

A GEM Of Wisdom

Beware a G.I. is Coming Home

In Vietnam, the troops had a wide assortment of time charts, Short Timer calendars to count down the days left in the combat zone. By happenstance, the Asian Theatre of Operations had these charts. Marines returning from the Japanese occupation, soon after WWII, mentioned of them. Korea had their version, and now the Big (V) had their own style. Yet; having spent three years in Europe, I never saw nor heard of short timers calendars or charts in Europe. The charts were all straight forward reverse clocks, counting down the months, but mostly daily charts were used, or even hourly charts were seen; of time remaining in country.

I only ever saw one humorous, laughable, yet factual document tailored toward the family and loved ones back home awaiting with anticipation, the soldiers to come home from the War In Vietnam. Lacking a copy machine, I typed a copy for myself and is enclosed.

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DASPO/MACV Army "A" Photo Team  
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INCLOSURE (1)

IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE UNDERSIGNED WILL ONCE AGAIN BE IN YOUR MIDST, DEHYDRATED AND DEMORLIZED: TO MAKE HIS PLACE AGAIN AS A HUMAN BEING WITH THE WELL KNOWN FORMS OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. ENGAGED WITH LIFE, LIBERTY AND SOME WHAT DELAYED PURSUITS OF HAPPINESS. IN MAKING YOUR JOYOUS PREPARATIONS TO WELCOME HIM BACK INTO THE ORGANIZED SOCIETY, YOU MIGHT TAKE CERTAIN STEPS TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THE ENVIORMENT WHICH HAS BEEN HIS MISERABLE LOT FOR THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. IN OTHER WORDS, HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE ASITIC FROM VIETNAMESEITIS AND OVERSEASITIS AND SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH CARE. DO NOT BE ALARMED IF HE IS INFECTED WITH ALL FORMS OF RARE TROPICAL DISEASES. A LITTLE TIME IN THE LAND OF THE BIG P.X., WILL CURE HIS MALADY. THEREFORE SHOW NOALARM IF HE INSIST ON CARRYING A WEAPON TO THE DINNER TABLE, OR LOOKS AROUND FOR HIS STEEL POT, WHEN OFFERED A CHAIR, ORWHEN HE MIGHT WAKE YOU UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR GUARD DUTY. KEEP COOL WHEN HE POURS GRAVY ON HIS DESSERT AT DINNER, ORMIXES PEACHES WITH HIS SEAGRAM'S V.O. PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE IF HE EATS WITH HIS FINGERS AND NOT WITH SILVERWARE AND PREFERS C-RATIONS TO STEAK. TAKE IT WITH A SMILE WHEN HE INSISTS ON DIGGING UP THE GARDEN TO FILL SAND BAGS, FOR THE BUNKER HE IS BUILDING. BE TOLORANT WHEN HE RIPS HIS BLANKET AND SHEETS FROM HIS BED TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR. BE PATIENT, WHEN HE FILLS OUT A TRIP TICKET , WHEN EVER HE TRAVELS SOMEWHERE IN A CAR. BE QUIET AT FIRST, IF HE DOESN'T FLUSH THE TOILET OR PREFERS THE OUTHOUSE.

ABSTAIN FROM SAYING ANTHING ABOUT POWERED EGGS, DEHYDRATED MILK, FRIED RICE, AND FRESH ICE CREAM. DO NOT BE ALARMED IF HE SHOULD JUMP UP FROM THE DINNER TABLE AND RUSH TO THE GARBAGE CAN TO WASH HIS PLATE WITH THE TOILET BRUSH. AFTER ALL THIS HAS BEEN HIS STANDARDS FOR THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. ALSO, IF IT SHOULD START TO RAIN PAY NO MIND TO HIM, IF HE PULLS OFF HIS CLOTHES, GRABS A BAR OF SOAP AND TOWEL AND RUNS OUT DOORS TO TAKE A SHOWER

WHEN IN HIS DAILY CONVERSATION HE UTTERS SUCH THINGS AS: SOL, NUMBER 69 OR TEN, JUST BE PATIENCE, AND SIMPLY LEAVE QUICKLY AND CALMLY, IF BY CHANCE HE UTTERS DIDI, WITH AN IRRAITED LOOK ON HIS FACE; BECAUSE IT MEANS NO LESS THAN " GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE." DO NOT SHAKE IF HE PICKS UP THE PHONE AND YELLS GET ME RED CATCHE OR SNAKE OR YELLS WORKING. NEVER ASK WHY THE JONE BOY HELD A HIGHER RANK, THAN HE DID, AND NEVER MENTION THAT THE TEAM EXTENDED, WHY DIDN'T HE. WHEN AT A RESTAURANT PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE IF HE CALLS THE WAITRESS " NUMBER WUN" AND USES HIS POCKET FOR AN ASH TRAY. HE WILL PROBABLY KEEP LISTENING FOR "HOMeward BOUND" TO SOUND OVER (AFVN). DO NOT GET UPSET IF HE GETS UP EACH MORNING TO HERE "GOOD MORNING VIETNAM AT 5:30 AM DAILY. IF THIS DOESN'T COMFORT HIM WHILE HE IS STILL REMINISCING, BE SPECIALLY WATCHFUL WHEN HE IS IN THE PRESENCE OF A WOMAN.

INCLOSURE (1)

ABOVE ALL KEEP IN MIND, THAT BENEATH THAT TANNED AND RUGGED EX-  
TERIOR, THERE IS A HEART OF GOLD (IT MAY BE THE ONLY VALUE HE  
HAS LEFT.) TREAT HIM WITH KINDNESS, AND TOLORANCE AND ON OCCAS-  
SIONAL FIFTH OF HIS FAVORATE BOOZE; AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RE-  
HABILIAE HIM, TO THAT PERSON YOU ONCE KNEW. THE HOLLOW SHELL OF  
THE HAPPY GO LUCKY GUY, YOU ONCE KNEW AND LOVED. LAST BUT NOT  
LEAST, BY NO MEANS SEND NO MORE MAIL TO THE APO, FILL THE ICE  
BOX WITH HIS FAVORATE BREW, GET THE CIVICES OUT OF MOTH BALLS,  
FILL THE CAR WITH GAS, AND GET THE WOMEN AND LINOLEUM-LIZARDS  
OFF THE STREETS##### CAUSE THE KID IS COMING HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!

SIGNATURE

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