

Shotgun Blasts



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May 2010

An apology to my Comrades-In-Arms for the tardiness of the *Shotgun Blasts* for the month of May. I began a move from Pennsylvania to Texas near the end of April and did not realize that it would take so long to get Internet service established but I am back with you now. This will be a short edition but we will be back in June. Don

The Chaplain's Corner

The Church celebrates Pentecost Sunday in many ways...

By Ned Moore, Shotgun Chaplain

(Acts 2: 1-4 NIV)

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Pentecost Day, an agricultural holiday in Old and New Testament Israel, the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day after the beginnings of Passover, is considered to be the Birthday of the Church, which is now celebrated

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Shotgun Blasts

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Ramblings

You can find money in the strangest places...

By Bruce Solberg, Shotgun 43, '70 - '71

While flying over the U-Minh in early '71, I noticed a sampan with a Vietnamese dressed in black pajamas, white shirt, and straw hat moving up the canal into the U-minh. This happened two months in a row during the time when the invasion was going on and when I checked up on him one time he actually waved at me as if just out there having a good time.

He would leave from Ca Mau and proceed up the canal going North on the major north/south canal at the east edge of the forest. I have long since forgotten the name of the canal.

I had reported this for two months and in the third month the Intel folks decided to make a body grab on him...alive. My role was to mark him with a grape smoke and the SEAL team would come in to grab him for Intel debriefing. I flew the mission with the SEAL commo operative (Fly Fallon) in the backseat. To be inconspicuous I was to come in high: I came in at about 5,000 feet with the clouds and watched between them, using binoculars as usual, until we sighted him.

When the Sea Wolves (with SEALs aboard) left Ca Mau we moved into position above him, still high. At the signal I moved in and dropped the smoke, still flying somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 feet. The purple smoke actually hit the front of his sampan and exploded, completely covering the sampan. The sampan operator beached the sampan and rapidly climbed a tree; he was

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on the fiftieth day after Easter, and relate it to the prophecies of Joel 2 and promises of Jesus (Acts 1:8).

Many church folk get all worked up over what they consider to be excesses of “Pentecostals” or “Charismatics” and since all that has nothing whatsoever to do with what I want to lift up here - we ain’t going there.

What I do want to lift up is that the Church celebrates Pentecost Sunday in many ways, some of which are barely noticeable, but the primary thing is this - that according to scripture and traditions, this was the Day that God poured out His Holy Spirit upon the people who had come to believe in Jesus as the Christ, as their Lord and Savior. And, in addition to the events listed above, as evidenced by scriptures that follow in the rest of the New Testament, the believers were imbued with a fervency, intensity and power that had not been seen before.

Our world today has one significant similarity to the world of the early church – there are people out there who are very determined to eliminate us from the face of the Earth – and not all of them are Islamic. And to my mind, the one thing that the normative American church lacks, as we know it today, is anything that any where nearly approaches the power displayed by the Early Church.

I could expend many words here, listing all the comparisons, but again, that is not my mission either.

My mission is to say to all of us, regardless of “Denominational or Non-Denomination” affiliation, regardless of Creeds, Canons or Catechisms, that our enemies, foreign and domestic, see us as weak and ineffective as a Body of Faith. We do not need to become fanatic radicals nor vice versa. But we do need to decide if we are really just a bunch of social misfits, as an increasing number of our society sees us, or are we a spiritual people, individually and collectively, who sincerely, continually and fervently seek to be connected to, empowered with and led by the Holy Spirit of God, earnestly desiring to be used powerfully in the accomplishing of His Will.

If we choose the latter – there is much to be done.

Ned

Reunion 2011

I am sure that by now you are all curious about just what happened at the Reunion Planning Meeting that was held in Nashville in mid-April. I suppose it is time to outline a bit of what was discussed and the decisions that were made at this preliminary meeting.

First, after some discussion among the participants the decision was made to consider San Antonio, Texas as the site of the 2011 reunion. There are a large number of sights and activities that we can visit or use in the area and there is great military support available as well.

Second, our discussion of a time frame for the reunion had us agreeing on the same time of year that we have had the past reunions, that will mean either October 7 – 10 or October 14 – 17, 2011. The deciding factors will be the availability of hotel space and the availability of support by our friends at IBDA.

Third, San Antonio does have a large airport that is served by most major carriers and several of the smaller feeder air carriers making it accessible for travel throughout the United States. This should be a factor in transportation costs.

Fourth, in surveying the members that have been willing to provide address information we find that a large portion of our Shotgun ranks live in the state of Texas and that these folks have not been participating in the reunions. We need to make our group activities available to all members by moving the reunion geographically.

Fifth, it is time to really get to know each other, we covered a six year time span and although we know the names of the folks we served with we need to learn more about their experiences not only in IV Corps but also what they did post Vietnam.

