

THE GRASS ON THE BERM

Word has it that the latest fad among berm guards is smoking pot on duty. Many GI's who were content before playing harmonicas, eating C-rations, taking potshots at helicopters and catching up on their sleep during guard duty, have now found that those isolated bunkers on the perimeter of Bearcat are the perfect place to get high.

The authorities could hardly have ignored the possibility of guards tripping out when several weeks ago someone got creative on bunker 92. That bunker emerged one morning painted in brilliant psychedelic colors with many hip slogans (some about pot) included. In the doorway were hung beads, and on top of the bunker was the huge word PSYCHEDELIC painted on a cot. Several officers made comments, but the bunker has remained more or less intact since then.

Another indication of berm freaking out has been the increase in berm guard paranoia in recent weeks. Hardly a night goes by without one or two reports of enemy activity from hallucinating guards, and often flares and rounds are expended. (This is not to be confused with the frequent use of flares by guards who shoot them off to trip out on the pretty colors -- rather, this is genuine paranoia.)

What the authorities can do to prevent this latest fad is questionable. It is very difficult to keep a constant watch on all the bunkers. Perhaps we can introduce a new duty: guard of the berm guards.

THE NIGHT BEARCAT WAS HIT

A few weeks ago we were all taken by surprise when our own beloved Bearcat was hit by several rockets. At approximately 10 PM on July 5th several enemy shells were "walked" across Bearcat. Several minutes later there were two more.

Generally speaking, we were caught with our pants down.

Local NCO's (some in a state of semi-intoxication) were taken by surprise. Many of them were seen running from the club, hastily gulping down the last of their beer, or staggering to a nearby bunker.

Out on the berm, high berm guards (see previous story) tripped out to the unusual fireworks.

Many personnel, considering the possibility of attack, proceeded to the 191st Arms Room which was locked up tight, as usual; once again we were subjected to the ludicrous spectacle of an Army without weapons. The Arms Room was finally opened some time later, but, alas, many weapons were handed out to the wrong individuals.

It didn't matter; there was no ammunition.

IG INSPECTION

Well, the annual IG Inspection is over and at least we can go back to our old slovenly ways. For a while, there, things were pretty exciting.

For several weeks prior to the inspection, everyone was busy as could be, hiding stolen government property and ammunition, cleaning up last year's dirt, making up information to straighten out the records and, of course, figuring out who to blame if things went wrong. Sergeant Meneley seemed to be everywhere at once, and only the most skillful detail-dodgers escaped his roving eye.

Unit Supply, disregarding the slave labor laws) found plenty to do for those on their clean-up details. Particularly humorous was the game of "musical connexes" that Sergeants Vierse and Kennville invented.

In preparing for the inspection, there were some truly ingenious moves by local personnel. The mess hall, for example, postponed hiring civilian KP's so that GI KP's could be blamed if anything went wrong.

Even more clever was the way the people in some of the maintenance shops found of clearing out their area. A truck was loaded with all the junk no one knew where to put. During the inspection it was driven a safe distance away. Later on, when everything was over, it returned. In spite of this, however, the inspecting officer still said the area looked like "a junkyard." Ah, well.

The high point of the inspection came when, in Operations, warrant officer Clyde Wilkinson was sent running on various errands around the company in order to pacify the irate inspecting colonel. As to how irate the colonel was, however, there is some question. Witnesses report that although he spent considerable time chewing out various officers, he continued to smile the whole time. Clearly, he was a good sport.

All in all, the company did fairly well. All areas passed the inspection except the motor pool. (Can't win 'em all, Olsak.)

Perhaps one observation worth making is that it is fortunate the inspection did not include private possessions in foot and wall lockers. With all the unauthorized items, it would have been rather embarrassing.

KP ANYONE?

In response to the question of the security of having civilian KP's, a sample of men polled by the Boomerang Barb stated unanimously, "Hell, I'd much rather be hit once in a while than pull KP!" Better dead than red (hands, that is.)

EDITORIALS:

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Boomerang Barb can be summed up as one of freedom. We hold that freedom is man's birthright and his most prized possession. With freedom man can do anything; without it, he is nothing.

It is popular among politicians and other prominent people in the United States to talk about the blessings of freedom --- but how many really mean it?

