

LT, C. R. ANDERSON 01050-3
2 PLT, 'B' CO., 1/3
3 P MARDIV

Free

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Cpl. Mike McCloskey
Blair Cove, New York
USA



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

~~Ex~~-Marine -

16 JUN 69

Sounds like they finally believed you weren't indestructible. I know how disappointed you must be that your bumping days are behind you! So are mine, almost. I'm now a short-timer - only 38 left in the bush. Sure feels great; they're going fast.

A hell of a lot has happened to Bravo since you left. I left for R+R 25 MAY; a few hours later a pallet of 81 ammo blew, from either a cooking fire or incoming & took half the hill & 12 people with

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It. Among the dead were Pucci, Carter, 2. C. Williams, & Lt. Abbott. It was all bad enough but what turned me off was the way some people tried to make a hero out of Abbott. I thought he used poor judgement in trying to get people to put out an increment fire next to the ammo pallet, but according to "Joe Smith & others he was one of "the finest officers # we've ever worked with!" B.S. The senior squad, Madey, was trying to get everyone away from it while Abbott was trying to get them up to it. Also one of the dead was a Lt. O'Neill, who was given 3d plst.



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a few days before; I was given weapons. While I was on R+R the company was on a sweep along DMZ + ran into some mines. Sgt. Goodlin + Hopkins were killed around 1 JUNE when the latter stepped on one. Hoppy was platoon radio man since ~~Smithy~~ Smithy was medevaced for a mangled leg after a bump. Bravo then went to Con Thien, where we still are based + might be until 1 JULY. When Goodlin + Hoppy were killed, another new Lt., on his first patrol, lost an eye from the shrapnel. Lt. Ryan has also lost an eye and is headed for the world, +

a discharge. When I got back here after a 4-day stint in Da Nang Coyt, Sam gave me 2d Platoon, as their actual became X.O. They are quite a crew, really, quite different than 3d. They have as much pride as 2d, but when some kind of word gets passed, the reaction time in 2d is next to nothing. They race each other to get things done, really take it as a personal offense if the actual comes around & notices a discrepancy of some kind. They run themselves, take care of all necessary ~~disc~~ disciplinary things among themselves & like to keep me stashed away in my bunker all day; which is OK, as I know



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Things are getting done whether I take a look or not. The real difference is they don't need any supervision. Tactically they're outstanding too - disperse well, change formations quickly, are very good on the point. All the above is due to the fact that they have no Wellens, Walts, Melicham, or Hughes' among them. 3d still has too many birds. People like Canagher, Payne, Spudley, Holloway, and Duquette really have it all wired together. [Worthy, Wimbush, DeLeon now CPL]

Things here at Con Thien are great - showers, movies, all beer & soda we want, ice almost every day, 3 hot meals a day, and no mountains. It's nice & flat around here - patrols go fast &

they're fairly interesting - we're always moving across areas of former battles, and we occasionally grab some gooks wandering around. We can see into N. Vietnam & catch a few rockets around the perimeter fairly often - no damage yet. We're too complacent already.

R+R in Singapore was great but far too short to get anymore than a superficial view. Those Chinese women are really great - I'll return someday if I have to pay for it myself.

If you ever get around Chicago, try:
LT. C. R. ANDERSON 0105003

ELGIN, ILL.

Later,

C. R. Anderson
P.S. No word on orders yet - hoping for Japan or Philippines via AA form.