

DUTY AT THE HEAD SHED

From Jim Regan

While assigned at the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonega, Georgia, I had several opportunities to pull Staff Duty NCO at the Headquarters.

One memorable night, pulling the duty with my friend and coworker Captain Mike Jaussaud, things got really slow. I told Mike that I needed to go down the hall to our office, the Operations Shop, and do some admin work.

No sweat, he says. I go on down and start to get the Admin stuff out of the way. Because of zero interruptions, I'm finished very quickly.

The Head Shed is deathly quiet. We had a phone system, now antiquated, that allowed us to punch buttons and call other offices at the HQ, or down to the various Committees.

I decided to call the Adjutant's number that was our duty station while pulling Staff Duty.

Mike answered the phone: "Mountain Ranger Camp, Captain Jaussaud, Staff Duty Officer, how can I help you sir?"

I said nothing. Hello, Hello, are you still there he said. I quietly broke the connection. I then rang the phone in the Executive Officer's office. I

heard Mike hustling down the hall to answer the call. Same thing, Mountain Ranger camp, etc. No answer for Mike again.

I hang up and wait for him to get back to the Adjutant's office. I then ring the Commander's phone and hear Mike running into the CO's office, answering the phone in the prescribed manner, and a little short of breath.

Same deal, no one on the line again. Mike stomps back to his duty section again. I hear him mumbling something like, "I'll kill that guy if I get my hands on him."

I get busy, typing away and making some sounds at our office. Mike has not paid attention to his own phone that would show the Operation's button "lit up!" After a while, I call the Sergeant Major's office. Mike goes tearing down the hall and slides into the Sergeant Major's office to get the phone.

Again, no answer! I hang up quickly and call the Adjutant's number and he literally bounces off the walls getting to the phone. He picks it up and hollers, "Screw you, you SOB!" and hangs up.

I wait a while and stroll down the hall. What's up sir, I said. "Oh, some wise guy keeps calling and doesn't talk."

Maybe it was an obscene phone call, I offered. "No, just a wise guy and if I find out who it was I'll kill him!"

The rest of the night passes and no calls. At O'dark thirty, the Sergeant Major arrives and reads the log. Just a brief note in there about the harassing phone calls.

I get the Sergeant Major aside and tell him the real story. I thought he'd die laughing. Please don't tell Captain Jaussaud, he'll kill me, I said.

The Sergeant Major goes back to the Adjutant's office, pulls the Captain aside, and tells him that he will investigate the calls and get back to him on it. Mike is pacified, a bit.

It wasn't till months later, my "going away" party at the NCO club, that the Sergeant Major told Mike about the night, "You and Jim pulled duty together." Fortunately, all the other NCOs and Officers were around and had a good laugh. Mike could only join in and laugh along with them.

He's still my friend and I talk with him once in a while, reminiscing about the Mountain Ranger Camp and things we did. I steer clear of talking about the phone call episode! Jim RLW