



# POST SOLANT AMITY

With the Members of "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment



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**Trivia Question 2:** A corpsman's VERY PERSONAL inspection of the troops, usually in unit formation, for signs of sexually transmitted diseases was called what? (See answer on page 4.)

## Veteran's Disability

Between the 8th and 12th of December 1960 live fire training was provided on Isle de Viegues to Marines and Corpsmen assigned to the SoLant Amity Operation.

During one of the training episodes, a fire team led by then L/Cpl K.O. Brinlee was felled by an exploding charge of C-4, used to simulate incoming mortar rounds. Covered with debris, unable to hear and with at least two of the four men with blood-running ears, they were examined, treated and returned to their parent platoon. None, apparently, were ever examined by a doctor.

Trevor Davies, one of those "bloodied," shipped over for an additional year and a half, did a stint in Hawaii and was being processed for discharge at Treasure Island, CA in 1965 when he was ordered by the examining doctor to have a hearing test. The one test became four! He failed them all.

Trevor told the doctor of a "ringing" in one of his ears that had persisted since the Viegues incident more than four years before. That it was something, though a bother, he had simply "gotten used to."

Daily, sailors and Marines continued to arrive. They were quickly processed and sent on their way. But, he...because of his hearing problem...and four others were told they would have to remain until it was decided what would be done with them. Then, from out of the blue, came a proposal that he COULD GO HOME IF only he would sign a document releasing the government from any further liability with respect to his hearing loss. Thinking it in his best interests, Trevor agreed, signed and got on with his life.

Today, the problem persists but with the promise, (Cont. pg 2, Col 4)

## Do you remember NBC's multipart *Victory at Sea* series?

*Victory at Sea*, a 26-episode series on World War II, represented one of the most ambitious documentary undertakings of early network television. The venture paid handsomely for NBC and its parent company RCA, however, in that it generated considerable residual income through syndication and several spin-off properties. It also helped establish compilation documentaries, programs composed of existing archival footage, as a sturdy television genre.

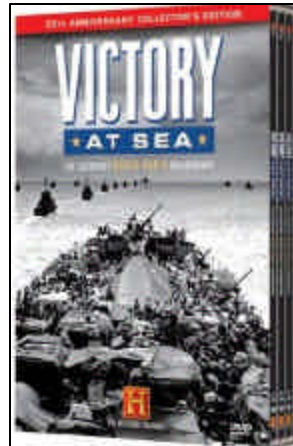
The series premiered on the last Sunday of October 1952, and subsequent episodes played each Sunday afternoon through May 1953. Each half-hour installment dealt with some aspect of World War II naval warfare and highlighted each of the sea war's major campaigns: the Battle of the North Atlantic, the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, antisubmarine patrol in the South Atlantic, the Leyte Gulf campaign, etc. Each episode was composed of archival footage originally accumulated by the U.S., British, Japanese or German navies. The footage was carefully edited and organized to bring out the drama of each campaign. That drama was enhanced by the program's sententious voice-over narration and by Richard Rodgers's stirring musical score.

*Victory at Sea* won instant praise and loyal viewers. Television critics greeted it as breakthrough for the young television industry: an entertaining documentary series that still provided a vivid record of recent history. *The New York Times* praised the series for its "rare power"; *The New Yorker* pronounced the combat footage "beyond compare"; and *Harper's* proclaimed that "*Victory at Sea* [has] created a new art form." It eventually garnered 13 industry awards, including a Peabody and a special Emmy.

The combination of prestige and residual income persuaded NBC to make a long-term commitment to the compilation documentary as a genre. NBC retained the *Victory at Sea* production crew as Project XX, a permanent production unit specializing in prime-time documentary specials on historical subjects. The unit continued its work through the early 1970s, producing some 22 feature-length documentaries for the network.

*Victory at Sea* demonstrated the

**Trivia Question 1:** Combat Operational Marine aircrews carry a written notice, in several languages should they be shot down, requesting help from local populations. The notice is called a what? (See answer on page 4)



commercial possibilities of compilation documentaries to other networks as well. Such programs as *Air Power* and *Winston Churchill: The Valiant Years* directly imitated the *Victory at Sea* model, and the success of CBS's long-running historical series *The 20th Century* owed much to the example set by Salomon and his NBC colleagues. The fact that such programs still continue to play in syndication in the expanded cable market demonstrates the staying power of the compilation genre.

