

Saturday, 4 January 1969

Landed 8:30 pm in Seattle...awaited for duffle bag untill 1:00 pm. Lucked out on Motel Hilton...while everyone was full the clerk give me a deluxe \$19 room for ten due to wet rug that was drying out...The rug was dry just stained....got luggage from Airport at 3:00 am...slept till 10:30am next day. Got to base about 1:00 pm...took all day to process it seemed but went to a movie "Winter A-go-go" and PX and ate at Snack Bar..

Monday, 6 Jan 69

Woke up at 3:30 am for details...put at desk taking telephone messages.. spent 14 hrs. on detail, turned in bedding at 8:00 pm..weighed bags at 10:00 no time for sleep.

Tuesday, 7, 69

Left Ft. Lewis about 4:00 am arrived at McCord airbase and waited 1 hr. befor loading onto "Flying Tiger" Airlines DC-8 carrying 219 passingers p lus crew of 12. Flew out of McCord about 6:30 to Anchorage Alaska. Had forty minutes ground time (three screwdrivers) and on to Japan..Yokota. About 18 hrs time difference in Japan. 1 hr. ground time..sent post cards...got \$1:00 Jap money and hamburger

8 Wednesday

Time change in Yokota caused day to change. Resetting my watch broke off stem. On way to Viet Nam now from Yokota with 5½ hr. flight time.

At Cam Ranh Bay, Et Nam Processed in and hit the sack.

9 Thursday

After chow made seven o'clock formation...found out 11B10 not shipping for four to seven days. Split up 11B's into details...worked morning with Sergeant on Bunker Frames. Told me to meet him at 1:00am afternoon and let me off rest of day. Evening formation pulled guard duty...easy job. Two hours guard four off. Got rest of day(Five) off.

On afternoon Thursday notice how beautifull country here could be. People are totaly different "spooky" in there looks and walk with child like innocience nature outward appearence. But one gets the feeling that underneath they deppise you. One still feels for them. Although America's imposing on there way of life its not long before one realizes how much were doing for them.....

10 Friday

Slept most of day as pulled guard last night. 1630 formation seen a lot of knew 11B's and found that most of us would be shipping.

1900 hrs formation they started splitting us up. Tom went somewhere that I dont remember. I flew to Bien Hoa (pronounced Ben Wha) Waiting to leave for 90th replacement center.

Left for quarters from Air Port* about nine O'clock. Passed through the town of Long Binh which was poverty beyond compare with anything in the states. Into processing. Told I was 9th Infantry somewhere in Mekong Delta, Maybe. Waiting to ship tomorrow morning.

11 Saturday

Spent day getting uniform name tags sleeping and dogging details at Long Binh. Went to Service club at 6:00pm till 10:00 seen most of the guys their I was at Polk.

12 Sunday

Left Long Binh at 6:00 oclock for Bien Hoa where am waiting for plane to Doy Cam. Finially got plane about 11:00 and into Dog Tam....Processed in quickly found I'd have to go through a training Academy (Reliable Academy) Then after 7 or 8 days ship into another company of the 9th.

The field first Sgt. told us that five were killed and one seriously wounded the night before we arrived. After chow and the last 6:30 formation went to Service Club in the company area with Bunk mate Wayne Trokoswi and bunk neighbor Dave and had a few beers. Just got finished getting my bunk squard away and crawled into it when a sirien whent off...we all piled out and into the bunker outside to sit out our first mortar attack for about 30 min. Heard them hitting but none close.

Went back to bed and repeated the same thing at 3:00 am...a little closer this time. After all clear hit sack and went to sleep by the sound of small arms, machine gun, artillery, and gernade luncher fire.

13 Monday

Lucked out on detail and got Barricks Orderly. Processed in evening received pay for Dec and Jan. \$241... Took out allotment of \$130 to send home plus my bond of \$18.75

475	130
1430	11
<u>1905</u>	<u>130</u>
	130
	<u>1430</u>

Will leave about 40.00 month for me.

14 Tuesday

Reliable Academy" Started first day of review. Sat around all rest of afternoon as coudn't use range due to an operation going on. Because of range got to go in early about 6:00 pm arid have the night off.

