

BILL BLANCHARD

USCGC POINT MARONE (WPB-82331) – Dec67 to Mar68

USCGC POINT PARTRIDGE (WPB-82305) – Apr 68 to May68

October/November 2018 Alumni Bulletin

As I recall, the WINONA had been tracking the trawler for quite awhile as it proceeded on a southerly course but remained outside the 12-mile limit. Finally, the trawler turned west and began heading for shore. I think it was at this point the WINONA shined a search light on the trawler, presumably in an attempt to get it to stop and identify itself. At that point, the trawler opened fire with what might have been a 20mm or 40mm gun. I don't remember how far the MARONE was from the trawler or the WINONA but I did see tracers from the trawler's guns.

The WINONA then commenced fire with its 5"/38. After the WINONA fired several rounds, the trawler exploded in a ball of fire, apparently after receiving a direct hit from a 5"/38 round. After the explosion, we found a small amount of debris which included what appeared to be some human remains and a part of a wooden rifle stock. As best I can recall, I reported this to Division 13 and then brought the debris to Cat Lo when we returned from patrol and believe it was turned over to someone on the Division 13 staff. I don't know what was done with it. The POINT MARONE was the last WPB turned over to the Vietnamese. I wonder if she still exists.

April 17, 2018 – Dick Chapman E-mail to Bill Blanchard

I am trying to think of the name of the boorish Navy Lieutenant stationed at An Thoi (shoreside). He was a bit overweight and was always going on about how Destroyer sailors ruled the world. He and the Swift drivers were always getting into it and we egged them on. Lots more stories: "patches" the monkey and his parachute, Swiftie signing "Danny Boy" off key when he had a few too many, the night the base was "attacked" and we ran to the bunker where the snotty LT Brown (head of the Swifts) was handing out weapons and ammo. He gave Storch the M-60 and handed me the ammo. Opened the can of ammo while lying on the beach and found single M-16 rounds. Many, many stories.

April 16, 2018 – Bill Blancard E-mail to Dick Chapman

Hi Chap, It's so nice to hear from you.

I recently came across a photo of you, me and another person, who I can't remember right now. In the photo, we are dancing skillfully in a chorus line. I'm thinking the picture might have been taken Coast Guard Day 1968, just before we paid a special tribute to our Navy comrades by mooning them. If you like, when I get home, I'll scan the photo and send it to you.

March 1, 1968 – Ship's Log

0215H – Battle Stations. Contact with unknown radar contact 3500 yards. Contact under fire and returning fire on friendly unit (CGC WINONA).

0220H – Enemy hit with 5 inch-38 fire and exploded.

0240H – Maneuvering to retrieve debris or survivors.

0310H – Secured from Battle Stations.



Fwd: Pre-Moon Chorus Line August 4, 1968, Antoi, VN (Corrected subject line)

1 message

Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 5:29 PM

To: William Blanchard <blan.consult.serv@gmail.com>

Thanks Bill....a nice addition.

I'm including Dick and Tom here to add on their memories of this 'event.'

Thanks for the contribution.

Bill Carr

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **William Blanchard** <blan.consult.serv@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 4:09 PM

Subject: Fwd: Pre-Moon Chorus Line August 4, 1968, Antoi, VN (Corrected subject line)

To: Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Hi Bill,

Below for your use in the scrapbook as you see fit is an email I sent to Dick Chapman and Tom Livingston in March 2019. The pre-moon picture is attached.

Best,
Bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **William Blanchard** <blan.consult.serv@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 11:21 AM

Subject: Pre-Moon Chorus Line August 4, 1968, Antoi, VN (Corrected subject line)

To: Richard Chapman <chap65@verizon.net>, Tom Livingston <dtlivingstoniii@aol.com>

Hi Dick and Tom,

Back in October I emailed you both the below regret that I could not locate pictures I knew I once had. Recently, I located one of the pictures, and realized that one may be all I ever had. That picture is attached.

I'm sorry I don't have any other pictures to send you. I'm very frustrated that I haven't been able to find a couple of pictures that I know I once had of Dick Chapman, myself, and possibly Bob Storch from our time in Div. 11. In one of these pictures, Chap and I are "dancing" with others in a chorus line during a 1968 Coast Guard Day celebration. For the finale of our performance, we paid a special tribute to our Navy Swift Boat Driver colleagues by turning our backs to the audience and mooning them. It was very classy.

Dick, do you know the names of the other guys in the picture? I do not.

Best regards,
Bill

On Apr 14, 2018, at 9:42 AM, William Blanchard <blan.consult.serv@gmail.com> wrote:

Walt,

As best I can recall, I brought the debris to Cat Lo when we returned from patrol, and believe it was turned over to someone on the DIV 13 staff. I don't know what was done with it.

I was not a civil engineer. I went into marine inspection when I returned from VN.

Yes, I did see in your email that the Marone was the last WPB turned over to the Vietnamese. I wonder if she still exists.

Best,
Bill

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 6:25 PM, <viglie@aol.com> wrote:
Thanks, Bill and glad you asked

Rainmaker Software Mail - Details re Pt. Marone's Involvement in Feb. 29, 1968 Events

i think Dick Walton said he had Marone logs from these dates...

but hope you'll attend NOvember in Charleston to share stories and compare notes / memories....

