**agape** me...?" Peter answered using the word, "...**philo**...". The same thing happened in verse 16. In verse 17, Jesus uses the same word as Peter.

OK, Chappy. So you can (sort of) read Greek. What is the big deal? Since you asked, basically, it is the difference in night and day.

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two hour rotation. Sometime during that period I was approached by a small boy, who called out the “Chieu-Hoi” signal (I’m not sure of the spelling guys). He had his hands on top of his head.

In my best broken Vietnamese/English I told him to lay down in the road where the spot light beamed best and not to move.

I called this situation in to the Officer of the Day, and shortly after a couple of “Special Forces or SEALs” came down the road and stopped a few yards from the little guy. I do know that they were “EOD” or whatever they called those guys who specialize in demolitions. The situation seemed to bring up concern that the kid was trying to blow a hole in the perimeter, and they were taking no chances.

After close scrutiny of the little guy, who must have been scared out of his mind while the interpreter was grilling him, they let him get up. One of the EOD team walked over to the side of the road and picked up a live mortar round. He walked over to the spot light and showed it to me, they all got into their jeep and left.

Needless to say, I was worried that we were going to get hit, but the daylight came and we all went in for some much needed shut eye.

I usually got up around noon and ate lunch at the mess hall, then went to the USA to tool leather or whatever I could get my hands on. SFC Greenlee came in and sat down next to me and told me the little guy had followed the VC who came to his mamlet and snatched up the young men, one of whom was his older brother (you all remember how they filled their ranks. A lot of them were afraid of what the VC would do to their families).

Anyway, he led the Special Forces/SEALS(?) to a weapons stash, where they found another dozen or so mortar rounds, miscellaneous weapons and food about a half mile (I never did get used to the “click” distance) from the perimeter.

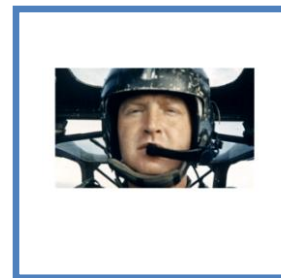
Noah

PS: Photos of the tower in this tale and of the Soc Trang airfield are posted on the 221st web site.

We Have a Suggestion

Bob Gee has suggested that since, in Vietnam, we were all scattered and really didn’t get to know each other very well (except those who deployed from Bragg) why not ask each Shotgun to send in a minimum amount of information for the *Shotgun Blasts* such as dates in country, where primarily based, and assignment. I would add that it may be nice to know the home town and where we settled after ‘Nam. As an example, Bob has sent in his “vitals” for all of us to view.

I believe that with this kind of information we might just be able to build a “Rogue’s Gallery” of the best damn (Sorry, Chaplain Ned) aviation unit to serve in the Republic of Vietnam. Let me have your ideas guys, it cannot be done without your participation.



Bobby J. Gee, CPT

Shotgun 22

Jan 1966 – Jan 1967

2nd Platoon, Can Tho

Missions: Special Forces, Naval gunfire, Riverine, relief for Division pilots, Corps arty and radio relay

Announcement

Hey guys, thought you should know that we have one more author in our group.

It seems that our comrade in arms, Noah Dillion has published a book entitled *A Narcoleptic in the United States Army*. He advised me that folks that wish to purchase the book should contact him as he will have a supply of them shortly. He has my order already. Let’s support our own.

Don

FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2010 – NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

FEBRUARY 2, 2010 – GROUNDHOG DAY

FEBRUARY 3, 1959 – THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

THE CRASH OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRYING BUDDY HOLLY, RITCHIE VALLENS AND THE BIG BOPPER

FEBRUARY 14, 2010 – VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2010 – CHINESE NEW YEAR

FEBRUARY 15, 2010 – PRESIDENTS' DAY

FEBRUARY 16, 2010 – SHROVE TUESDAY/MARDI GRAS

FEBRUARY 17, 2010 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Folks, if you have an event that you would like to have listed please send me the information no later than the end of the second week of the month before the event.

Don

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The word Jesus used the first two times (*agape*) is the word meaning God's unconditional love for us. God loves us because God is Love. (John 3: 16; 1 John 4:8, 16) [It is curiously amusing that when changing the Greek letters into English letters, transliterating, for the technically inclined, gives us an English word that describes our mouths' usual response to finding out just what God's love really entails and what He wants from us in our response to His Love in our lives.]

The word Peter used each of the three times (*philo*) has been described by some scholars, my professor included, as Christmas card love – I will send you one if you will send me one. We see this word often. It is in Philadelphia, Philosophy, and Philanthropist. In a way, it describes the cats in our house – If you will feed me, I will let you pet me – if you catch my drift.

Peter had not yet, in all his travels with Jesus, even after

experiencing the crucifixion and the resurrection, begun to comprehend the depth, power and character of God's love for us. It would take a Pentecost experience for Peter to be transformed into the man Jesus was looking for to "...feed my sheep...". In this conversation, at this point in time, Jesus was restoring Peter's relationship to Himself after Peter's denial of Him.

Earlier, Jesus had told His disciples that he would send a counselor, the Holy Spirit, who would lead them into all truth. The Greek word used for counselor in John 14: 26, means "one called alongside to help". Paul describes this in 1 Corinthians 2: 8-10. In one way – Peter was correct in the way he answered Jesus' questions. John states it best: "We love because He **first loved** us: (1 John 4: 19), but by the same token, Peter was not willing, at that point in time, to let Jesus stretch him beyond that to which he had already committed himself.

