



AGB: acronym for Auxiliary Glacier Breaker, a class of icebreaker vessel formerly used by the US Navy, currently in use by the US Coast Guard

scullery: section of a military dining facility where pots and pans are scrubbed, assembly-line style

Seabees: slang term for US Naval Construction Services (the initials CB are for Construction Battalion)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This month's terms come from the "Meet the Military" feature article honoring Don Woodard.



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Words to Ponder:

"Although a soldier by profession, I have never felt any sort of fondness for war, and I have never advocated it, except as a means of peace."

~ Ulysses S. Grant

Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
LCpl Timothy Robinson, USMC: Persian Gulf

Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:
the book of John



Martyr's Faith

On a cold Russian morning, a young soldier walks down a long hallway to meet with the Political Officer assigned to his unit. He knows the purpose of the meeting and what will be discussed. He also knows that the meeting will be confrontational and that he will suffer the consequences if he does not bow to pressure. As the Political Officer, it is Major Gidenko's responsibility to indoctrinate all military personnel in the unit and to ensure that each soldier toes-the-line in conforming to Soviet political goals. Each Soviet military member must attend a weekly class conducted by the Political Officer on the principles of communism outlined by Lenin and Marx. This political indoctrination is designed to prevent any member from questioning orders coming from above and to honor the ideals of the Communist Party above all. Major Gidenko can use whatever methods necessary to "mold" a soldier's world view as dictated by the Communist Party. This Russian soldier, Ivan Moiseyev, is a Christian and he is going to be told to renounce his faith when he arrives at Major Gidenko's office. Will he be able to withstand the pressure? As he approaches the office he receives a supernatural sense of calm. He is not worried; he does not panic; his mind is made up!

Ivan Moiseyev (pictured above, center) was born in 1952 to Christian parents. He, his six brothers, and one sister were raised in a Christian home. In 1968, Ivan received Christ as his personal Savior and dedicated his life to serving his Lord. In 1970, he was drafted into the army and began what would become the most difficult time of his life. Upon entering the army, Ivan had a decision to make: either



take a bold stand for Christ from the start or become a "secret disciple" and be ineffective. Ivan chose to take a bold stand.

In the months prior to his meeting with Major Gidenko, Ivan has endured peer pressure, pressure from superiors, punishment, and extra after-hours work assignments - all designed to induce him to renounce Christianity. All attempts failed. Now the pressure is to be increased. The Political Officer is a unique position within the Soviet military system. The Political Officer is to ensure that everyone, unit commander included, follows Soviet doctrine as outlined by the Communist Party. The unit commander must allow the Political Officer to perform his duty or be perceived as unfit for command. Even the hint that a commander does not follow Communist Party policy can end a career. The relationship between unit commander and Political Officer is a delicate one.

Major Gidenko gets straight to the point: Ivan has been telling others of his trust in God and belief in Jesus. Gidenko asks Ivan, "Do you not accept the principles of scientific atheism upon which our entire Soviet state and the military power of the army are founded?"

Ivan replies, "I cannot accept what I know to be untrue. Everything else I can gladly accept." Over the next several minutes Gidenko tries to persuade Ivan that his belief in God is unfounded. However, Ivan is not swayed and he sticks to his convictions. Gidenko then orders Ivan to be posted out on the street after taps is played at the close of day.

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'The Political Officer is to ensure that everyone, unit commander included, follows Soviet doctrine as outlined by the Communist Party.'

HERE'S WHY: THE MILITARY ABOLISHES GROG

Editor's Note: This story has nothing to do with the fact that Don Woodard, this issue's Meet the Military honoree, was in the US Navy. Even if the dates would have line up, I'm sure. Don would not have approved its use! Let's find out what grog is, how it's connected to the US Navy, and its obscure connection to George Washington's estate, Mount Vernon. The following is adapted from a strategypage.com article.

From the American Revolution until September 1861 the U.S. Navy issued "grog" to its sailors. What exactly is grog?

Grog was originally introduced into the British Royal Navy by Vice Admiral Lord Edward Vernon. Nicknamed "Old Grog" because he wore a ratty old grogham coat much of the time, Vernon believed that by regularizing the issue of drink, he could reduce drunkenness in the ranks. He was right, for he prescribed a daily ration of eight ounces of a mixture of 80-percent water and 20-percent rum per man, a concoction that shortly came to be called "grog."