Still available, now in DVD, at Amazon.com and elsewhere for about thirty dollars, it makes for a wonderful gift AND repository of documented WWII history.

## Elements Common to Four Revolutions: Are we next...AGAIN ???



First written by (Clarence) Crane Brinton in 1938, *The Anatomy of Revolution* was twice revised for reprinting in 1952 and then again in 1965.

Brinton, born in Connecticut and raised in Massachusetts, graduated Harvard, was a Rhodes Scholar and acquired a Doctorate in Philosophy from England's Oxford University in 1923. He taught at Harvard until

his death in September of 1968, except for a stint with the OSS during WWII as Chief of Research and Analysis in London.

Within less than three hundred pages, Brinton analyzes and succinctly presents his contention that there are several commonalities in both the causes for and evolutions of the English, American, French and Russian revolutions.

Simplifying the process for public consumption, Brinton suggests that "we regard revolutions as a kind of fever." That we would first see the barest indications of the coming

disturbance: symptoms. Some reasonable time thereafter, the full blown symptoms, represented by ever greater discord, would be telling us "the fever of revolution has begun." There would then be a period of "crisis, ...accompanied by delirium, and rule [by] the most violent revolutionists: a *Reign of Terror*." Finally, the fever abates. The patient "is himself again, perhaps in some respects actually strengthened by the experience...but by no means...entirely remade." Summed up, it proceeds from signs, symptoms, crisis, surgery, convalescence AND, unmentioned, a pile of bodies. (Cont. page 2, col. 3)

## Vietnam War Archives: Barrel Bombing, a CO's View

(This following was obtained from <http://www.hmh-463-vietnam.com>)



In the summer of 1970, I was flying near Football Island and observed an Army CH47 helicopter rolling barrels of what appeared to

be fuel off the ramp and then igniting them. It looked like they were trying to burn the grass in the area. On return I thought about what I had seen and came up with the idea of doing something similar.

Approaching Lieutenant Colonel Andy Andrus, the MAG 16 S3, and several members of 463 about exploring the use of napalm barrels as a weapon. Andy gave me the OK to continue. I'm not sure who came up with the specifics on how to best rig the cargo net in the helicopter, but I would guess it might have been Captain Chip Cippola.

At any rate, we decided to secure two of the four corners of the net to the aircraft with tie down chains and secure the other two corners on the cargo hook. In this way when the cargo hook was released, the barrels would fall out of the net. On the first series of trials we discovered that the empty cargo sling was hitting and damaging the cargo ramp. As a result the ramps were removed.

The next challenge was to develop some type of sight system. I approached Lieutenant Bob Coday with the challenge of developing the ballistics for a free falling barrel at various heights and airspeeds. I believe we settled on two combinations of altitude and airspeed (I don't remember the numbers, but I believe the altitude was 1500 feet). The calculations were made, and the chin bubble was marked with two cross hairs to indicate the desired release points. We tried the sight, and it was, in Art Picones' words, "Amazingly accurate."

We started small with several 2-4

**Trivia Question 3:** The necktie worn as part of a Marine's uniform was called what?

(See answer on page 4.)

ship flights using another aircraft to try to draw fire (skunk hunting), and then we would lay down the barrels. We found that firing M-60 tracers into the broken barrels after impact did not ignite them readily so we started to use OV-10's or Cobras with white phosphorous rockets.

We continued to improve our tactics and got most of the bumps worked out. One thing that did evolve was the mixture we used in the barrels. In the beginning we used 20 barrels filled with napalm. We found that this was difficult to ignite due to the low flash point of napalm. We then went to 4 barrels of motor gas and 16 barrels of napalm and had better success. The culmination of our efforts was a mission that involved 12 CH-53's on a mission to drop what turned out to be over 400 tons of fuel on Charlie Ridge.

