

April 16, 1979

Charles R. Anderson

Dear Charles,

After a lull, our war is back in the news. Did you see accounts of the Oscar presentations. Is their a satellite hookup for TV viewing? Maybe there is insufficient interest.

In any event, two Vietnam flicks stole the show. Amazingly both are purported to be realistic. I've not seen either, but have seen clips and read reviews.

I am enclosing some clips on the reactions including my own observations in my column. Quite a turnabout from the one I wrote in reviewing "The Grunts."

The irony of seeing John Wayne (still one of my alltime favorites) give out the Oscar for Best Movie to "The Deer Hunter" was really striking.

The other news rush is the 'Agent Orange' situation. I am enclosing more clips on that. Our local CBS outlet WBBM, Channel 2 has really done a superb job of reporting this. Bill Kurtis anchored it. I've talked with Kurtis and have obtained both transcripts: the one made this March and one done a year ago.

There is really a huge question to be answered. As far as I know, I was not in areas while spraying was going on (Central Highlands), but I have humped through areas I suspect had been sprayed earlier.

How about you? Any contact with 'Agent Orange?' Have you had any problems since leaving the service?

Monmouth ironies continue. You mentioned Dick Rogers being in Nam and I have the pictures to prove it. Dick was in the same company as I was in the Highlands and went through the biggest action of our year on the same hill. (If I find the account I wrote of the battle for my hometown paper, I will enclose it.) I DID, SEE ATTACHED. *bbali, that is.*

We both survived to be able to play some one-on-one in a motor pool shed at Camp Enari in Pleiku. I'm sure Dick made it home ok. (as sure as I can be without proof, anyway.)

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More ironies. I am living across from Pete Kovacs in rural Elgin. Pete was an all-time basketball great at Monmouth. His jersey has been retired and he has a place in the trophy case in the gym lobby. We've had good times jawing about Monmouth. He is good friend of Bobby Woll's.

How about that for small world?

Here's another one while I'm warmed up. My boss, Publisher Ray Wilson, has attended the White House Foreign Correspondents dinner as a guest of another newspaper chain for the past several years. He acts as host for the other chain as he is quite the glib entertainer.

One of his prime guests...? Rear Admiral James Stockdale! He is going out again this month for the dinner again. Other luminaries at his table are Judge John Sirica of Watergate fame and Jack Anderson.

Stockdale, we believe, got Wilson invited to <sup>May.</sup> the Navy War College military-civilian symposium next month. A select group of civilians and military people huddle at the college for four days and study a topic. This year it's the Soviet Navy. Would I give a leg to sit in on that.

The coincidence is startling.

I'm glad to hear you may be returning to the States in the foreseeable future. It would be extremely interesting to have a chance to get together.

In the meantime, keep me informed of your activities and I'll try to keep you tuned in to Stateside news of the war and anything personal of mine I think you may be interested in.

Til later,

*Dave*

David M. Stamps

This letter, like Topay, just kept growing. It is now May 1 and I hope to post it today. The re-institution of the draft is starting to warm up. How do you feel about that prospect? All for now. *D*