



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

17 APR 69

Parents -

Still a lot of slack time & no goals. We're in the last few days of Naive Crag, sitting on Fire Support Base McIntosh, which we built from nothing. The Regimental Commander was out a few days ago, was shocked at the site of ~~so~~ so many bandages over jungle rot & fevers, etc, that he decided we need a rehab (rehabilitation). The general okayed it so the 17th we're scheduled to be helilifted back to Vandoy & from there to Cuu Viet, right on the ocean, for a few days. It should amount to about

six days out of the bush. After the rehab comes the clincher - into the a Shaw Valley on a new op! The valley has always been a hot spot & probably holds my first real action.

The first U.S. units in it were Army; on the first assault - helicopter - 40 choppers were shot down in some

12 hours. When a month ago the 9th Maine Regiment went in & really got cut to ribbons - 40% to 65%

casualties in companies, but you heard about it as "light casualties."

That was Operation Dewey Canyon.

Don't sweat, tho, the brass is determined 3d Maines won't meet the same fate - they'll dream up something.

Then after my taste of action, a well deserved - R+R! I've accepted



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a quota to Singapore for 28 MAY -
2 JUNE but will exchange it at
DaNang R+R Center for Manila,
same time. You remember I
chased some prisoners to Manila
earlier + really liked it all, other
benches due me soon - my promotion
to 1st Lt. will come then any day
now, as will my orders for next
duty station. Promotion means \$50/mo.
raise; in May I go over two years
under USMC contract - another \$50/mo.
raise. In the wind is an increase
in the monthly hostile fire bonus
from \$65 to \$100, retroactive to 1 JAN 69.
It just keeps rolling in. Speaking
of it, how much was Steve able to put
away ~~of~~ before he left? You must have

made some kind of deal with the Draft Board. On the negative side, I developed the first signs of immersion foot then my rapid sweat system + no change of CO₂ in over a month. But this sitting around has allowed me to recover, so I'm ready for the next "hump".

The last re-supply chopper brought mail + some Life mags so I'm caught up on the bigger news, then Ike's state funeral. Save all Lifes we still receive + if subscription runs out, renew it immediately. I need two addresses as soon as you can find them out - Grandma's (misplaced it) + Don Brown's. What's he been up to? Steve Heilemann still around?



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Don't know if I told you before or not but my fine camera got dunked on a creek crossing. I gave it to a guy going on R+R to Hawaii to see if he could get it fixed.

Meanwhile, missing many fine scenes.

Set some more "Book Worlds" on the way & local clips.

Lester,
LTC,

LTC, R. ANDERSON 0105003
3d PLT, 'B' Co.
1st BN, 3d MARINES
3d MARDIV

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Free

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Mr + Mrs. R. L. Anderson

Elgin, Illinois

USA

Going to Europe
on July 16

DON BROWN

AUROBA, ILL.