Went to Main Post EM club and had couple of beers when mortars started in hitting close.

Ran outside but couldn't see any bunkers close and didn't want to get in the open. Found empty duce and a half around corner and crawled underneath. After few more mounds one close enough to hit the truck with scrapnel came all clear. Club closed so started back to company seen where one mortar hit the beer supply still on outside. Beer all over plus a big ~~##~~ hole in the side of the building.

Little farther looked like a man ~~##~~ laying by another building that had a hole in the side but not sure as didn't stop. Heard later that Company commander got it bad with scrapnel in the head another man died from wounds. Went to bed to be called out again on false alarm which ripped my morst. net.

15 Wednesday

Spent day on ranges and review. Lost twenty seven dollars in card game made four back in evening. - \$23.00.

Found out that yesterday when thought saw man laying by building that it was the company (our) commander.

16 Thursday

More training pulling burm guard tonight. This afternoon went through pratice patrol crossing through mud up to waist. Played poker for two hours won \$23.00 on the nose to make me even, But when count my money have \$10.00 extra? Good time to write letters if I can find stationary.

17th Friday

Pulled Bunker guard. Wind blowing thick brush around and couldn't see shit pretty scary at times. Went back to company found out we were shipping for unit. Still stayed over night in Dong Tam. A-3-60.

Saturday 18

Shipped for unit Co A 3rd Bn 60th INF early in morning spent rest of time squaring away equipment and processing aboard Army Ship Bienhoa. The Bienhoa pronounced "Ben Wha" acts as our base camp. We still will be in the field most of the time.

19 Sunday

Pulled out on first mission today...carried M-16, 15 clips, claymore, 100 rounds ~~##~~ M-60, two frag gernades, one smoke gernade. Went from ship to shore by tango boat then picked up by Hughy and into LZ. Hughys opened up into landing zone, didnt know what was happening. Rest of patrol was nothing for me, but another segment of company made 2 KIA's.

4,
21 Tuesday 22,23

Second mission:

Three days, first day dropped by tangor...humped to LZ on way passed large once beautiful catholic church built by French now falling into a gradual decay sitting in the middle of nowhere.

31 Jan

Fourth mission in third day will probably go to ships tomorrow. Third mission was eight days ago. Just humped through booneys. Last night in guard position Buck blew a claymore said he seen three persons at the end of the dyke, about 30 meters.

When it went off I was asleep. The back blast of the mine blew mud back and hitting my poncho with myself half asleep I thought sure it was srapnel. Shortly after wards we got a burst of sniper fire but the rest of the night was quiet.

Today is the third day of our forth mission as security for a fire support base. It's more like a vacation we sit around all day drinking, eating, reading and playing cards. At night we pull a hour guard duty on our perimeter around the artillery located on barges near the bank of the Mekong River. Hope, however, that we go back to the ship tomorrow as money running out.

Feb 4

I couldn't even tell what day it is. All I know is that I've just got back from my fifth mission which lasted three days. Had mail waiting for me from Mom Lane will write them now.

First day in the op we just humped, that night Kabonski blew a Claymore and two gernades on a gook. My first one to see dead

What struck me most was that he was good looking for a gook. he was twenty five. Then it hit me that I was looking at him the way a hunter would look at his kill.

Second day was bad...hit LZ and moved out...five guys got it with a 105 round bobby trap. One dead, two more got it in another just a little farther.

Third day went with Cho-Ahy to a VC Compound...had camera, took pictures of burning hooches but afraid film is ruin. One woman was shot in the leg by Myron when she took off running.

Second night I was shot at at dust just as we were moving to night position. About four in morning after a loud explosion we moved out to set up security of a LZ as four more men were hit by a VC Chi Com mine exploded on their position. In same area, a sniper shot another mammason and another one was shot by Chopper.

Three women. Three gooks, two detianees, 11 of us wounded, one killed. Glad that mission over. Hope its not an indication of the TET.

Feb 4&5

Written in answer to Mom and Lane, and wrote for first time to Phil all of events of fifth mission.

Sixth Mission just humped.

