

JAGJAGUWAR

VIET CONG

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Newspaper Spoons
Pointless Experience
March of Progress
Bunker Buster
Continental Shelf
Silhouettes
Death

CATALOG #: JAG260
RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 20, 2015
FORMAT: CD/LP/DIGITAL
CD BOX LOT: 30
LP BOX LOT: 25
GENRE: ALTERNATIVE / INDIE ROCK
KEY MARKETS: NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, PORTLAND, CALGARY, TORONTO, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, BOSTON, SEATTLE, ATLANTA, WASHINGTON DC, AUSTIN, CHICAGO, INDIANAPOLIS
TERRITORY RESTRICTIONS: EX. CANADA
VINYL NOT RETURNABLE

CD UPC: 656605226026



LP UPC: 656605226019



DIGITAL UPC: 656605226064



COLORED LP UPC: 656605226033



It takes less than sixty seconds of album opener "Newspaper Spoons" for you to decide that Viet Cong is a winter record. The album has barely begun, and the guitar doesn't snarl until the end of that opening minute, but it still presents a palpable iciness in just a few short moments. It's bitter. It stings. But once you're in it, and you're bracing yourself and charging ahead, "Newspaper Spoons" moves from a punishing, almost militarized drumbeat to a melody that's still menacing but also delicate, almost celestial.

That instinct for humanizing a stone-cold song is Viet Cong's greatest gift and sharpest weapon. It's harsh, but exhilarating. Recorded in a barn-turned-studio in rural Ontario, the seven songs that make up Viet Cong were born largely on the road, when Flegel and bandmates Mike Wallace, Scott Munro and Daniel Christiansen embarked on a 50-date tour that stretched virtually every limit imaginable. Close quarters hastened their exhaustion but also honed them as a group. With all four members traveling in one car, the mood conflated with the soundtrack, the soundtrack with the cities around them, and so forth. There was repetition, but it was all different. This combined with the grey, chilly emptiness of Calgary rendered a record with a viscerally rugged vibe, one that Flegel even describes as "shit earth."

"Continental Shelf" orbits a thousand-watt hook with a thick crackle and a battering-ram drum line. It's so arresting that you barely notice it doesn't have a chorus, and then in comes a line like "if we're lucky we'll get old and die" and you can't believe Leonard Cohen (or Trent Reznor, or Nick Cave, or Sinatra) didn't get to it first. "Silhouettes" is a tripwire of a song, opening with an almost Joy Division-esque exposition and moving at breakneck speed -- frantic and pitch-black at a thousand miles an hour -- until before you know it they are howling. Actually howling, and maybe you are too.

You can designate records as seasonal, and you can feel Viet Cong's bleakness and declare it wintry. But the only way you get a frost is when there's something warmer to freeze up. So yes, Viet Cong is a winter album, but only until it is a spring record, then a summer scorcher, then an autumn burner, then it ices over again. They build these buildings, and they're built to break.

"Something disquietingly divine." -- Pitchfork, BNT

"Sounds like something out of The Cure's discography, albeit a little more menacing." -- Consequence of Sound

"Scratchy postpunk number with all the guitar clangor you'd expect from a Women offshoot." -- Stereogum

SELLING POINTS

-- Viet Cong consists of members from the defunct and critically acclaimed post punk band Women

-- "Continental Shelf," first single off their self-titled debut, named Best New Track by Pitchfork who have also done a "Rising" feature on the group

-- Limited edition white color vinyl available

-- Extensive touring in the US, UK and Europe in early 2015



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