Diary of a Hero

Christopher Agnew*
March 3

Went to the employment office again today. The girl behind the desk still glances away when I walk up to the counter. Guess I still need more practice on shifting my weight. More damn work with Charley. Same old answer again today, no jobs available. The girl told me something was bound to turn up. Who the hell does she think she is kidding? I’m no god damn idiot.

Not much of anything in the paper tonight, but another plane load of POW’s coming back in a couple weeks. T.V. people had all kinds of interviews with the poor family members. All crying and weeping because their men will be home soon.

March 10

Today was supposed to be the big day. I got up, took a shower, and put on my dress blues. I earned the uniform and the medals on it. Didn’t sit through the whole war. Cowards, their all cowards. Took a cab to the employment agency. They made me wait for almost an hour. They dont appreciate me either. Interview lasted ten minutes. The fools dont want me. Said something about needing some high school courses. Dont they realize I could kill them in a minute? I didnt just sit around. The girl behind the desk still wouldnt look when I walked out of the room. Really doesnt matter, had plenty like her for only three packs of cigarettes. Yeah, Ive learned plenty, dont need college to deserve a job. Theyll all take notice, theyll all take notice.
March 21

Heard a POW got a job for $20,000. It just aint fair. Going to be a big ceremony at the airport in their honor. Wonder how many of them already have jobs? Went to a good war movie, getting tired of sitting around, need some action. There was always action over there. Had to be on your toes. Cant just sit around. Cowards, all of them. Still not use to people staring at me on the streets. Tough walking up stairs. Old Charley acting up again.

March 23

City officials been making big plans for the ceremony. I heard today that POW’s were going to get medals and the whole works. The public thinks they are real heroes. Bet not many will have trouble walking down the steps of the plane. All be in one piece. Been sitting around. Wonder what its like to be away from combat for six years?

The president talked on the radio today about amnesty. Big article in the paper. Said anybody away from the action for so many years didn’t deserve any favors. I agree. Ive been trained, theyll sure take notice. Im going to get recognition.

March 27

Got up early today for the POW ceremony. All the people going to be smiling and laughing and cheering. They dont understand combat, you just dont sit around. The forty-fives looking pretty. Took a shower, strapped on Charley, got dressed in my fancy blues. Today there going to see a real hero, a real marine. Those cowards, gooks got them all screwed up, the bastards. Got seven gooks in three seconds over there one day, didnt just sit around. And Im just as good a shot today as I ever was.