



3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF, VIETNAM.

15 MAR 69

Parents -

It's been quite a day for "Bravo" 1/3. We've been scheduled for an operation over on the Laotian border for some time & this morning were rehearsing for it, in ~~area~~ ~~area~~ here around Vandegrift Combat Base. We had just finished eating noon meal around the company headquarters area when a grenade accidentally went off. A guy was putting on his flak jacket when it went off, taking his head with it & killing a second man standing nearby. Twenty-five were wounded, including company commander, executive officer, artillery forward observer, 1st & 4th Platoon commanders & assorted



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other headquarters-related people. It really knocked the hell out of our command group & we're now scratched from the operation until we get our personnel up again. I had just taken my platoon off to the side to pass some word when it went, or I might have caught something serious. I did get one tiny piece in the right wrist but it didn't even require corpsman's attention. I lost six from my platoon, all of whom should be back in a couple days. The second man killed had 15 days to go before he rotated.

What all means we'll stick here



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at Vandy for maybe as much as 2 more weeks. So I'm still waiting for that first action.

On 8 MAR 69 3D MAR DIV joined the four-year marks in Vietnam. 3d Battalion 9th Marines and my 1st Battalion 3d Marines were the first U.S. units in the Nam, landing in the traditional marine beach assault on Red Beach, Da Nang. They were greeted not by enemy fire but by schoolgirls with leis, VIP's, + bands playing, etc. 3D MAR DIV has not been in the States since 1953. Before '65, the division was in Japan during + after Korea + then on Okinawa. We should have quite a homecoming this year or next when Nixon winds this thing up. Polish



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my sword!

Here it is mid-March already
& in your area that means
Tournament time. Send some
clips. I expect EHS won the
Regional again & by now they
should be near or in the Super-
Sectional round.

When you send anything, be
sure to put everything in the address,
including platoon. Everything I get
I have to hump (carry), & I'm
right around 50 lbs now so don't
send anything of any size or weight.
A couple items that would be
highly valued would be Hershey



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bars + small cans of fruit, fruit cocktail, etc. We live on 'C' rations out here; they're full of food value but come to taste very flat in a short time. Some of these kids can bump an amazing amount of weight + some burn out on just a stroll thru the boonies. You can tell which ones were used to fill some recruiter's quota.

Where's Steve + what's he doing?

In 3 weeks - 1 shower, no change of clothes.

Later,
LT. C.

LT. C. R. ANDERSON 0105003
1/3 3d MARDIV, 'B' Co. 3 plt.
FMF PAC

15 MAR 69
Free



Mr + Mrs. R. L. Anderson



Elgin, Illinois
USA



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