How many of these people want to see marijuana legalized, so that anyone will be free to smoke it if they please?

How many would attempt to repeal the laws which govern sex; laws which tell you who you can have sex with and in what position?

How many preach freedom and then intimidate Negroes and other minorities from exercising their rights by the use of laws and illegal pressure?

How many praise freedom, but support the draft?

The draft is worth special consideration. It violates all three of the fundamental rights set down in the Declaration of Independence --- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Many people say that the draft is necessary to protect our nation so that we may have freedom. They imply that we could not have a volunteer Army without a draft. But for 164 years (until 1940) our nation had a volunteer army, and grew to be a world power.

Most supporters of the draft today admit that we could have a volunteer army, but say it would cost too much. In other words, they believe that freedom is OK, but is not worth paying for.

The Boomerang Barb advocates freedom in these matters and others. In addition, we are an independent publication, free (for the present, at least) from pressure by the authorities. Because of this, we offer a different point of view. We hope you will read our articles and consider what we have to say.

LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

According to a recent article in Army Digest, "all commanders are unanimous in their considered judgement that the smoking of marijuana is not a problem of major proportions among the US Forces in Vietnam."

This statement, if nothing else, is an indication of the enormous capacity of the US Army to deceive itself. To say that the use of marijuana is not widespread within the US

Army is simply to be out of contact with reality. The estimate by writer John Steinbeck that 75% of the troops smoke pot, although exaggerated, probably comes closer to the truth than the official view.

The statement by the Digest, however, is in one sense correct: it is true that the smoking of marijuana is not a problem of major proportions in the Army or anywhere else. It is not a problem at all. It is merely a pleasurable pastime which is harmful neither to the smoker, not to anyone else.

Despite several attempts in recent years to prove the danger of smoking marijuana, it has become a well-established and widely recognized fact that pot is probably less harmful than coffee and tobacco and is certainly safer than alcohol. It is also less habit-forming than these substances.

Claiming that marijuana should be outlawed because smoking it leads to the use of heroin and other drugs is irrational. One might as well say that since most alcoholics begin by sipping beer, beer should be illegal. Obviously, the causes of drug addiction and alcoholism lie in the personalities of the addicts themselves, not in some harmless substance which, at one time or another might or might not have been used by them.

To be sure, marijuana should not be used indiscriminately. Being under the influence of marijuana during guard duty, while driving, or in a combat situation is dangerous and foolish. There is no more excuse to be high in these circumstances than there is to be drunk.

However, when off duty, there is no reason why a person should not be allowed to smoke marijuana, or to engage in any harmless pastime of his own personal preference.

There is one problem with marijuana: it is illegal. Until this is changed, the few who got caught will continue to be punished under an arbitrary and unnecessary law.

FULBRIGHT ON VIETNAM

Some of us who do not believe in this war have difficulty making others understand how we feel about it. Perhaps, this quote from Senator William J. Fulbright in Playboy can express what many of us feel.

The Boomerang Barb is an unauthorized publication of the US Armed Forces. It is published whenever we can get hold of a mimeograph machine (which isn't often) by the Freedom & Truth Association (F.T.A.) under operational control of nobody.

Editorial opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense.

The Boomerang Barb is distributed to all personnel in the Boomerang area, whether they want it or not, at the expense of the United States taxpayers.

Here's hoping we don't get caught.

Editor-in-Chief Anonymous
Managing Editor..... Anonymous
News Editor Anonymous
Reporters Anonymous
Printer Anonymous

"Much of the world and an increasing number of our own people are deeply skeptical about the American purpose in Vietnam. Underlying the skepticism is deep disappointment, a feeling that American has betrayed its own past and its own promise -- the promise of Roosevelt and the United Nations, and of Wilson and the League of Nations, but most of all, the promise of the American Revolution, of free men building a society that would be an example for the world. Now the world sees that heritage being betrayed; it

sees a nation that seemed to represent something new and hopeful reverting instead to the vanity of past empires, each of which struggled for supremacy, each of which won and held it for a while, each of which finally faded or fell into historical oblivion.

“We are, in this respect, a disappointment to the world; but far more important than that we are a disappointment to ourselves.”

