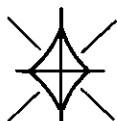


1st Air Cavalry
DIVISION



Christmas 1967

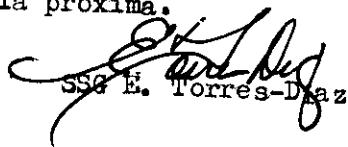


Dear Mrs Villegas & Fam.

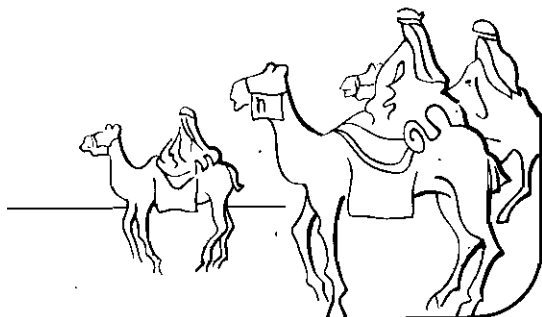
This is to acknowledge your letter and to tell you and yours how happy we are to receive your letter. I am not from Ill., or Mexico, I am from Puerto Rico. I will tell you more about myself in the next letter. I hope that you understand spanish.

QUE PASEN TODOS UNA NAVIDADES
FELICES Y UN PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO.

Hasta la proxima.


SSG E. Torres-Diaz

*May the
Peace and Happiness
of Christmas be yours
today and throughout
the New Year
from The First Team
IN VIETNAM*



SSG. E. Torres-Diaz RA 50 113 108
545th MP Co. 1st Air Cav Div
APO San Fco. Calif, 96490



Mrs Dorothy Villegas

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

An-Khe, Viet Nam.
26 Dec 1967

Dear Mrs. Willigant Tom.

I just received your letter, its nice to hear from you. I do hope that you and your family had a nice Christmas and New Year. I wish you and yours health and happiness in the coming year.

We had a wonderful Christmas eve and Christmas day, imagine seeing you and all for 24 hours, as we all had a chance to drink and celebrate a little, and of course you cards and letters helped our morale greatly.

At the present time we are making plans for New Years Eve.

I did receive a package from home with Puerto Rican food, its almost like Mexican food, except that is not as hot.

A group of Puerto Ricans got together, including me, and had a great time, Spanish records, Spanish food, etc. etc. ...

We are also enjoying a beautiful weather, not too hot and not too cold. Part of in between, the sun is shining, the sky is clear blue and the temperature is perhaps in the mid 70's. The weather here in the central highlands is real nice, if it wasn't for the war this would be a good country to live in.

The prison is real cute, reminds me of one I had when I was at Fort Lewis W. A. K. I. But I can't remember when I put it I guess I lost it.

I had some pictures taken but haven't had a chance to show them developed yet. Probably next time I write I'll send

One.

My best to you and children and all the family, best wishes for
a Happy New Year from:

Ed.

(That's how everybody calls me)

Viet Nam
13 Feb 68

Dear Dorothy & Family:

Due to increase in our activities, I haven't been able to write or at least to acknowledge the receipt of your packages, thank you very much. I guess by now you must have heard the news about the increase in enemy attacks and for that reason we are moving north of the base camp we had before. Due to the move, mail service is terrible, is taking a letter to reach me about 10 or 15 days.

Your first package arrived the day the Division was moving out, but with the pack of hungry friends of mine we managed to eat almost everything.

As far as the PX is concerned, it does not have much of anything lately since the enemy attacked Saigon. Transportation is terrible with preference to combat troops and combat equipment.

It shows in the map that we moved from An-Khe to Phu-Bai, very close to the DMZ, but the Cav is a real tough outfit, so we go up there to help the marines.

I guess I have to make this on short the lights keep going on and off.

Thanks once again for the packages.

Best regards to all the family
from
Ed.



Viet Nam
10 March 1968

Dear Dorothy & family,

I guess it's about time for me to answer your letter, received yours about 2 days ago after a trip to Da Nang.

