John,

Apologies for delayed response - we've been away for a couple of weeks and I haven't paid much attention to my mail.

In late May on a roadtrip with my brother to attend to family stuff in Vermont I stopped in Hanover where I luckily caught the Gonnermans at home. I mentioned to Mike that I'd met with a rep of the Dartmouth Vietnam Project, to whom I'm donating my collection of documents and memorabilia (I spent 3 years total between '66-71 serving in VN and Laos in special ops and intel), and he suggested we try to visit Jim Wright.  This he managed to arrange and we spent a most interesting hour with Jim talking about the war.  It's rare to have an intelligent discussion about Vietnam with someone who has some perspective, without an axe to grind or grievance to air (the reason I mostly avoid veterans events). I took away a copy of Jim's book, *Enduring Vietnam* which I highly recommend to anyone of our generation, whether they went to Vietnam or not.  It's not perfect but it's very good, better than anything I've read in placing the war in the context of the America we grew up in, illuminating the ways it changed us, and showing why it still endures in the American fabric.

I've been trying to do some writing about Vietnam myself, under the rubric 1967: Year of Decision.(you may have read pieces in the NYT series in this vein, some of which are interesting).  I spent all of '67 in VN (less a brief home leave) and believe there was in that year the opportunity to change military strategy in a way that might have offered a US exit from the war much earlier and with far fewer casualties (notice I don't say I think there was ever a chance to 'win the war' as some revisionists would have it). Instead of shifting strategy we doubled down on dubious - and costly - tactics. After Tet '68 it was too late to change because confidence in leadership was basically gone.  Anyway that's my view.

Other than that not much going on.  I remain in Seattle where I occasionally see Bob Ernst and Hugh Lade.  A little traveling with my wife to places where we haven't been, a lot of reading (mainly WW I memoirs right now), and not a great deal else.

John, I hope these meanderings are of some use.  My best regards to you,

Dave