

D. M. (Mike) Malone

Dear Daniel:

This is just a letter to LZ Pope to let you know I'm still alive and kicking. Had a hell of a bout with cancer, but came through that OK, at least so far. Part of the treatment turned into a LRP-type operation that you need to know about. It's a good story. Here goes.....

About ten of us veterans in the VA hospital had been diagnosed with cancer. They'd load us up every day in a big van and take us across town for radiation treatment. We'd get individual radiation, then a talk with a doctor about what was happening and what we should do about it. Good stuff that made sense, but the doctors passed out all different kinds of poop. We did this about two dozen times, all told.

After about the first two days, we still had fear, but we all adopted a motto: "To hell with cancer. Piss on it!" It was sort of a joke, but we kept saying it. We did. Us. As a group. Then what we did, every day, on the way home, was have each patient tell the whole group what his doctor said about his cancer and what he had to do about it. Regular LRP debriefing. Spreading the word this way soon reduced the fear and we all started listening to what each guy said his doctor had told him. Many of these "lessons" were the same, and as we realized this, we began to realize that we could "Piss on cancer" because the sumbitch was curable and we had all the poop from a lot of experts over a long time about how to cure it. Things that worked. Surgery and radiation work, too, but so does mind-set. And even damned groceries. I bet you didn't know that nutrition is a major weapon for whipping cancer or at least keeping it under control. What was a clear image on my lung in the early X-rays is now just a shadow. I'm hoping. And I'm sure pissin' on it did as much if not more good than the radiation! At least I'm still here and able to do a pretty good job of patrolling the area in my pick-up truck.

Other than the above, my LRP activities have been pretty limited. I've enclosed for you a story of some of the highlights of my life as a soldier, most of it you will see came from LRP time in Vietnam. We made this story into a tape and got FORSCOM to make a bunch of free copies, with some music, I think. It circulated well, and I hope, did the ground soldier some good. There may be some tapes still around although that was quite a while ago. I gave all mine away, but FORSCOM might have one laying around somewhere. If you want to make another one, maybe with FORSCOM help, feel free to find you a good guitar picker and then the two of you read/play it into some good recording equipment. I'm sure you got the right accent. A lot of Vietnam veterans, LRP's and otherwise, will understand it. And maybe they need it, 'long about now, especially with that suck-egg McNamara going over there to apologize or whatever to the NVA.

I want to thank you, personally, Daniel, for doing what you can to keep the LRP concept alive. Wish I could help you more.

Sincerely,

Mike Malone
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