Charlie Ridge had NVA that were dug in. Attempts to clear the area with fixed wing bombs had failed. Assaults attempted by ground Marines resulted in heavy casualties. It was decided to use the fuel barrels. The mission was nicknamed "Thrash Light" for MG Thrash the Air Wing CG (The USAF B-52 bombing missions were called Arc Light, hence the name). Fixed wing aircraft also participated in the effort.

The day after the mission, the infantry mounted a ground assault without resistance. All of the enemy found on Charlie Ridge were KIA. The infantry walked the ridge and counted bodies. Many were burned, but most were in deep bunkers and had died from loss of oxygen. The body count was approximately 135 (that is my memory of that statistic).

After the Thrash Light we continued with several small "skunk hunting" missions but never again performed a large-scale operation. I don't know why. Skip Burns relates that after he left the squadron for a FAC tour he had convinced his Battalion Commander to use a Thrash Light on an assault in the Arizona area. The Regimental Air Officer, who was a fixed wing Major, vetoed the mission. Remember, "Napalm is Nature's Way."

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Block, USMC-Retired was CO HMH-463 from 1Jan70 to 9Sep70.

## Revolution (Cont. from page 1).

Brinton then enumerated the causes he'd found present in all four studied revolutions:

- 1) ALL social classes: discontent
- 2) Folks *feel* constrained by either government or class structure.
- 3) There's a perception that their expectations are increasingly unachievable.
- 4) Rising angst between social classes, with those closest to one another being most bitter.
- 5) Abandonment by the intelligentsia in media and academia, as well as greater numbers of political leaders who, in increasing numbers, support the concept of *required change*.
- 6) Government cannot adequately control its finances and faces potential bankruptcy or the imposition of heavy and/or unjust taxes.

How many of the above *circumstances* do we, today, see occurring in our own nation's social and body politique? How are they manifested and who, individually or as a group, has precipitated any one or more of the circumstances?

Crane Brinton's academic yet quite literary interpretations of accumulated historical *evidence* makes for an easy enough read, if one is inclined to read of such things as history, politics and social constructs except as a late night attempt to more quickly fall asleep.

I have to admit that it was a lot easier to stagger through it four decades ago for three reasons: first, it was **required reading** in some "book of the week" college course; secondly, far more of my brain cells worked with less effort back then; and, lastly, though the 1960's were "bitch enough" to get through, our nation's political machinations of the last few years have left me near *drain-bed*. Ed Shea



**Trivia Question 4** In the military, sleeping bags and mattress covers are called what? (Answer on Page 4)

## VA Disability (Cont from page 1) finally, of redress.

As early as eight years ago and as a co-member of the Marine Corps League in Massachusetts, retired GSgt Bob Wuschke (pronounced "Whiskey") asked Trevor how long he'd been having hearing problems. Trevor told him the Viegues story and *Whiskey* advised him of his likely eligibility for a VA disability pension. But, true to his "Hey, that's life" perception, Trevor continued to endure the problem and never followed up on the suggestion.

Subsequently, he collapsed at work...and twice since...from what has been diagnosed as attacks of *vertigo*. And, over time, his hearing has grown appreciably worse.

*Whiskey's* reaction? Well by this time, he had had about enough of Trevor's delaying tactics and told him he was "going to drag him to the VA, if he had to rip his arms off in the process." And, while sometimes reluctant to take a *hint*, Trevor can be decisive when something is made abundantly clear: He filed for a Veteran's Disability in April 2006, lest he lose his arms.

Only this month did Trevor learn he's likely to receive a disability pension award by December '07. And, he will, in an upcoming issue explain the lengthy process for others of us that might share a similar need.

In the meantime, if you believe you warrant a VA disability pension contact your local VA Agent or review your rights, on the internet at <http://www.vba.va.gov/>



**Remember when:**

The original Hollywood Squares was unscripted and we heard the likes of Paul Lynde, George Gobel, Don Knotts, Rose Marie and Vincent Price provide outrageous remarks. Man were they funny. Their answers were always something more implied than openly crude, like the stuff on Cable today.

But, before providing some of their more classic one-liners, let's set this up. First, the questions were always asked by Peter Marshal, who read them aloud from a card.

**Q:** "Do female frogs croak?" he would ask Paul Lynde. "Well, yes, if you hold their heads underwater long enough" came the reply.