Seventh Mission Feb 10, 69

Sergeant Christie killed by M-16 in back. Was in front of two squads on line when sniper hit. Received fire from both directions Christie, Jones, Blin in the middle...Christie caught round in back. Died in route to ship on board Medivac. Carried to chopper.

Espenosa and Yuashi hit by bobby traps. Yuashi hit in head.. OK. Espenosa will live but messed up leg.

*Sgt. Albert George Christy Jr; Hartford Conn
17 Mar 1944 - 10 Feb 1969*

Feb 28, 69

Just got into ship.

Feb 12-15	Jones	
16-24	Fire Support	
24-26	Tittur, Lopez, Byasson	Titus, James Elroy Sgt.
27-28	"Bombshell"	25 Feb 69

Been out so long and without a chance to really write that had lost track of the number of missions for my journal. But with the help of Koteller I've got the dates straight, will write log on missions as I remember them.

12 Feb, 69 - 15 Feb.

Eighth mission, three days. All I remember is Bob "Jones" getting wounded in the side of the hip on the second day. Had been receiving sniper fire, Jones had been talking to me about his close calls from the seventh mission where Christie got it to the one he had just had that day. He was walking point in the second squad I was right behind it bring up the front of first squad with Buck when more sniper rounds cracked. It turned out that one hit Jones in the side of the hip as he was crossing the bridge. Byerson, Doc, Adams, and myself moved him to closest LZ about 100 meters away through hellish mud and canals.

Feb 16-24 Ninth Mission

Suppose to be a rest up time for us. Turned out we nearly humped as must just changing position as we did in the field.

Tried to catch up on letters to Ma but couldn't mail them so just ended up with one long letter that hope to send tonight (Feb 28) last letter Feb 1). Also got RTO for 15 on fire

Support as Regnee going on R&R.

Feb 24-26 Tenth Mission

Just coming back from Fire Support lot of action had been met by other companys of the 3/60. We were expecting a short time on the ship. But unexpectedly even befor we got to the ship we were perparing to go out. On the Benewah long enough to get C's and make it to flight deck. Already had different radio as Turk went on profile so I became 1-6 RTO.

Did real poor job first day as RTO. Alfa 6 was it seem always on my ass for some kind of mistake that I had made.

It must have been our second day out. We were ust setting up palace guard. I had moved from a spot in the trail about 100 meters when sniper rounds cracked. Moved back to location were I had just come rounds went further down trail killing Tittur and Lopez wounding Byerson. Tittur never knew what hit him as round went in under his nose. Lopez hit bad in chest believed to of struck heart. Byerson though grieved over Tittur and Lopez... happy for him....million dollar leg wound.

SP/4 John Lopez 25Feb69 Compton, Ca.

Feb 27-28 "Bombshell"

Feb 26 Came in tired, radio heavy and carried extra waight from fact that Tittur was hit. One night on ship lasted about nine or ten hours altogether. Had to pack all equipment as changing ships, eat, shower and clean equipment for day ~~####~~ another operation at five the next morning. Never did get to cleaning my equipment for that matter anyone else.....Nor any sleep to speak of as got to bed at 1:30 am.

Feb 27 Left Benewak for Tangor heading for the Cross Roads Navy guarenteed us ambush and we got it. About 20 minutes of steady fire...one escort Mike boat took six rounds...injured five..... somehow didnt sink. Beeched us after along blue toward direction of ambush. Clover-leafing the area got one VC, missed five. Gave 6 the ass and had us humpin all over. Finially got to destination for night. For once it was "dry hard ground". Set up ambush for night. Early morning part of the second element fired at gook coming down trail. Slightly wounded let him go as about fifty years old.

Eagle Flighted into another area where we were to dig graves to satisfy Merritt Alfa Body Count. Pulked out by another Eagle Flight and put into bombed out, artilleryed area near Ben Tre.

Always got sniper fire or some kind of action here. Last time caught 35 VC in air strike when traped them to the blue.