Don Smith

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DELTA AVIATION REUNION

FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

MAY 13 - 16

For details check www.shieldoftheMekong.com

ALL BIRD DOG UNIT REUNION

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 9 - 12

For details contact john.fischer@worldnet.att.net

IBDA BIRD DOG 60TH BIRTHDAY ROUNDUP

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 15 - 19

ARMY OTTER-CARIBOU ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 6 - 10

completely covered with the purple stain from the smoke. The SEALS picked him up shortly.

After a couple of post mission beers this type of mission became known as "smurfing" as the Smurfs were popular on TV at the time...)

That's how I got the VC money that is shown in the Shotgun website photo collection.

Bruce

Help!!!

I urgently need your input for the Ramblings section of our little newsletter. No more than 500 words or a combination of words and photos. Let's keep communications open.

Your Reunion Committee

Don Smith – Reunion Coordinator

Tim Brinkerhoff – Treasurer

Bob Preble – Member

Bob Gee – Member

Rip Rentmeister – Member

Don Loftis – Member

Monte Caylor – Member/Web Master

Frank Allen – Member

Emmett Johnson – Member

Boyce Cates – Member

Ned Moore – Member/Chaplain

We need Texan volunteers!

NOTAM

2009 Reunion DVD

Folks, don't forget that you can still purchase a copy or two of Gene Alexander's terrific DVD of our get together at Fort Walton Beach last October. Those of you that did attend should have received your copy by mail by now as a part of the reunion package.

If you would like to purchase copies of the DVD please contact Bill Poor at wtpoor@comcast.net The fee for the DVD is \$5.00 which covers the cost of materials and mailing.

Any attendees that have not yet received a copy of the DVD should contact Bill and let him know. We experienced a problem with some mailing labels coming off.

NOTAM

*Think about it folks,
your comments or
your photos could be
filling this space!*

Men Who Have Been to War

“I NOW KNOW WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE. NOT TO TELL STORIES OR LOOK AT OLD PICTURES EVEN THOUGH THEY DO. NOT TO LAUGH OR WEEP EVEN THOUGH THEY DO BOTH. THEY GATHER BECAUSE THEY LONG TO BE WITH MEN WHO ONCE ACTED AT THEIR BEST; MEN WHO SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED TOGETHER, WHO WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR HUMANITY. I DID NOT PICK THESE MEN. THEY WERE DELIVERED BY FATE AND THE MILITARY. BUT I KNOW THEM IN A WAY I KNOW NO OTHER MEN.

I HAVE NEVER GIVEN ANYONE SUCH TRUST. THEY

WERE WILLING TO GUARD SOMETHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE. THEY WOULD HAVE CARRIED MY REPUTATION, THE MEMORY OF ME. IT WAS PART OF THE BARGAIN WE ALL MADE. THE REASON WE WERE SO WILLING TO DIE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AS LONG AS I HAVE MEMORY I WILL THINK OF THEM ALL EVERY DAY. I AM SURE THAT WHEN I LEAVE THIS WORLD MY LAST THOUGHT WILL BE OF MY FAMILY AND MY COMRADES IN ARMS.....SUCH GOOD MEN”

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I do believe that when somebody questions the reasons for a reunion that they should read the preceding and perhaps, just perhaps, they will understand.

Revisiting the Past

Come on guys, take a moment to pull out the old scrap books and e-mail me a photo or two that I can include in future issues of the **Shotgun Blasts**. Anyone have a shot of a Banana Tree party?



I really am sorry that I didn't manage to get **Shotgun Blasts** to you at the beginning of the month.

From: "The Bird Dog's Tale"

To: Shotguns and Swamp Foxes

The request for assistance in obtaining a Vietnam-era photo of Muc Hoa AF for my manuscript ("The Bird Dogs' Tale") was successful, with fifteen individuals responding.

. Airfields that will be depicted in the manuscript as outlying sites are:

Location

An Thoi
Bac Lieu
Ben Tre
Binh Duc
Cao Lanh
Chau Duc
Chi Lang
Dong Tam
Go Cong
Kien Giang
Long Xuyen
Muc Hoa
Quan Long (Ca Mau)
Quan Long City
Rach Gia City
SaDec
Tra Vinh
Vi Thanh

Source

Ed Willer, 221st Website
Skip Dent, 221st Website
Jim McGraw, 221st Website
Rich Burns, responded with photo
Dick Futze, 199th Website
Kevin Kirby, 199th Website
Jeff Fozard, responded with photo
Dong Tam (9th US Div) website
Jerry Faust, responded with photo
Jeff Fozard, responded with photo
Dick Slowik, 199th Website
Rich Slowik, responded with a photo
Mike Warden, 221st Website
Rich Slowik, responded with a photo
Ed Willer, 221st Website
Rick Shoup, responded with photo
Brian Bowling, 199th Website
Mike Warden, 221st Website

Others that provided photos were, Paul Tanguay, Bob Preble & Gary Simon. There were additional individuals that replied with suggested sources.

Other outlying operational sites were not included because they were not regularly used as over-night locations. Soc Trang, Can Tho, nor Vinh Long, were included because they were unit headquarters sites.

Thanks to all that responded with comments, and/or searched for an aerial photo; and especially those that submitted a photo.

Bob Woolley