Did any of the body parts or wooden stock get sent to CG Museum?????
re **After the explosion, we found a small amount of debris, which included what appeared to be some human remains and a part of a wooden rifle stock. I reported this to Div 13.**

Did you see that MARONE was last 82 to be turned over to Vietnamese?

I forget ? were you a civil engineer?
a CGA grad was buried here

today **CGA Grad Charles Faircloth - Pensacola - 1933-2018**

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pensacolanewsjournal/obituary.aspx?n=charles-faircloth&pid=188702730&fhid=7045>

v . r.

Walt (aka baldy or viggy) home 850 492-5634 cel 850 206-3522

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

From: William Blanchard <blan.consult.serv@gmail.com>

To: Walter Viglienzzone <viglie@aol.com>

Sent: Tue, Apr 10, 2018 12:41 pm

Subject: Re: cga65 Viet Nam 82's - Pt MARONE - Faurot & Lucey - Re: More Loose Ends

Walt,

Below are my answers to your questions #1 and #2:

1---- i was wondering if i had already asked you the question? do remember you ate dinner over my parents home while you were in pre- VN training ? summer of 1967 ?

you said " **I don't remember who relieved me on the Marone.**

I moved to the Partridge and took her to Div. 11. ..."
do you have the dates? _____

#1. I don't remember the dates I went through my pre-VN training, but I do remember that I began my flight to VN soon after Thanksgiving 1967, so my training might have been more in the fall than summer of 1967. In any event, I do not remember having dinner at your parents' house, and I don't think that is something I would have forgotten. I'm wondering if you are confusing me with Paul Blayney, because Paul and I went through survival training at Camp Pendleton together.

2-- Now a related missing fact - **On 29 Feb 1968, ? related to or during Tet ?**

WHO was Pt MARONE CO when WINONA got a trawler???

.....and **WHO was CO of GRACE, & HUDSON ???**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/>

Rainmaker Software Mail - Details re Pt. Marone's Involvement in Feb. 29, 1968 Events

1 of 4 trawlers which were infiltrating... McGill & Walton were with ANDROSCOGGIN (& Lloyd George)in 1st Coastal Zone when that one was stopped... as recorded in Academy Wall of Honor / Valor...

..... "Another question is who relieved **Bill Blanchard as CO POINT MARONE?**
(On 29 Feb 1968, in 4th Coastal Zone, MARONE, GRACE, & HUDSON were with CGC WINONA when she scored a direct hit on trawler [1 of the 4, about the same time as WELCOME, GRAY & ANDROSCOGGIN stopped trawler in 1st Coastal Zone

] Coast Guard Combat Veterans: Semper Paratus

<https://books.google.com/>

books?isbn=1563111047 James C. Bunch - 1994 - Technology & Engineering)

#2 I was the CO of the Pt. Marone on Feb. 29 and I'm pretty sure Dick Chapman would have been CO of the Hudson. Dick Chapman, Bob Storch, and I were all transferred from Div 13 to Div 11 in the spring of 1968, probably in March or April, but I don't remember the date. Bob and Dick stayed on their own boats, but I moved from the Marone to the Partridge before departing for Div 11.

Bill

-----Original Message-----From: William Blanchard
<blan.consult.serv@gmail.com>
To: Walter Viglienze <viglie@aol.com>
Cc: Richard Chapman <chap65@verizon.net>
Sent: Fri, Apr 13, 2018 5:07 pm
Subject: Re: cga65 Viet Nam 82's - Pt MARONE & WINONA - Furot & Lucey -
Re: More Loose Ends

Hi Walt,

As I recall, the Winona had been tracking the trawler for quite awhile as it proceeded on a southerly course but remained outside of the 12 mile limit. Finally, the trawler turned west and began heading toward shore. I think it was at this point that the Winona shined a search light on the trawler, presumably in an attempt to get it to stop and identify itself. At that point the trawler opened fire with what might have been a 20 mm or 40 mm gun. I don't remember how far the Marone was from the trawler or the Winona, but I did see tracers from the trawler's gun. The Winona then commenced fire with its 5 inch-38. After the Winona fired several rounds, the trawler exploded in a ball of fire, apparently after receiving a direct hit from a 5 inch-38 round.

I observed this from the Marone, but did not engage the trawler in any way and was not fired at. **After the explosion, we found a small amount of debris, which included what appeared to be some human remains and a part of a wooden rifle stock. I reported this to Div 13.**

I'm assuming that the Winona's log and the Marone's log contain a more accurate and detailed account of what happened that night. Do you know if anyone has copies of these logs?

Bill

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 12:15 AM, <viglie@aol.com> wrote:

sorry for tardy reply - just got home

65821504... 3/5

Since you and probably Chap were linked with / or near WINONA when she was credited with a direct hit on 1 of 4 infiltrating trawlers....

you said ..." I was the CO of the Pt. Marone on Feb. 29 and I'm pretty sure Dick Chapman would have been CO of the Hudson...."

Do you remember details of WPB involvement in stopping the trawler?
Should you and Chap get some recognition for it?
McGill and Walton are on the CGA Wall...

worth writing about or talking about in November in Charleston?

thanks again for your responsiveness ...
our continuing challenge will be to find someone, or some log, which fills in the current blank of what WPB Dave Furot commanded and when...

Walt home 850 492-5634 cel 850 206-3522