

## **TOM LUCEY**

**USCGC BIBB (WHEC-31) – Jul68 to Feb69**  
**Presidential Unit Citation – 18 Oct 68 to 5 Dec 68**

### **July 21, 2021 – Tom Livingston E-mail to Bill Carr**

Tom served in Squadron Three in Vietnam aboard the USCGC BIBB (WPG-31) from July 68 to February 1969.

At one point they were offshore from the Mekong Peninsula when my boat had some kind of mechanical problem so I called the ship and asked if their engineers would take a look at my problem. They said yes, so I pulled alongside and went aboard the Bibb and got to talk to Tom for about an hour while they fixed our problem.

### **WIKIPEDIA**

Transferred to Coast Guard Squadron Three on 4 July 1968, *Bibb* sailed to South Vietnam to participate in coastal patrol operations. Assigned to "Market Time" duty, the cutter carried out coastal surveillance and anti-infiltration missions through 28 February 1969. While on station, she tracked, boarded, and inspected hundreds of junks, sampans, and other waterborne craft in search of contraband weapons and cargo.



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

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## Re: 1965 Classmate Experiences in Vietnam

1 message

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Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 11:15 PM

To: Dave Livingston <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>

Thanks Tom. Hope your maladies are manageable and short term.

Regarding the Scrapbook, I'm putting it together so I can easily update even after the version I'll have ready by reunion time.. So disregard my August deadline. I can add your story or stories at any time.

Thanks for getting back to me....Bill

On Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 9:12 PM <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Bill,

Thanks for your untiring efforts on behalf of our class. I must have been drinking when I sent you those notes, but I am fine with you including them. I had Paul Blayne read my other story back in May and he said he thought I should send it to you, but he said I needed to edit out some of personal references I included because others would not understand who the people were or the context of my comments. He also said I should add a paragraph of background before getting into the story. I have done neither at this point but I still intend to send it to you before I pass, but I am not sure I will make your deadline.

Tom Lucey and I were great friends at the Academy, served on our first ship together and stayed in touch through many years. I worked for him for about a year at the Boston Company. The last time I saw Tom was Feb. 2020 when I stayed with he and Caroline for a couple of days in his Ocean Front Condo in Jupiter Fla. He told me he had been diagnosed with fast acting Alzheimer disease. He has little short term memory, cannot use a phone or computer, and essentially has to be led around. He shuffles and it is hard to watch. On the other hand his long term memory is better than mine and he can still be very entertaining. I had to cancel my scheduled trip to visit them in 2021 because of my health issues. Caroline told me when I talked to her in February that Tom had lost a good bit of his abilities in the past year, which makes me very sad.

Tom served in Squadron Three in Vietnam aboard the USCGC Bibb from Jul 68 to Feb. 69. At one point they were offshore from the Mekong Peninsular when my boat had some kind of mechanical problem so I called the ship and asked if their engineers would take a look at my problem. They said yes, so I pulled alongside and went aboard the Bibb and got to talk to Tom for about an hour while they fixed our problem. I of course have that date and place in my log book that I could look up if it were ever important to know.

I wish you well in your efforts.

Take care,

Tom

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

From: Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

To: Dave Livingston <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>

Sent: Wed, Jul 21, 2021 12:11 pm

Subject: 1965 Classmate Experiences in Vietnam

Hey Tom - I'm deep into finishing the Scrapbook for the reunion and wanted to run by you what I have for your entries.

Would you have anything else to contribute? Have you become comfortable enough to put in writing the story you shared when we all were together in Charleston? Can you believe that was almost three years ago now?

I do plan on adding some notes about that meeting and will run those by you before finishing up.

Take care....Bill



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

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## Fwd: 1965 Class Vietnam Scrape Book Project.

1 message

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Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Sat, Mar 20, 2021 at 2:50 PM

To: Tom Lucey <tomlucey1991@gmail.com>

Bcc: Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Tom - Just touching base to follow up on our quick conversation of several weeks ago.

I'm getting some very nice write-ups about the routines of those of our classmates who served in Vietnam theatre.

Of the 43 that were Vietnam Vets in one capacity or another (or their widows), I've contacted all but 9 so far and have finished work from 14. Another 20 have said they will write something or will at least think about it and have asked me to get back with them later.

A couple examples:

1. Ron Fritz - Besides sending me a number of well captioned photographs, I have some good quotes from a book he recommended about the sinking of PCF-19 off the Cua Viet June 16 of 1968 by NVA helicopters. Tony Finizio was on board the Campbell along with Jim Townley '67 who were also involved. Quite the story.
2. Jim Morgan - Jim had several incidences with helicopters killing innocent fisherman and his reporting of same. I'm touching base with him again in mid April when he is free to spend some time putting these stories together..
3. Bob Storch sent me a write-up on how he got the nickname of Captain Crunch for a bit of a misadventure - not of his fault.
4. Lloyd kept a diary and is putting something together besides the Andrascoggin and PT WELCOME/PT GRAY trawler story.
5. Dick Chapman has sent me three interesting write-ups to include.

Just thought I'd give you a head's up on how the project is shapping up. Would love to have your experience/memories on your work on your ship during that time.

Take care and stay well....Bill



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

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## Memories of Vietnam Service

Message

Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Tue, Mar 2, 20

To: Tom Lucey <tomlucey1991@gmail.com>

Tom - Thanks for taking my call a few days ago.

Hope all is well as can be with you.

The reason for my writing is I had a hard time hearing you during that phone call for some reason - bad reception on my end - whatever.

I am in the process of putting together a sort of Scrapbook of the individual Vietnam theatre experiences of 1965 classmates - memories of significant instants in combat as well as more routine operations that might keep coming back to one's mind over the years. My plan is to have this Scrapbook ready for the Reunion year after which I am talking with the Academy museum about donating to them.

The idea is to have a collection of these "in-the-trenches" experiences as a source of information in case, on down the road, some cadets might want to do a capstone project, or something similar, on what it was like to be a young Coast Guard officer in combat "back in the days."

I'm writing to ask if you would be able to take some time to participate along with asking if the crew of the BIBB might possibly have put together a tour book of some sort.

I'd be happy to give you a call again, interview and take notes if that would be easier for you.

Thanks Tomy...Bill Carr

P.S. Was it the BIBB that got involved in the friendly fire incident with a PCF up around the DMZ?



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Dear Captain: Mrs. High-

Lucey 68

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for your thoughtfulness each year in sending out "class letters" and particularly the address list. It is invaluable. Now let me apologize for being about 2 years delinquent in answering X-Mas cards. This is my first year "ashore" at Christmas since graduation. O.S. "Victor" twice and O.S. "Bravo" last year. About myself

I was married last June 15<sup>th</sup> to Roberta (not Judy as was published - Thank Pete Poulos Captain - a very good guess since I was known to date a Judy for 3 yrs. at U.S.C.G.A.). We are expecting our first child in April. Again - thank you for your continued kindness and -

Merry Christmas  
and Best Wishes for a  
Happy New Year

Bobbi and Tom Lucey