In American history, Vernon is perhaps better known, if at all, for his connection with George Washington. In the 1740s the future president's older half-brother Augustine earned an enormous pile in prize money serving as a captain of marines during Vernon's campaign in the Caribbean, so much, in fact, that he was able to buy the vast estate that he dubbed "Mount Vernon", in the admiral's honor, which later passed to George. (And now you know where Mount Vernon got its name.)

In the US Navy, grog was issued in a mini-ceremony, during which the boatswain's mate marched the men to the ship's steward, who ladled it out, under the watchful eye of the ship's marines. There were two rations of four ounces each day, one before breakfast and one before supper. Each man had to down his ration on the spot.

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Donald E. Woodard, PO2 (part 1)

Editor's Note: Don Woodard shared the story about the USS Porter featured in the last couple of issues.

When Don Woodard was about six years old his family moved from Midland, Michigan, to Homer Township, a small community west of town consisting of about 200 people. There, he was introduced to the Methodist church, the only church in town, via a visitation by the pastor.

Sharon's family moved to Homer Twp about the same time, but it would be another dozen years before Don approached her with dating in mind.

In about 1949 a new preacher, strongly oriented toward young people, came to town and Don, twelve years old, really liked him. One night this pastor took a group of kids to a "chalk talk" gospel presentation. The evangelist preached on heaven, but primarily on hell while illustrating his message with drawings and special lighting. This young boy realized he sure didn't want to go to hell but rather

'He learned almost immediately that he didn't know as much as he thought ... so he really had to buckle down to master all the material.'

go to heaven, and heard that Jesus had already paid his way. Don was saved that night.

Don had been working for his dad at Woodard Electric for several years when he graduated from high school in Midland in the spring of 1956. In considering his options for the future, he concluded three things: (1) He didn't want to be drafted into the Infantry, as many of his friends had been; (2) He wanted to get into the U S Navy Seabees; and (3) He was pretty knowledgeable (he thought) about things electrical. So in early 1957, while his parents were vacationing

in Florida, he went to see the Navy recruiter. He was greatly disappointed that he could not get into the Seabees, but the Navy promised him the electrician field, so on February 10, 1957, he became a Navy Recruit.

Following boot camp at Great Lakes Training Center, and after a three-month stint in charge of the Recreation Building there, he started Electrician School. He learned almost immediately that he didn't know as

US Navy (1957-1961)



Article by Don King



much as he thought - He had learned a lot of "how's" from his dad, but not much of the "why's", so he had to really buckle down to master all the material. The school was about 12 weeks long and Don (pictured above, monitoring an electrical system DC generator) finished 7th in a class of about 35 men.

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Martyr's Faith

He will do this each night until gives up this foolishness.

For the next twelve nights, Ivan Moiseyev is subjected to the brutal Russian winter. Each time he is asked if he renounces his Christianity, he refuses. Each morning, at about 3:00 AM, his unit commander, Colonel Malsin has him brought inside. Seeing that the cold has not worked, Gidenko has Ivan placed in a special rubber suit, into which they pumped air until his chest is so compressed he can barely breathe. Ivan does not relent. A few days later, Major Gidenko has Ivan transferred from Malsin's unit

and the commander does not see him again.

A few weeks later, Ivan Moiseyev's parents received the news that he has tragically died of drowning. When Colonel Malsin visited Ivan's parents after the death, he stated: "Ivan died with difficulty. He fought death, but he died a Christian."



Ivan Moiseyev

When his body was returned home, the coffin was welded shut. The family pried open the coffin to have one final look at their son and to see if his body could reveal any clues to the mystery of his sudden death. To their horror, they found six deep puncture

wounds in the area of his heart; the left and right sides of his head bore wounds and abrasions; his feet and back were severely beaten; and on his chest were large burns. There were also black and blue marks around his mouth. It was obvious that Ivan Moiseyev had not died from drowning as reported to his parents. With no recourse they could take against the Soviet Union, the family quietly buried their 20 year old son on July 20, 1972. The garlands that adorned his grave stated "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." "Fear not those who slay the body, but the soul they cannot slay."



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10 Things About Lincoln (part 1)

Editor's Note: In honor of the 207th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth, we present this adaptation of a 2012 article by freelance author Christopher Klein on ten things you may not know about Lincoln.