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

In our months of intellectual research for this scholarly publication we have come across some interesting facts and we thought we would share them with you.

Would you believe...

That the longest moustache on record is that of Masuriya Din (native of India)? It is over 102 inches long and is said to cost him \$36.50 a year in upkeep.

That the longest recorded attack of hiccoughs was that afflicting Jack O’Leary of Los Angeles, Calif? It was estimated that he “hicked” more than 160,000,000 times in an attack which lasted from June 13, 1948 to June 1, 1956 (apart from a week’s respite in 1951). His weight fell from 138 to 74 pounds. People sent him 60,000 suggestions for cures, of which only one apparently worked -- a prayer to St. Jude, the patron saint of lost causes.

That the wife of Fyodor Vassilet (1816 – 1972) of Russia had 69 children? She gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, 7 sets of triplets, and 4 sets of quadruplets. This is believed to be a world’s record.

That the longest period of time for which a painting has hung upside down in a public gallery unnoticed is 47 days? The painting was “Le Bateau” by Matisse in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City; 116,000 people passed by without noticing the error.

That the largest nudist camp in the world was at l’Ile du Levant, France? It had 15,000 members before it was taken over by the French Navy in 1965.

That Lt. I. M. Chisov (of the USSR) bailed out of a damaged jet without a parachute, fell 22,000 feet, and lived? He struck ground on a snow-covered ravine and slid to the bottom, suffering only a few broken bones.

That the greatest distance ever spit was 24 feet and 10-3/4 inches? It was done by George Craft, renowned spitting champion, in 1967.

That the shortest time ever recorded for the amputation of a limb was 33 seconds? Dr. Robert Liston (1794 – 1847) performed the operation so quickly that he sliced off three of his assistant’s fingers in the process.

That the longest prison sentence ever pronounced was 6,616 years 6 months and 1 day? It was given to Jose Crespo Ruiz in Madrid, Spain on April 19, 1967, for selling non-existent holiday flats on the Costa Brava.

TIN CIVILIANS

Looking forward to civilian life? Consider the latest news from the 56th Transportation Company. The C.O.

there has ordered not only his troops, but also the civilians working with the company to fall out every morning for formation. Even more startling, the civilians have complied.

To them goes our “Little Tin Civilian Award for Submissiveness” for the month of August.

COOK BURNS LIEUTENANT

The Boomerang area was recently the scene of dramatic events: an enlisted man openly defied the authority of an officer and was quickly delt with. It seems a certain lieutenant from the Orderly Room commanded a cook to scramble him a dozen eggs. The cook refused. With the whole system of military authority threatened, the cook was summoned and given an Article 15. (Well, cheer up, chef -- he might have hit you with his nightstick!)

BOOMER RUMORS

The Boomerang Barb proudly presents its “Loser of the Month Award” to the electrician who shut down the generator supplying half the company, and then couldn’t start it again. From all of us, a job well done!

...Speaking of jobs, it has become known that a certain local warrant officer plans to take over the Captain Kangaroo Show when he returns to the States. To him goes our best wishes for a successful career.

...Getting horny? In case you have not heard, the Bearcat steambath is reputed to be the place to go. For a few bucks, you can get a rather unusual massage.

...For those disinterested in the steambath, some far-out alternatives remain. Several members of the 191st have reported being assaulted by a gay individual at nights in the 240th latrine. Apparently he was looking for someone with similar preferences, but this was just swishful thinking.

...A new change in facilities is imminent. Highly placed sources report that the new NCO – EM club will soon become more exclusive. Starting sometime next month, tuxedos will be required of all individuals wishing to use the club. The new rule is a result of the fact that under the old, more lenient rules too much riff-raff was making use of the club.

...Word has leaked out that among the people who deliver packages to Vietnam, a new game is popular. The game is to see who can bash up the most packages in the shortest amount of time. Judging from the appearance of our mail, we gather that the players are getting quite good at it.

...To the projectionist at HHC of the 214th Combat Aviation Battalion goes our “Impossible Achievement Award” -- he managed to make the projector run for 11 minutes and 41 seconds without having to stop it a single time to adjust the film. Who says miracles never happen anymore?