Returned to my base camp to find about 6 letters, so I have been busy trying to answer all. It have to be in daytime because after dark, very little or no lights are allowed. I think I told you that I received your last package for we all were very grateful, thanks a lot. I will try to repay your kindness in some way when I get a chance, I'll think of something.

Right now the weather, that in the past month was awful, I mean raining and cold and all that misery, now the sun is shining, it's getting hot and now the dust is every were, but is preferable to the rain, still nights are kind of cool, pleasant to sleep unless we get an alert and then we have to stay outside in the bunkers or behind the sand bags walls, by the way our sleeping place is a square in the floor surrounded by sand bags and above our heads, cots or beds are tabu due to the incoming artillery rounds and enemy mortars and rockets attacks, at least is some kind of protection, and not too uncorfortable from our point of view, we try to make the best of it.

This morning I have been to church and had communion, did not have to confess because the priest gives everybody general absolution, at least I don't have to tell him my sins. (I hav'nt committed any lately) no place to sin.

You asked were I get the typewriter?, well even in war there are certain formalities and of course paperwork must continue, the army can't survive without it.

There are certain advantages up here, for example cigarettes, soap, razor blades tooth paste, tooth brushes, candy, stationary, etc., etc. are free, because there is no place to buy it we get sundry packs. Beer, we get one a week and not cold either, no place to cool it. but we have showers and manage to take one or two a week, laundry, we have to do it ourselves or send it about 20 miles from here, but like I said before, we make the best of the situation.

Things are looking better, some of the roads have been cleared, even thought the engineers have to check them daily for mines, the SeaBees, thats the navy is helping build an airstrip for the planes to bring supplies, they used to air droppe~~d~~ them. We are trying to make the place look a little better, building wood frames for our tents, etc. So far the only entertainment I have in my bobby and me play dominoes during rest period., other than that there is not much to do.

Well Dorothy, I guess I have reported most everything, so wishing you and your family best of health and happiness, remains,

Yourstruly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Ed', with a horizontal line underneath it.

545TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY
1st Cavalry Division(AirMobile)
APO San Fco, Calif. 96490

8 April 1968

Hi Dorothy;

Received your letters and as usual is a pleasure to hear from you and your family. Hope this finds you and yours in good health.

Not much going around here at the present time. Its real hot and dusty and when the Choppers, that's helicopters, are flying around that makes it double dusty, nights are still cool, at least we get a half way decent night sleep, unless Charlie decides to play games, deadly games.

Went back to our old base camp a few days ago and had a chance to go to the PX and purchase some of the items hard to get up here.

One of the items hard to get is beer and when we get them are usually hot, but is beer and a couple of beers once in a while are always welcome, the hard stuff is prohibited up here.

Most of the Cav is up in Khe-Sanh, I guess the rest of us will follow shortly. As usual the marines can't take care of themselves so we go up there the help them out. I guess you have heard by now in the news how the Cav is making out out there. (Khe-Sanh) The word that goes around is that there is no outfit in VietNam like the 1st Cavalry Division) (AirMobile).

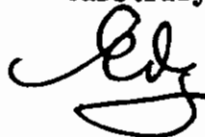
A few nights ago that was the 23 of march, my birthday, we had a cookout, except that we called a cookin because had to be indoors. Had rice with sausage and steak. Oh yes! I'm a good cook by hobby.

A few days ago we sent a truck to Da Nang to get some beer, that was last week and It has'nt showed up yet, I figure they will be along one of this days.

In case you'd like to know how i look like, here is my picture, is not a good one because it was taken in a small Polaroid camera and they don't make justice to the person, or perhaps the person is no help at all, had to keep my helmet on because of the sun and also is required in the camp, the other fellow is one of my helpers, you can see some of the tents in the camp.

