

Gus Tomuschat

From: Bob West
To: Fred and Donna
Subject: FW: Saigon Roster from 1964

Greetings all: I've been trading emails with Bill Kerakos who was our detachment's NCOIC at the Embassy in Saigon. Six months after I left there the Viet Cong bombed our Embassy and SSgt Kerakos was on duty. I asked for a first-hand account. This is what he shared. Good reading. Be well and Semper Fi. Bob

To: lifeboy64@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: Saigon Roster from 1964
Date: Fri, 6 Aug 2010 19:04:55 -0400
From: wkerakos@aol.com

Bob, I was in the office at the Embassy and Cpl Little was in front when it went off, the VC drove a coup (two door-1939?, with approx 250 lbs of plastic) alongside the building (passport section), I heard approx 5 or 6 rounds go off, a commander in the Navy looked out in front, two women came out of the passport office also and wanted to know what to do and I told them to get down and away from the door, the blast came through the French doors and caught the Commander with flying glass in the neck (jugular) my driver was standing by the door he yelled "I go get Marines and I said yes" and the blast killed him, Cpl Little was blown about 6 feet and still had his hat (cover) on. A Problem was the Commander was laying in front of the exit and a corpsman came over and was taken care of him but, we could not move him so I started pushing people through a blown out window. The blast blow out 4 or 5 floors of windows. Most if not all wounded were from glass. A women working on the 2nd or 3rd floor heard the shooting and ran to the window and the blast blow a window air conditioner into her. Cpl Conroy was out on the town that night and came runing in and I gave him a shot gun we had and said when the Ambassador Ualexis comes down you go with him, which he did. A local policeman (white mice) came and said I think one of your Marines is along side of the building, I went outside there was a body with all his cloths blowing off and he was burned black, he thought it was one of the black Marines. Total died was 21 Vietnamese and 1 American there may have been more that I don't know. I ended up with ringing in my ears and of course being in Korea (51-52) did help and that's why I wear hearing aids and I hate the ^&^&**())__things. Bob, I hoped I did bend your ear to much. It was good hearing from you, Take care and Simper Fi, Bill-P.S.disregard any mistakes.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob West <lifeboy64@hotmail.com>
To: Bill Kerakos <wkerakos@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Aug 6, 2010 1:11 pm
Subject: RE: Saigon Roster from 1964

Hi, Bill: Nope. Another case of fingers developing a mind of their own and my proof-reading eyes seeing what ought to be and not what was. Jonsey spelled his first name Clenton. A question if you don't mind: I've seen pictures of the aftermath of the March 30, 1965 bombing of the Embassy. I've not actually talked to anyone who was there at the time. Were you still there then and, if so, how'd things go for you and the MSGs at their desk? Thanks for the response. Be well and Semper Fi. Bob

To: lifeboy64@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: Saigon Roster from 1964
Date: Fri, 6 Aug 2010 12:49:15 -0400
From: wkerakos@aol.com

Bob, thanks for the roster, I have attempted to locate Clkenton L. Jones with no success. Is Clkenton the correct spelling of his first name? Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob West <lifeboy64@hotmail.com>
To: wkerakos@aol.com
Sent: Thu, Aug 5, 2010 4:43 pm
Subject: Saigon Roster from 1964

Bill: Just in case you don't have this list, here's a list of our detachment from an invitation list for an Embassy reception, June 26, 1964:

SSgt William D. Kerkos, NCOIC
Sgt Clkenton L. Jones, Ass'tNCOIC
Sgt. Donald Borbas
Sgt. David Berryhill
Cpl. Jack Hutchins
Cpl. William Rapp
Cpl. Joseph D. Trujillo, Jr.
Cpl. David A. Oman
Cpl. Robert G. West
Cpl. Donald J. Olzak
Cpl. Thomas V. McHugh
Cpl. Francis W. Koupash
Cpl. Goetz H. Viola
LCpl. Richard L. Ault, Jr.
LCpl. Charles L. Mann
LCpl. Robert E. Conroy
LCpl. William A. Knight
LCpl. Wayne A. Maupin
LCpl. Harold J. Partain
LCpl. Carl W. Smith

I don't know why they weren't on that invitation list, but I think we also had a Cpl. Curly McDonald and a LCpl Randy Urquhart. Over the years I've managed to stay in touch with Rapp, Oman, Conroy,

Vestal, Mollick (the last two were probably gone by June). McDonald, and Maupin. Maupin and I were on the cover of Life (03/20/64), and I heard that Urquhart after serving 20+ years as a Philadelphia cop, died of cancer a few years back. Again, be well and Semper Fi. Bob

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