...By the way -- we’d appreciate it if someone would enlighten us: is it true what they say about Red Cross girls in the Bounty Hunter shack?

POEM

**PORTRAIT OF A SOLDIER
(Of the new generation)**

With peace in his heart,
And a gun in his hands,
He goes.

“Farewell, my wistful young bride,
I’m going out to stem the tide,
Some say it’s yellow,
Some say red,
It will not matter when I’m dead.”
The war of colors.

Just past the joys of adolescence
Into the horrors of manhood at war,

What happened to their dreams?
What happened to their faith in man?
Yes, what happened?

No wonder we say, “Never trust anyone
over 30.”
We have been betrayed.
For considerably more than 30 pieces
Of silver -- but betrayed.

“War is good business.”
(Invest your son.)

“But why, when you saw women and children
being killed, did you do nothing?”
“I was only following orders.”
Nuremburg, 1947.

-- Anonymous

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

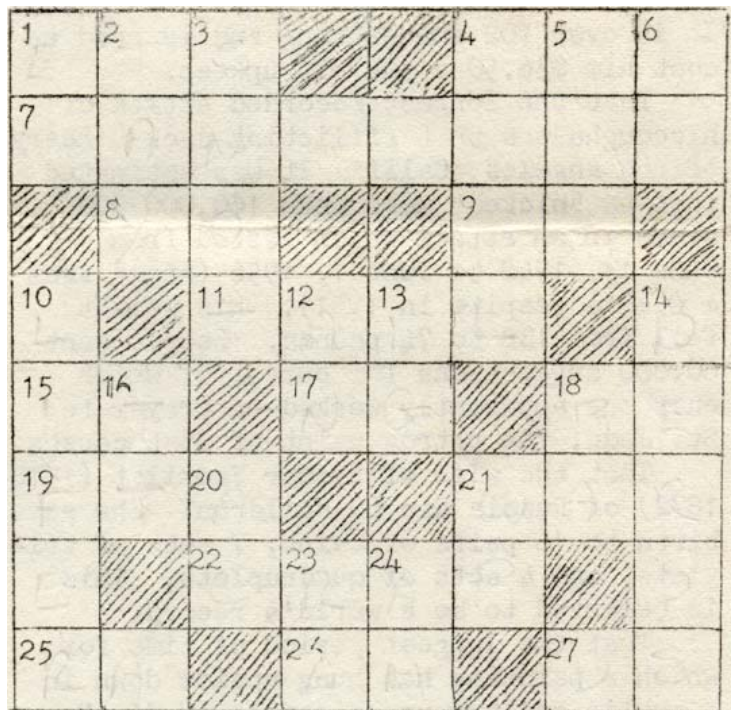
Let’s face it: what’s a paper without a crossword
puzzle? So here is our version, underground style.
(So, what do you want for free?)

ACROSS

- 1. Day when we finish serving our sentence.
- 4. “Kiss my _____!”
- 7. Bodies for Vietnam.
- 8. Major Jones.
- 9. Animal.
- 11. Something we all want a piece of.
- 15. A pronoun.
- 17. “Weekend warrior.”
- 18. “_____ yourself.”
- 19. Letters which express our affection for the Army.
- 21. Since Congress has not declared it, this is not a _____. (You just think it is.)
- 22. Character guidance.
- 25. Long timer.
- 26. Type of communication used by PRC-25.
- 27. Short timer.

DOWN

- 1. Peasant.
- 2. LBJ’s hand in your pocket.
- 3. Slimey green substance.
- 4. Temporary escape.
- 5. Popular pastime.
- 6. Initials of Spec 5 in the first flight platoon.
- 10. A sorry individual.
- 12. “Army –Navy”



- 13. Boy, did we put one over on the _____.
- 14. Joyous day.
- 16. Vietnamese for “Short!”
- 18. Indecent exposure.
- 20. Aircraft Commander (abbr.)
- 21. Will proceed (abbr.)
- 23. The joke’s on you.
- 24. Type of communication.

The Boomerang Barb Thought for the Month:
If we are here because they asked us, why do
we have to win their hearts and minds?

THE BOOMERANG BARB

(HIP UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER OF THE 191st)



“The pen is
mightier....sword”
than the