

Hi Pat,

30 December 1967

Just thought I'd drop you a few lines to say hello and let you know I'm still alive. We got hit again the 4th of December, it's the biggest fire fight we've been in it lasted 8 hours, and later on that same night they tried to occupy the area. These jokers were strictly hard core V.C. There was an estimated 2 Battalions all of which was, the 502nd VC heavy weapons battalion. We captured a couple of PGR 7 rocket rounds. The only part that was missing was the war head. It's definitely a mean looking weapon. Also Charlie mined one of our ASPB's just before Christmas. One of the guys was blown over the side all the bones in both of his legs were shattered. The boat captain had his right leg jammed from the explosion. They put the boat out of commission for a while. Riv Flot Two will be coming over here in January. The new boats are

really going to be something. They'll be five
feet long and three feet wider. They'll be
fitted out with V twelve's, do fifteen knots,
and they're supposed to have a flame
thrower on the monitors that will shoot
300 meters and last for thirty two hours.
Some of the monitors will be carrying
105 howitzers in place of the forty's, some
will have twin 40 MM's. They're putting a
105 recoilless rifle up in the twenty mount and
replacing the fifteen's with twenty's. O.K. you'll never
guess what I got for duty so I'll tell
you. I got the USS ORION AS18 stationed
at Norfolk Virginia. Some of the guys
out of the Squadron got orders to the same
ship so I'm definitely going to have a
good time for seven more months before
I get out. In case your wondering what an
AS is it's a Sub Tender. O.K. and I have
thirty three days and a wake up until I
leave this damned place. Well I guess
I'll close for now. Write when you have

a chance.

your Buddy
Rich

Rickard H. Mello EN-2
River assault Squadron II Div. III
40 Fleet Post Office
San Francisco California 96601
C-III-1

Free

Jim Brown EN-2
USS Cocopa ATF 101
Engineering Division
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco California
96601