Didnt move far before received sniper fire. 3-6 and 2-6 branc-
hed off. CP and 4-6 followed 1-6 up trail. Came to point where trail crossed with another. Knew snipers ahead of us moving slowly. Alfa 6 kept telling us to move farter. Gave us direction to go from the intersection. I sat down on a dirt mound as was wait-

Put. Steve Mirick 28 Feb 69 Cincinnati, OH ?

ing for first squad to move out and 1-6 and I to fall in behind.

A loud explosion of a 105 round stunned us all for a second as first squad just completed rounding the corner and moving down the trail. Cries for Medics from everyone as four men were injured. Mirick was point man. Good Doc Zorate went to him first.

Mirick was blown off the trail into the canal...his legs blown off at the thighs. Doc alone for so long couldn't get him out by himself...when Doc Coulter came up. Mirick died then. Doc went to the next man back...Allen Gummet...new man...first mission. Four or five bad wounds in chest (sucking chest wounds) Doc patched him up, said he looked better, color came back, could breathe better. He died shortly after being dusted off. Tiger Scout Kim, facial wounds and minor leg, arm wounds, OK. Gary, new guy, third mission arm wound, OK. After first 105 bobby trap, CP order security set up. 1-6 ordered second squad to move in opposite direction on the trail. CP moved up by the intersection. 1-6 was by CP...just finished transmission over my radio. I started to move down trail as I heard order from CP for the lead man of the 1-6 element to move out straight across the trail to set up security. I had just got the hand set from 1-6 turned around and the explosion came from my left rear about bursting my head. I turned around to see a nightmare of tangled bodies starting from 1-6 who was right behind me blown down the trail to the intersection where the whole CP was laid out further down to most of our men in the second squad. I was petrified...1-6 who was right behind me was blown up the trail.

A medic was going to him. I went over to Alfa 6 but a medic was coming up. Started for Tangi but he wasn't to be. Sgt Bliss wounded...said to go help 1-6 but the medic was there. Then I seen Rodgers...point man who hit the bobby trap. I moved over to him...his legs were gone from above the knees down. He was conscious, calm, and alert. He asked me if it was bad, if his legs were gone. I told him yes, but that he was OK everywhere else and could make it. I got the medic to him, tourniquete on his legs and morphine. I stayed ##### with him. He asked me to shoot him to get it over with. Twenty-six wounded, three dead. Ten left in my platoon.

March 2-4 Eleventh Mission

Three day operation...quieter than those in past. Last day awaiting extraction on PZ...caught sniper rounds from all sides.

Returned fire and assaulted hoaches and approached woodline pushing back snipers...called in Arty. Had to pull back for lift out. We were last element on ground...caught more sniper fire...rest of element company had to come back. No injuries...a few Charlies then left for green acres and a day rest.

March 7-10 Twelfth

Got sick about three in morning with bad case of GI's. At five everybody up to go out. Started vomiting and had dissy fever.

feeling. Made it to Dong Tam on Tangor and started vomiting again.

Top wanted to send me in but gung-ho Cap Chapman told me to "drive on" and if I got sicker he'd get me out of the field. Had just overheard him say to "Top" that if I went out I wouldn't be coming in. So before Eagle Flight I told Doc I was going back and he got OK. Pretty sick for two days on ship. On ship heard where 14 got it from 105 bobby trap....the Captain too. Met Co. back in Dong Tam after operation. In Dong Tam heard about bobby traps. Their always bloody. Wagner and Brown of the 3rd platoon were killed. Spent day in Dong Tam buying two housecoats, 3 tiger teeth chains, package, mailed. Walked around but got tired and still didn't feel to go so got some rest.

SP4 Clifton Reid Wagner 8 MAR 69 St. Helens, OR.

March 10-13 Thirteenth

Left from Dong Tam on three day op. All quiet until last day when met hot LZ on a re-insertion flight. Company pin down by sniper and machine gun fire. Took out platoon and moved into woodline and with flanking movement scared Charlie off. Got one with a weapon made second AK-47 of mission as got one just earlier.

March 15-18 Fourteenth

Acquired my first injury when during the first night Charlie snuck up on our perimeter and blew a Chi Chom Claymore. It was the other side of the perimeter to me, but I was dead asleep and woke up with rifle in hand..crawled over my sergeant Adams beside me and right into a tree banging my head. Six were injured...three died.