Sorry that I have to make this one short, my free time is limited, hope your arm is feeling better, my best regards to Carlos and the rest of the family, until yours remains,

Yourstruly,

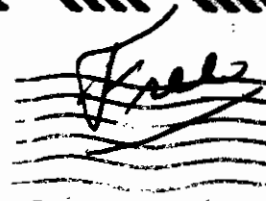


SSG E. Torres-Diaz RA 50 113 108

545th MP Co. 1st Cav Div. (AirMobile)

APO San Fco. Calif 96490

ZIP CODE



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Dorothy Villegas

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

545TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY
1st Cavalry Division (AirMobile)
APO San Fco., Calif 96490

11 April 1968

Dear Dorothy & family.

This is just to let you know that I received your package yesterday, It is very nice, thank you.

Attached is a clipping from the Stars and Stripes and to show you what I said about the 1st Cavalry Division, this is just the beginning, our fame is already established, this is just to add more, of course it has to do with being our job and all that.

Well so much for the Cav, as far as everything else, well the weather has change a little bit, yesterday was hot, hot, hot, last night was kind of windy and this morning is raining which help to control the dust.

Yesterday we had a rocket attack about 12:30 in the afternoon but no casualties. Is kind of strange since Charlie always makes his moves at night, I guess he figured we were at lunch or something. Since by now I can tell the difference between the outgoing and incoming rounds, by the time the first one hits we are half way to the bunkers, only lasted about half an hour.

Yesterday I was offered 7 days R&R in Hong-Kong next month and I'm going to take it because up here there is nothing but soldiers, we don't see any females out here since there aren't any, I'm afraid I'm starting to forget how they look like, and 7 days leave in Hong-Kong will be just great.

This morning we are moving to a new area, sort of a checker game, we stay in one place long enough to settle down and then we move again, I guess it breaks the monotony.

Last night I had company, another Puertorrican Master Sgt came over for a few beers and brought with him some canned rice and beans, pasteles and I had some steaks, so we had a ball, also I have some records in Spanish which makes things better.

Well Dorothy thanks again for the package, and wishing you your husband and children best of health and happiness, remains,

Very truly yours,



Camp Evans, RVN

5 May 1968

Hi:

Received your letter a few days ago, but lately we have been kind of busy getting ready for our annual USARV IG inspection, and we are trying to do every thing at the same time, I spend most of the time in the road trying to get the things that we cannot get here. So far I have been back to An-Khe, Chu-Lai, Hue, Phu-Bai, Quang-Thi etc. etc.

This morning we had a little excitement; had some incoming rockets, and had to run for the bunkers, and with this weather as hot as it is is hard to stay down there very long, but did not have any other choice but to stay down until the alert is over.

Been getting hit lately very often but not much damage and so far no casualties.

Here is your copy of Cavalier, sometimes we get and sometimes they miss us but we do get it at least once a week, I'll send you a copy every time I get a chance.

This past week most of the people here in Camp Evans were sick in the stomach, they think it was the water but nothing definite yet, anyway we are feeling better now.

To answer your question, I figure that by the time I get back from Australia I will be single any longer, they tell me the girls in Sidney are out of this world and I intend to go over there and find out by myself, possibly next month.

In case this gets there in time, have a happy Mothers day, I am sure you will. Couldn't get to a PX to send you a card.

Still sending your newspaper in home made envelopes, PX don't have big ones for the time being, hope to get them soon.

In the past few weeks I have been taking pictures with my Instamatic 104 but it will take a few weeks before I get the pictures back developed.

So long for now, hope you enjoy the paper, best regards to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JD' with a flourish.

545TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY
1st Cavalry Division(AirMobile)
APO San Fco., Calif 96490

2 July 1968

Hi Dorothy;

Just received your letter or should I say half a letter, I think the first part is missing somewhere between here and Mexico, nevertheless I am glad to hear from you and also glad you and your family had a vacation, mine is coming up shortly, in about 80 some days.

Received your postal card, and to tell you the truth I'd like to go on vacation down Mexico way some time myself, hear is great.

Also received a few days ago the album by the Mexicali Brass, real good, a bunch of guys, both Mexicans and Puertorricans come every night to listen to the records, I have now a big collection, mostly puertorrican and mexican.

Been having a great time at nights with all the friends getting together for a few beers, a few games of dominos and listening to the records, it has been quiet lately and except for the weather (real hot) everything is fine, thanks God.

