



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

31 MAY 69

Parents -

Many things in May -

Am now on R+R in Singapore -
every bit as mysterious, exciting, Eastern
as the name sounds. A fascinating
racial blend here - Malays, Chinese,
Indians. The latter extremely interesting
to watch, photograph. About 2 million
people here + every bit as modern
as Chicago, etc. People get along
pretty well, except the Chinese are
soured, as they have the place locked
up financially, + the Japanese are
still hated for the bloody 1942-45
occupation. Have been doing some

heavy night - seeing all day; yesterday went to Univ. of Singapore + talked to a few students. Questions centered around how their schools compare to the American, why U.S. is in Viet Nam, + Black + White revolution. They have some great gift shops + I've bought some things + will buy more. There will be a couple coming to you, one for Dues, as I forgot his new address. Sent a beautiful tablecloth set from China to Dale + Deb. [He reports they are ready to adopt]. Have been getting some great pix; ~~then~~ ^{then} will tell the rest of the story. Will go back well armed w/ film to record



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The life of the "grunt."

I also have much to report militarily. About a week ~~to~~ before R+R we got a new Lt. in; he was given my 3d platoon & I was made 4th platoon commander. 4th platoon is the weapons platoon in a rifle company - machine guns & 60mm mortars. Machine guns are always attached out to platoons so all I have to worry about are 3 mortars & 20-25 people - they're very capable & ~~pride~~ proud. Night of 22-23 MAY we really caught the gooks - they had been moving a battalion into

Cor. Thien area, where we now
are operating (Operation Virginia Ridge),
at site. One of our ambushes
~~at~~ spotted a company moving in
column site past the hill we were
on - 130 of them, loaded with
rice, ammo, etc. We mortars
waited until they walked into one
of our registered targets then let
them have about 500 rounds -
chased them site ~~the~~ then the
ambush site - zapped them twice.
U.S. casualties - 0; NVA - 28 + 2
wounded POW's. So we were
riding pretty high there for awhile,
but all's fair in love + war, so -
the other 3 companies in 1/3 had



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been getting hit hard the few previous days but we had been left alone. Each day we had been moving 500 to 1000 meters, always closer to DMZ, until by the day I was lifted out for R+R, we were 300 meters from DMZ, firing & patrolling into it. I was lifted out about 0800. The next chopper brought in a pallet of 81 mm mortar ammo. It sat there a few hours; around noon some fool started a cooking fire next to it. Empty boxes caught fire & spread to the ammo. People ran from it,

then were called back to put it out. As they reached it, it went & took half the hill with it. Some must still be flying thru the clouds somewhere. The blast erased any doubt in good minds as to where we were, so they started pounding us with their mortars, adding to the casualties. We were not able to return one round. I spent the night before my flight date with the 1st Sergeant at 3d Medical Bn. hospital, identifying bodies & talking to wounded. Such has been my luck on the tour—just missing the worst parts. About a week before we



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were working with tanks around
Cam Lo, I was out with a
patrol when they drove into company
compound, & promptly set off 2
anti-tank mines. Sent 5 to
hospital. We had been walking
over them for 3 days without
knowing they were there - it takes
about 400 lbs. to set one off.
We combed the hill, found 7
more

3 JUN 69.

Beds in DaNang after RTR. It
really went fast but I saw it

all. Latched onto a great cab driver, Chinese, & he showed me around. He gave me his address, as he wants me to send him a Kennedy half dollar. Got plenty of fix - some will come to you developed, some not. Didn't get mailers with all rolls.

Will spend 3 or 4 days here in shack DaNang seeing friends, resting up, then back for final 7 weeks. 3d MPs have recovered now from the ammo Dump's explosion.

I bought Steve a camera which will come to you, as I didn't have address book at time.

SS days

3/4T C.

LT. C. R. ANDERSON 0105003

4 PLT., 'B' CO., 1/3

3D MARDIV

31 MAY 69

Free

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Mr. + Mrs. R. L. Anderson

Elgin, Illinois

USA