March 19-22 Fifteenth

First night was Boo-Co fire all night long. That day we on a Battlin size movement moved to surround a area where Charlies head honchos were suppose to be having a meeting. Our platoon was the only element to cross a river into the territory. We got no contact but nearly lost two guys from drowning. I was life guard and feel good to have the credit of saving one life, Crawford.

Charlie hit our 2nd element who was out of our reach, across the blue. All night long he used artillery and gunships to keep them off. They were NVA and managed to blow a Chi Chom on their night position wounding two not seriously. thought we would get it as Charlies was sniper from across the river at us, and in return Artillery was falling about 50-75 meters from us plus gunships shooting rockets and mini guns right over our heads. A position next to me threw a grenade, I was just waiting for Charlies and thought sure it was a Chi Chom. The Leutenant just laughed at me for jumpin for cover. Rest of mission pretty quiet except we blew a law into a hotch that we thought had received sniper fire from. It burned almost instantly. Burning a mamma-san and child badly and another to death. Called in dust off for them. Believe only reason they did was because had a special VCI squad with us..

A Co. 3rd Bn, 60th Inf
in 2nd plt
Riverine

24-26 Sixteenth

A-3-60th got name in paper and on the news. We just stumbled onto chained ARVN POW's....four of them handcuffed.. chained together...blindfolded and in little bunkers. Second platoon found six VC prisoners. Four Chu Hoied...

27-29 March 17th

Had quiet mission till third day when we got lots of sniper fire. New Sgt Screltz got wounded in leg but ok..dusted off...believe its million dollar wound. Sniper rounds seem close that day to me particularly for some reason but no trouble. First time its rained in the field since in Viet Nam. Came in and was made to go on night raid. Scared but no trouble just shot up the place...checked hootches then went in.

30-2 April 18th

Started working new area and its the worst terrain yet. All stagnant water everywhere with thick stinking black mud. Had all companies in area, but we met with little contact while everyone else shooting up place. On PZ a cobra gunship put 79 rounds right down the middle of landing formation 10-15 ft from some guys. Somehow no guys injured. Pee Wee stepped on a toe popper booby trap but wasn't hurt. Then Nash did on got dusted off minor injuries. Reinserted and Pee Wee hit another one cracked his ankle bone. Found a bunch of VCand got 35 kills in area. So got a well done and came in after four days.

April 4-5th

1-6 on profile so Buttler acted as platoon leader. Lazy but did pretty good can't blame him as he is short only 45 days quiet op and pretty good terrain. But Butler new and A6 on our ass glad when it was over.

April 8-10th 20

Lucked out and missed a mission. Gave me three days to rest up. Had a beer party in Dong Tam got drunk and into a fight that gave me a shiner that closed my eye.

Heard Soccer only in company 1 month got hit in foot B&W wound.

April 12-14th 21

Worked new area rough going very thick. After platoon getting kills and weapons. We had contact only once wounded gooks but couldn't catch him. Was told to link up with 4th platoon and CP called 4th told them to be on look out for our point

man (Cav) CP also called them we got split up in thick jungle so held up. Cavanaugh walking point kept on going for some reason. Forth platoon heard hem and open up. Shot him right in the guts just a few min. after calling them to be on look out. Dusted him off. Found out that the bullet deflected off a button on his shirt going into skin and out again. No major injuries...will be ok. Thank god. Had stumbled into VC base camp...made quite a find got weapons and gooks for good op. Only one casualty Cavanaugh caused by our own stupidity.

April 15-23 Firesupport

Eight days of fire support. Pretty good one for as not being moved to much or being harrassed. No big incendences. Seems to me that for F.S. being a rest period where always as tired coming out as we went in. Couple of ambushes on Tango while moving but nothing more than few sniper rounds.

April 25-28 23rd

Quietest mission weve had in long time. No in coming rounds all mission. Did do alot of shooting at gooks however got two gooks one weapon. No casualties for us.

Answering bq-co mail that had piled up. One is artical about Viet Nam Ann sent. It sure seems full of holes had everybody read it. Just don't no what to think lf it.