

2 December

Dear Barry,

Was I glad to get your reply. Scared that the last letter I'd written you had been burned up when the NVA blew up 2 C-130's on the Dak to air strip. The whole ASP went up & took the whole ABC's mail (outgoing) with it. Am still bogged down in paperwork trying to process claims for many orders, postage receipts, etc. So anyway it got there.

Kathy is always told me that sometimes I go overboard in attempting humor with a form of sarcasm. One of my biggest weaknesses, I guess. Don't even remember what I wrote that may have offended you, but rest assured it was a feeble attempt at humor and certainly not sarcasm. My apologies, good buddy.

Thank for the pictures of the girls and the gunship. The Bong Hu Plain is

beautiful just like the rest of this crazy nation. Can't believe how Carrie has grown, and, of course, my girl Beth looks as smart & sophisticated as ever. Am sending the picture of the girls on to Kathy. Know she'll be delighted to receive it - and the address also.

Phen Thiel does not sound like fun. I'll give up the pleasures of the beach & Old Granddaddy day to avoid the kind of experience you had on that 2/7 assault. Don't do that again, OK?

Think it was the 2/8 we worked with at Tuy Hoa - not sure. The Cav Bn at Dak To has always been out of our range to the South of the 173d AO since arriving. However, I did meet the BC of A 2/20, Joe Kopay or some thing like that & he seemed quite

competent. He came through the Btry area with LTC Whitbeck, our new Gun Cntrl. You might know him. He was with the Car for awhile (split trails) before coming here. Quite sure he's not a dud, as it may appear; rather, he's just replacing the dud we had who they've finally listed upstairs to USARV HQ. Whitbeck impresses me as the Vogel-type & I think I'm going to enjoy working for him. As far as the job, I throw in it. My XO is #1 & I've just received permission to get rid of my PDD whose too lockadaiseal & careless to suit me. As for the rest of the battery, it's the best collection of artillerymen you've ever seen. The sense of urgency is there as well as a great deal of pride in their unit. I've been with the battery 6 mos now, and believe me, it's made up of artillerymen you dream about. Extremely glad we're living like

monads with no base camp to speak of now because then guys would be nothing but trouble in garrison. Where they are, though, they can't be beat. All prejudice aside, Bar. This battery can match volume, accuracy, & speed with any unit in USARV, & I only hope you're able to visit the unit sometime to see them work.

Rumors & Gossip: H McAllister is an LNO with a composite 8/175 unit operating with the 173d now. Cpt W Burke is working in the FSCE of 4th Div (Long Binh) HQ. Was hit during a ride to Saigon from Tay Ninh when I had a few days before R&R last month & was picked up by a SF Cpt in III Corps area. He said Maj Kren was an Arty Advisor in III Corps. While drinking Bin & Tonic in the Ritz O Club in Saigon ran into a Cpt Carey from Werner PK who is an asst G-5 of the 10th & was with the Advance

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Cpt RW Thapemann

Bnq B, 3/819th Atty

APD SF 96250



Cpt Barry Brown
Bnq B, 3/20th Atty (ARA)
1st Avn Cav Div
APD SF 96480

*IN
COUNTRY*