



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

Parents -

28 MAR 69

The operation is now in its 10th day & we haven't had much action yet. We're sitting on a hill about 400 meters from Laos, running day & night patrols & ambushes within a 1000-meter radius. My platoon had an all night ambush last night, so we're just sitting around today. On the way out we ran into some thatch hootches & bunkers & found some weapons, ammo, rockets, packs, clothing, & rice, and shortly thereafter, two gooks across a stream. They're around



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but don't like to hit in, as we've got too much firepower + air. Day before yesterday another platoon got 2 kills in an ambush but they're the only ones to date for the company, another company has a couple kills, too so it's been a dry run for the battalion so far. We haven't even taken any incoming or live-probes at night.

Tho we haven't been hit by the enemy yet, there are several hellish times we've had. There was a two-day stretch we didn't have any water + chow re-supply. But our jets were starting lunch pies in



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The area with napalm, so we had to fight them in the heat of the day. And the humping over the hills & mountains is a killer. Heat casualties are too common. Then all the word & mission changes from battalion & regiment make an operational plan look like a complete mill-drill when it's carried out. All that plus the tasteless c-rations, trying to sleep on this extra-hard ground, all kinds of weird noises at night, and the filth of living like a mole. Then you have jungle rat trying to claim your skin, and the



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ever-present danger of some dumb high school drop-out accidentally firing a weapon amidst friends or carelessly handling a grenade. When there are days you're out bumping + some bolt will get to daydreaming for a few minutes + get lost, causing the whole company to stop what it's doing + look for him. So many avoidable things happen to impair a unit - before the bullets start flying. Really frustrating some days.

B-ball clips + Book Weebie look great. How did E.H.S. men up? Anyone get married lately? Got a real nice letter from



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Jane + Gene Dawson. Their daughter is growing fast + they have bought a new home in Monroe, Wis. They like the town just fine.

I may have ruined my nice Jap camera. It got dumber when we crossed a stream a few days back. Can't get the shutter to work. I'll try to get it fixed or buy another when I go on R+R in May. I'll also get Steve one then. I'm trying to go to Manila or Hong Kong.

Send some small cans of fruit - well wrapped. Nothing bulky or heavy.

Later,

LT. C.

ANDERSON 0105003

28 MAR 69

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Free

W. 3d MARINES

ART DIV



VIA AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

Mr. + Mrs. R. L. Anderson



Elgin, Illinois



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