*(Of course, PETA would take exception to that today.)*

**Q:** "Paul, why do Hell's Angels wear leather?" And Paul said "Because chiffon wrinkles too easily."

*(And, I suppose the gay community might find that offensive.)*



**Uhhhhhhh, WHY???**

about my elephant?"

*(Hmmm, hold it. No, that's OK. Bestiality is in. Though, they'd have to be with adult animals.*

*You know, I can't believe how really tough this humor stuff is. But, lets try one more time.)*

**The Ant & the Grasshopper**

*The way it was:*

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool. Instead of laboring, he laughs, dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The grasshopper? He has neither food nor shelter. So, uhhh, HE DIES....

Moral: Fend for YOURSELF.

*How some would have it now:*

The ant works hard throughout the summer. He builds his house and lays up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper believes the ant a fool. He laughs, dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant "should be warm and well fed while others, like himself, are cold and starving."

The usual media suspects appear and that night show graphic side-by-side video coverage of the *ravaged* grasshopper vs. the *robust* ant.

America is stunned by the sharp contrast: "How can it be, that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?"

Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah, along with the grasshopper, and the lot of them sing, "It's Not Easy Being Green."

Jesse Jackson and entourage demonstrate in front of the ant's house

**Trivia Question 6** When was the "utility cover," though her-ring-bone twill, first issued to Marines for field and barracks use? (Answer page 4.)

where his minions sing, "We shall overcome."

Nancy Pelosi & John Kerry exclaim in an interview with Larry King that "the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper" and call for an immediate tax on the ant "so he might pay his fair share."

The EEOC drafts the *Economic Equity & Anti-Grasshopper Act* and makes it retroactive to the beginning of the summer.

The ant is fined for failing to hire an appropriate number of green (cardless) bugs and, then, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated.

Hillary *what's-her-face* directs her former employer, the Rose Law Firm, to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a jury comprised of green (cardless) welfare recipient bugs. Alas, the ant loses the case.

Finally, we see the grasshopper finishing up the last bits of the ant's food in what used to be the home of the ant. The camera pans about and shows the homes deteriorating condition, as it is now no longer maintained. The ant is shown walking off into the snow.

The grasshopper dies in an insecticide related incident and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the once peaceful neighborhood.

Moral: Be careful how you vote.



**Some of those seventy-two virgins Ahkmed has been anxious to meet.**

**Q:** "Charlie Weaver! According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with routinely kissing a lot of people?" "Well," came his response, "it got me out of the Army!"

*(Uh, sorry. Bad taste. It highlights the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. Well, let's see, I'll try a few more.)*

**Q;** "Back in the old days, George, when Great Grandpa put horseradish on his head, what was he trying to do?" To which Gobel replied "Uhh, get it in his mouth?"

*(Damn, that's offensive to the aged.)*

**Q:** "Paul, who stays pregnant for a longer period of time, your wife or your elephant?" And Lynde, with just a tad bit of defensiveness in his voice, answered with "Who told you

**Q:** "Paul, according to Ann Landers, what two things should you never do in bed?"

"Point and laugh."

*(Damn. I hope that one still works without offending another of the world's "always-angry-about-something" crowd.*

*But how sad is it that we've become a nation of people afraid to laugh at the obviously funny for fear of offending some group or another.*

*And think of the plight of today's Drill Instructors. To them, in our time, NOTHING was sacred. Damn near anything made you a target: your nationality, home state, accent, height, weight...a pimple. Yet we survived and, though ONLY in retrospect, I loved the insanity of it all.*

*And so did you, "You god-damn Yankee thug! And just how many little old ladies did you throw off the pier, maggots?"*

**Trivia Question 5** Eisenhower's interstate highway system requires one of every five miles be straight. Why? (Answer on page 4.)