1. Lincoln is enshrined in the Wrestling Hall of Fame.

The Great Emancipator wasn't quite WWE material, but thanks to his long limbs he was an accomplished wrestler as a young man. Defeated only once in approximately 300 matches, Lincoln reportedly talked a little smack in the ring. According to Carl Sandburg's biography of Lincoln, Honest Abe once challenged an entire crowd of onlookers after dispatching an opponent: "I'm the big buck of this lick. If any of you want to try it, come on and whet your horns." There were no takers. Lincoln's grappling exploits earned him an "Outstanding American" honor in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

2. Lincoln created the Secret Service hours before his assassination.

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln signed legislation creating the U.S. Secret

Service. That evening, he was shot at Ford's Theatre. Even if the Secret Service had been established earlier, it wouldn't have saved Lincoln: The original mission of the law enforcement agency was to combat widespread currency counterfeiting. It was not until 1901, after the killing of two other presidents, that the Secret Service was formally assigned to protect the commander-in-chief.

3. Grave robbers attempted to steal Lincoln's corpse.

The Secret Service did come to Lincoln's protection, but only in death. In 1876 a gang of Chicago counterfeiters attempted to snatch Lincoln's body from his tomb, which was protected by just a single padlock, in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. Their scheme was to hold the corpse for a ransom of \$200,000 and obtain the release

of the gang's best counterfeiter from prison. Secret Service agents, how-



(Christopher Klein)

ever, infiltrated the gang and were lying in wait to disrupt the operation. Lincoln's body was quickly moved to an unmarked grave and eventually encased in a steel cage and entombed under 10 feet of concrete.

4. Lincoln didn't move to Illinois until he was 21.

Illinois may be known as the Land of Lincoln, but it was in Indiana that the 16th president spent his formative years. Lincoln was born in a Kentucky log cabin in 1809, and in 1816 his father, Thomas, moved the family across the Ohio River to a 160-acre plot in southern Indiana. Lincoln did not migrate to Illinois until 1830.

For more information, visit www.history.com

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Don Woodard (part 1)

After anxiously awaiting orders for his next duty station, he was ordered to report aboard an AGB at Boston. Nobody knew what an AGB was... someone authoritatively stated that it was an Auxiliary Garbage Barge, so Don wasn't very enthusiastic about his assignment. Following a two-week leave in Midland, he dutifully reported to the ship, which was in dry dock, and found out that the *USS Edisto* was an Auxiliary Glacier Breaker – an ice breaker in layman's terms. As a "Striker", a brand new seaman working (striking) for his first promotion, he started out where all good sailors should – in the scullery, washing dishes for ninety days.



Don aboard the *USS Edisto*

The ship was floated just about the same time that Don had finished paying his dues, and he was promoted to the CPO's Mess, the dining facility for senior enlisted men, for a short while before, finally, being sent down to the engine/generator room where he could apply his newly acquired education. His job was to maintain those generators, which provided all the electricity to the ship – everything from hot water and lighting to steering and communications. He quickly learned that the main challenge of his job was to make sure that the transfer of power from one generator to another happened very smoothly so there was no lapse in the power

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supply to the ship. "The Captain", he was told, "gets rather upset when he loses steering." To hear Don tell it, there was a constant undercurrent of paranoia among those responsible for keeping the generators humming. While aboard the *Edisto* he also made three trips to Thule, Greenland, escorting supply ships through frigid waters above the Arctic Circle.

While Don's ship was still in dry dock one of the ship's officers drove a Corvette which he, for whatever reason, parked at the ship yard and abandoned. After it had sat there for about six months Don approached him about buying it. After a bit of dickering, he acquired it and, after some work to get it running, found a girl whose dad had a garage in which he could park it while he was gone to Antarctica. It's a wise man who knows how to see the best qualities in a girl.

What happens next? Find out in next month's issue!

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

THE US NAVY ABOLISHES GROG

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Robert Smith, US Secretary of the Navy around the turn of the 19th century, experimented with substituting native rye whiskey for the imported rum concoction. Finding the American sailors preferred it, he made the change permanent. It is said his sailors followed the practice of their British antecedents and took to calling it "Bob Smith" instead of grog.