So, here we are in "The Love Month". At this point I will close my "analysis and exposition" by simply saying, If you want to know the pathway, policies and procedures for allowing God's "**AGAPE**" to have it's sway in your life – I commend to you 1 Corinthians 13. It is not, as some scholars have suggested, the cleansing pause between the descriptions of the errors and problems of the church.

Rather, I submit, while I am convinced that: 1 Corinthians 12 is the "Dash 20P" and 1 Corinthians 14 is the "Dash 20" of the Spirit.

I am even more certain that 1 Corinthians 13 is the "Dash" 10" of the Holy Spirit – You got it – The operators' Manual – to be studied intensely and referenced continually. Like my Primary instructor said, "Don't just get in the aircraft, strap it on. Make it part of you."

Jesus had Paul compose these instructions for us on how to "Feed My Sheep", especially ourselves. He is saying, "You let My Love have it's way in you, I will take care of the rest."

1 Corinthians 2: 9-10

Ned

FYI
The Army Otter-Caribou Association
Will hold their
25th Annual Reunion
At Columbus, Georgia
October 6 – 10, 2010
For information Email: BSilvey@aol.com

Shotgun Blasts is a bit shorter than it has been but after all, it is February, the shortest month of the year.

Beyond that is the hangover from the Christmas holidays and the planning for a vacation to seek out the sun in the Southern reaches of this great nation of ours. We are planning a brief sojourn with our daughter who we see too seldom in the great state of Texas.

Don't hesitate to send e-mails as I will never be far from one of those infernal machines and I do need some input for the next newsletter.

Work with me to keep our commo link open and to turn it into two way communications.

Don



In our last mail delivery we received word from this good looking Southern gentleman confirming his attendance at Reunion 2011. Seems he just doesn't want to miss any of them and he will be looking for you there, wherever that may be.

Reunion 2011

Perhaps it is just me but as I get a bit older it seems that the days have fewer hours, the weeks fewer days and...I think you understand where I am headed, Tempus Fugit. Although it seems like we have a lot of time to prepare for our next get-together we really need to begin the preparations NOW. Your Reunion Planning Committee will be meeting soon to do the initial planning, and we need it now. We have not received a great deal of feedback about the Reunion 2009 activities so we are asking that you answer a few simple questions for us to use during our first session. Please take the time to answer the following questions and send your answers to me by e-mail as soon as possible.

1. In what city and state do you live?
2. What activities would you like to have, ie, golf, fishing, shopping, tours, cook out, etc.
3. Where do we want to go? Several tentative locations have been mentioned but we have to consider the IBDA and their participation. Locations mentioned were:
 - a. Return to Fort Walton Beach
 - b. Houston, Texas (NASA)
 - c. San Antonio, Texas
 - d. Fredericksburg, Texas
 - e. Dayton, Ohio (Air Force Museum)
 - f. Branson, Missouri

Each of these locations has positive and negative features but we need to weigh those features as well as the desires of all of the participants.

4. Are you willing to work with the Planning Committee to help locate our comrades that have not participated in past reunions and encourage them to attend?
5. Will your spouse/family be attending the reunion with you?
6. Do you wish to continue the Delta Birddog Reunion relationship with the 199th RAC?

Please send your reply to Don Smith at Shotgun-8A@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Delta Aviation Reunion

(13th CAB)

Fort Rucker, Alabama

May 13-16, 2010

(Armed Forces Day Weekend)

*For Information and Registration check the web site at
www.shieldofthemekong.com*

Army Aviation Association

(Quad-A)

2010 Annual Convention

April 14-17, 2010

Fort Worth, Texas

*Online Registration for Badges, Events and Housing
www.quad-a.org*

Bruce Griffith's Pig Pen Story

Submitted By Ines Griffith

Here's a little story of 2 Bird Dog tech's that were assigned to the maintenance platoon at Soc Trang in 1965. Both were PFC's and they were Bruce Griffith and Johnny Stamps. We had passes to visit downtown Soc Trang, and intended on taking in a few of the more "disorderly" establishments. After a number of cocktails at the "approved" bars, we decided to get away from the Saigon tea girls, and explore the off-limits areas. We were "just curious" and knew full well that if caught there we would get locked up by the MP's and the "Old Man" would have to get us released.

After a nice long walk, the neighborhoods became residential and all structures were grass shacks with thatched roofs. We were invited inside one of the shacks by a polite "papa-san" who was introducing us to his family to include his daughters. Just as we got inside and started to converse, we spotted 2 MP's heading down the walkway towards us.

The shack had no furniture, only mats on the earthen floor and no windows. Johnny and I dove through the rear grass wall and landed in a watery pig pen with 2 very upset, king-size sows. We exited the mire and started running through numerous back yards, bringing down a number of loaded clothes lines. To our dismay, both MP's followed us and splashed down amongst the still agitated sows! We knew we'd be dealt with severely if caught because the MP's were all dressed up in their khakis, complete with medals!

Finally, we stopped a motorized cyclo and pulled the canvas rain cover over us, ordering the driver to head for the main gate at full speed. We gave him all our money. At the Soc Trang gate, the White Mice and MP's gave us the once-over, but we smiled and got in and then ran like hell to hide from those steamed-up MP's. We actually got away with it and never heard anything about those MP's. That was the last time that I visited downtown Soc Trang.

Happy Valentine's Day