**Funky bedsheets for the lonely among us....**



## Enlightening Odds and Ends for your reading pleasure:

For two centuries Marines have talked about Tun Tavern. Well Marines, now there's a place for the SoLant Amity forces to hang out:



Of course, you'll have to go to Northport, New York AND our former company commander has nothing to do with it. 🍷

**Kenneth J. Skipper, Major (USMC-Retired):**



**Kenneth J. Skipper**  
2nd Lieutenant, 1953

**Delwin "Bill" Bailey** is moving to Florida fulltime, effective 5Nov07. His new address will be:

Orchid Lake Travel Resort  
8225 Arevee Drive Lot 857  
New Port Ritchey, FL 34653

**Ken Brinlee** says "Hello" to all and has for some time had difficulty with his hearing. He MAY pursue a VA disability pension.

*If you or anyone you know was injured while in the service...combat or not...you should contact your VA agent, if it is*

**Trivia Question 7:** In VN, the illumination of a combat zone by dropping 55-gal. barrels of napalm from CH-53 helicopter was called what? (Answer to the right)

*believed there is a connection between the service related injury and a present condition.*

**Trevor Davies** expects to soon receive a VA pension for injuries sustained on Vieques in December 1960.

**Ed Hart** sailed south from Maryland and was three days from Jacksonville, Florida when I spoke with him.

**Joe Teklits** is well in his Colorado retreat and wants to remind all that CITCO and Petro Gas are owned by Venezuela, ergo: Caesar Chavez.

**Pete Greco** and I, twice, had problems with our cell phone connection...as close as we are here in Florida...but; at the very least, we learned each was still alive. (-:)

**Amadio "DiBo" DiBounaventura** is still out there, trying to make the most of his retirement and...like most of us...more than a little angry about the state of our nation's politics.

NOTE: The following is located between the main gate and mainside Parris Island Recruit Training Center.



## Solant Amity I — G-2 6 Association

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Delray Beach, Florida 33445  
1-561-531-9435

See the whole story at  
[SolantAmity.com](http://SolantAmity.com)

## The First Marines to Land in Monrovia

**Trivia Question 8:** A tanker's pejorative term for infantrymen? (See answer below.)

### The Marine NCO'S Sword

Marine Corps NCOs are the only ones of the regular United States Armed Forces who have the privilege to not only carry swords but a sword model, at one time, a commissioned officer's weapon.

Though originally adopted by the War Department on April 9, 1850 as the regulation saber for all foot officers of the infantry; it wasn't until 1859 that it was adopted by Marine officers. More serviceable than their lighter and traditional Mameluke-type saber, they particularly welcomed its leather scabbard over the more maintenance intensive brass one for shipboard duty.

However, after the Civil War, the broadening use of repeating rifles sounded the death knell for the sword as a functional weapon, becoming more an encumbrance than an asset.

Thus, being more symbolic than utilitarian, officers reverted to Mameluke swords in 1875 and the NCOs inherited the formerly functioning weapon. To this day, with only minor alterations, it is still carried by Staff NCOs in Marine parade formations and remains a

gesture of considerable respect to non-commissioned officers by their commissioned brethren.

At first glance, the Marine NCO sword in use from 1875 until 1934 was no different than the 1850 officer's model. Only the fishskin covering on the grip had been replaced by black leather and the letters "U.S.M.C" etched on the reverse side of the blade instead of "U.S." Then, in 1934, new regulations called for a more slender blade and the decorative inscription: "United States Marines". Otherwise, it remained identical to the Civil War officer's model, though lighter and inclined toward ceremonial use rather than combat.



The swords of both the commissioned and noncommissioned officer are now more representative of their role within the service: To lead, not shoot. The sword, thus, has been entrusted to those most responsible for maintaining the traditions of the Marine Corps. Except for the famous Mameluke hilted sword of Marine commissioned officers, the Marine NCO sword rates as the oldest U.S. weapon still in use, even if only ceremonial. *Charlie Wilson*

### Trivia Answers:

- 1) Blood chit
- 2) Short arm inspection
- 3) Field scarf
- 4) Fartsack
- 5) Used as air strips during times of war or emergencies.
- 6) 1943
- 7) Thrash Light
- 8) Track lube. 🍷

Mailed as a black on white copy, a fully colorized version can be found at our website, where on page one you'll find a link to a downloadable version.

I hope you've enjoyed this latest effort. Send in your stories by e-or-snail mail to make for an even better next issue.

Semper Fi; *Ed Shea*