In 1806, following Robert Smith's lead, Congress substituted whiskey for the rum, on the theory that American farmers would benefit. Initially grog was issued to all hands, but it was later restricted to men over the age of 18. By the 1820s temperance societies were springing up in America, and they began campaigning to the daily issue of grog in the fleet and whiskey in the army. They succeeded in getting the army to abolish the daily whiskey ration in 1830, but made no headway against grog in the navy until the Civil War. The mass resignation of Southern members of Congress in 1860-1861, left the tee-totalers with a clear majority in both houses. As a result, in September 1861 grog was abolished, though in compensation, the men were paid an additional \$1.50 a month.

The practice continued in the British Royal Navy until "Black Tot Day" (July 31, 1970) when concerns over crew members operating machinery under the influence led to the rum ration being abolished. The British did the same as their American counterparts did more than 100 years earlier: it is said that the enlisted received an allowance of an extra can of beer each day as compensation.



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Robert Carver - 3
- Rose Wilson - 6
- Vickie Salerno - 14
- Andrew Folz - 27

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- Albert & Becky Watkins - 14



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

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1 Feb 1800 - USS *Constellation* takes the French ship *Vengeance* in a five-hour night battle.

1 Feb 2003 - Space Shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates over Texas during reentry, killing all seven astronauts.

4 Feb 1872 - Death of John L Burns, War of 1812 veteran and Union Army civilian combatant in the Civil War

4 Feb 1959 - Keel laid for USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), first nuclear aircraft carrier; retired, 2012

8 Feb 1824 - Birth of Barnard Elliot Bee, CSA Brig Gen; inspired the nickname for "Stonewall" Jackson

12 Feb 1955 - President Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam for the first time.

14 Feb 1922 - Douglas MacArthur marries first wife, Louise Brooks

17 Feb 1915 - Edward Stone, first US combatant to die in WW I, is mortally wounded.

23 Feb 1795 - US Navy Supply Corps founded as the Office of Purveyor of Supplies when Tench Francis, Jr. was appointed.

Opening Article

In his last letter to his parents, dated June 15, 1972, Ivan says:

My dear parents, the Lord has showed the way to me... and I have decided to follow it...I will now have more severe and bigger battles that I have had till now. But I do not fear them. He goes before me. Do not grieve for me, my dear parents. It is because I love Jesus more than myself. I listen to Him, though my body does fear somewhat or does not wish to go through everything. I do this because I do not value my life as much as I value Him. And I will not await my own will, but I will follow as the Lord leads. He says, Go, and I go. Do not become grieved if this is your son's last letter. Because I myself, when I see and hear visions, hear how angels speak and see. I have had sins and failings, but through sufferings the Lord has wiped them away. I do not live as I wish, but as the Lord wishes.

In recent years, we've seen Christians under increasing attack in both overt and covert ways. Even in the United States, we've seen religious freedom whittled away bit by bit through changes in the law, Supreme Court rulings, and even political correctness. The safety net of living in America is being pulled away and persecution we could not have imaged a few years ago is now becoming reality. Our question during this period of time is: Will I be a "bold" Christian or will I be an ineffective "secret disciple"? Jesus warned us that persecution would come. In John 15:18, Jesus said: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you." In Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus also said: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your

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reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." In the book of Revelation, Jesus gives us a wonderful promise: "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels."

Will you be strong enough to overcome in that day of persecution? Now is the time to prepare your heart and mind. Keep a short account of sins. Trust in the Lord for both the great and the small. If you are faithful in the small persecutions of life, your faith will grow in preparation for the larger persecutions that may come later. If you are faithful to the end, your name, like Ivan Moiseyev's, will be confessed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ before His Father and the angels.



And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28



Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please keep Albert Watkins in your prayers as he will be facing another surgery on March 8th. Please pray for great results during the surgery. Also, please continue to keep Ashley Huskey in your prayers and that He will give Doctors wisdom in how to further treat her. Ashley is the daughter of Todd and Tammy Huskey.

Please keep Lance Corporal Timothy Robinson in your prayers. Timothy, Hope Kennon's fiancé, has recently shipped to

the Persian Gulf. Please pray for his safety and that he will be able to share his Christian witness with those he is serving.

Please also pray for Brian and Ivey Palmer as they minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin.

~ Colonel Martin

Coming up next month:

- **Here's Why:** Ten Things About Abraham Lincoln You Might Not Know (Part 2)
- **Meet the Military:** Don Woodard (Part 2)