Been working kind of hard lately since I lost all my help, all rotated to the states, I guess their time was up and nobody wanted to extend, I don't blame them. The kid that just arrive is new at this work and I have been trying to teach him and do my work at the same time, but I guess I'll have to manage somehow.

Next week or the week after I'm planning to go to An Khe for some paper work in my records, also to visit some of my friends over there, perhaps I'll take a walk to the village, I was told is back on limits after a few months off limits, I guess I'll go and find out.

This is the first newspaper in a long time, we have been having trouble with the power supply due to lack of generators but its getting better.

Enclosed is a picture of one of our jeeps that got blown up by a road mine, that's what happened to it. One of the guys is in the hospital in critical condition, the other is allright.

I'll be taking a lot of pictures with a polaroid that I borrowed and a friend of mine brought me some film from Phu Bai, but after I intended to go out and take some pictures the sun got real hot, so I postponed it until is a little bit cooler. Right now we are walking around the company area half naked and after the sun goes down we go down to almost nothing that's how hot is getting and I was told by the old timers that this is still considered winter, they say " wait until summer get's here", well if that's the case I am going back to Puerto Rico, at least I wont roast. The thing is when the weather start cooling off is time for the moonsoon, that's the rainy season and then it rains and rains and rains, so I don't know which one is worst, a lot of sunshine with dust or a lot of rain with mud.

Well Dorothy I guess that's enough chit chat for today, wishing you and your husband and children health and a happy 4th of July, remains,

Yourstruly,



545TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY
1st Air Cavalry Division
APO 96490

Camp Evans, RVN
5 August 1968

Dear Dorothy & fam.

A few days ago I received your letter and due to the amount of work that I have had lately it's been almost imposible to do anything else. We just had a change of command to include company commander, Provost Marshal and Assistant Provost Marshal, So imagine all the changes, new policies etc. etc.

The weather has been a little better, not too hot and a few drops of rain now and then, especially last night, it rained all night but early this morning the weather changed and it has been real nice all day.

The package that you mentioned hasn't arrived yet, I'll let you know as soon as it gets here.

I had two real good friends in Fort Knox when I was there and now they are both assigned here to the Cav but in different outfits, however once in a while one of them manage to come to Camp Evans and we usually have a good time, we all play some kind of instrument and in Knox we had a real good group. All I have here is a guitar but its better than nothing, at least we make noise. No, really we sing and play very good, all in spanish, but even the americans enjoy the music. We also have a few beers and a few drinks. Last night we had real big juicy steaks with fried onions rings, mashed potatoes... well all the trimings and chilis jalapeños en escabeche. How about that. Later another Sgt. Miranda, this one is mexican, came over and asked us over to his company for a mexican dinner: Enchiladas, ~~tacos~~, etc. plus moore beer and whiskey, and come to think of it , we had a real fine day after all, except for the KING SIZE HANG OVER, that I had this morning, still don't feel too good.

I am sending 2 papers this time, one for you and one for your friend. Hope she like it. I am still wating for the other edition of the other magazine to send you, it should be good since it has pictures of the change of command for the Commanding General, he left about a week ago.

Nothing much has been happening around here, not too much action, but expecting some any minute.

There is not much more to say, so I'll close for now, hoping that this find you and yours in best of health and happiness, best regards to all from,



Camp Radcliff RUN
14 Sept 68

Dear Dorothy:

Finally your package arrived after the storm. A four days storm with heavy rains, winds and all. Thanks a lot.

If you look at the top of this letter you'll notice it says Camp Radcliff RUN in AN Khe and not Camp Evans. I came down to check on my order for reassignment. I should be leaving here at the end of this month, so I guess you won't have time to answer this letter, but as soon as I get my reassignment I'll let you know where they are sending me.

Once again I'll like to thank you and your family for everything you have done for me. It's being a real help, your letters and packages.

If I ever get a chance to go to Illinois I'll try to stop by and say hello.

In the meantime I'll say ~~at~~ as long for now.

Yours truly,
Ed.