

Fallen Seabee



SN Richard L. Blevins, MCB-3, was fatally wounded on 1 February 1968 during an enemy rocket attack while guarding a truckload of luggage scheduled to leave for home in a few hours. Seaman Blevins, 23 at the time of his death, was a teacher in civilian life and was known as a quiet young man with a scholarly disposition. Richard is listed on "The Wall" at 36E 045 and is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery-Tulsa, OK.



I was going to wait, but today somehow feels like the right time to tell my story--January TET 1968, I was Sgt. of the Guard (title, not rank) Security Company, MCB-3. Part of my job was to patrol the base perimeter at night making sure the fellows in the bunkers stayed alert and awake. One fellow who everyone liked had the hardest time staying awake on his watch. I spent many nights getting him down from the bunker to walk around, have a smoke and coffee. I got to know Richard Blevins pretty well. Now comes January 31st, 1968 and we were in the middle of being relieved by MCB-8. We had just gotten the ALL CLEAR following a mortar/rocket attack. Blevins came up to me and said "Hey Green, I think I am going to get killed tonight." Without forethought I told him "Blevins, if that is the way you feel, you go find yourself a hole by yourself and stay there tonight." The next morning Blevins came running up to me and said "Hey Green, I made it and I am going home today". I said "Good for you Blevins, see, there was nothing to worry about." Noon that day several more rockets and mortars impacted on the base--Richard Blevins was killed instantly hours before he was to catch the 'big bird' back to the 'world'. The Commanding Officer had me go get his personnel effects off him--I fell apart. Not the end of my story. Early last year I was scrolling through the MCB-3 web site Guest Book. I came across a woman looking for information on her brother's death. It was Richard's sister, Leslie French. That very day we made contact via e-mail and I told my story and we remain friends today. After the last e-mail I happened to look up and notice the date--February 1st, 43 years to the day of Richard's death. I know my story is like so many others but I felt it was time to tell it. I will remember Richard and all the others we lost for the rest of my life-January sucks!!

-Stephen Paul Green, SW, MCB-3

Seabees Under Fire

Seabee Team 1011 evacuated its compound in Vinh Long Province during the TET Offensive against Vinh Long City. The Team evacuated to the Vinh Long Airfield and assisted in constructing and manning defensive positions. Upon return to the team compound on 02 February, extensive damage was found to the Team house and some equipment due to one mortar round and 50 caliber fire. The Team remained on increased alert conditions until 20 February 1968

-from Text Seabee Team Deployment Completion Report



EOH3 Antonio of Seabee Team 1011 clears away bomb damaged structures in Vinh Long, Vinh Long Province; the aftermath of TET '68

-from Seabee Team Deployment Completion Report

MCB-128 set Ground Condition One at Camp Faulkner, Da Nang, due to a mortar attack on nearby facilities. Battalion personnel provided coordinates of launching sites to the Sector Fire Coordinator. When Battalion security personnel sighted enemy movement along a causeway 400 meters southwest of the Camp Faulkner perimeter. Personnel assisted a Marine patrol in locating the enemy by firing tracer rounds.

-from MCB-128 Deployment Completion Report '67-'68

Between 0300 and 0630 on 02 February, the MCB-9 road Checkpoint 2 on Route 3 received small arms and automatic weapons fire from a village east of Camp Hoover, Da Nang and observed abnormal activity in the intervening rice paddies. In returning the fire, the Seabees at Checkpoint 2 reported two secondary explosions. A nine-man patrol, sent to investigate the area at dawn, came under automatic weapons fire. BU1 B.R. Lemaster and BUL3 G.T. Lagrone were wounded and MEDEVAC'd by two helicopter gunships. Six Vietnamese found in the area of engagement were detained after the fire fight and turned over to the Sub-sector Command for questioning.

-from MCB-9 Deployment Completion Report '67-'68