

17 Oct 67

Dear Barry -

Well I guess I'm the same SOB that would break one of those chain letters to somebody sent one to me, as good as I am at keeping in touch, but I keeps waiting for you to fly into my back yard and say hello.

Damn I got all excited when I found the first Conv. arriving in mass about three weeks ago, but it looks to be one Bde only (3rd I think) with c 2/20th in support which definitely pissed me off. Probably the only time in my life I would have liked to see you with "Chargin' Charlie." But then the treats and I can safely (from back here) say that you just as well wherever you are as you would have been up in Tan Ky -

(1)

a small town about $\frac{1}{2}$ way between here and Da Nang. Seems as if the 2nd NVA Division is up there somewhere and suddenly everybody and his uncle is up here looking for them.

1st Bde 101st Abn

3rd Bde 1st Air Cav

196th Lt. Inf

198th Inf

3rd Bde 4th Div

1st ACR

Not a bad lineup but considering what they are up against it seems to be reasonable. Try this one on for size - the latest word is that the 101st has been mauled so badly that they will have to move back to Phu Rang to regroup and train - We have handled over 100 KIA of theirs in one GR point in Oct. alone, and the month is only $\frac{1}{2}$ over and they must be losing quite a few wounded for every one that is killed - They have companies

out there that are under 50 men and we had 5 KIA yesterday that had been in country only five days, which apparently means they aren't even running them thru their P-training course at Phen Rang before they send them up here. Wouldn't it even be surprised if they are starting to take a few "leaps" if things are this bad.

I hope all is going well for you. I see where there are some Cobras in country now and that they are using them down around Saigon where they need them so bad. Sometimes the Army gives me the ass when they do things like that - you probably won't see any before you leave though, and you could probably use them better than anyone else. What can I say, seems so typical of how things work around here, but then Hell, why get upset over something that you have no control over. One of these days maybe someone will

see the light.

Speaking of light, I'm about to see a bit of daylight and slip over to Hawaii to see Andrea in November, which is right around the corner by now. That has been the only thing that has permitted me to keep my sanity so far and I'm looking forward to a fine time. We have had so many suggestions from everyone on where to go and what to do that it would take us a year to do it all and not six days. But it's going to be a good time anyhow even if I never get out of bed.

Well I must run - back to the pull mines for the kid. It's not that I mind working 18 hours a day, there is nothing else to do, it's just that I need 8 hours sleep and somehow that doesn't balance out. Well anyway keep your head down and your bird up and good hunting.

Best
Steve