

2110 11 Feb 63

Tragedy again today. After routine AM sick call, we got a call for a med evac to an outpost overrun this AM---evacuate 4 wounded and several dead. I asked Sgt. Gray to go, and we got out there and put 5 litter cases and three ambulatory patients in our chopper. They loaded 7-8 dead in the other chopper, and we started back without incident. Just as we were landing, the gunner in the back door swung the machine gun around so that we could unload the wounded, and then fate struck! The machine gun fired 11 rounds---mostly into my NCO Sgt. Gray. His right arm, groin, and left leg were severely injured. He immediately went into shock. We rushed him to the dispensary and gave IV Dextran, mouth to mouth resuscitation, tried to stop the bleeding---then we loaded him on the Otter and started for Saigon. Poor Sgt. Gray died about 20 minutes out.

I was lucky---so lucky---sustained only small piece of metal in the dorsum of left hand. The metal came out easily and little effect---but My God! Sgt. Gray dead, killed by an accident. How cruel---unkind---the man was a good man with a family. How tragic! Shall I ever forget the impact of his flesh from his torn right arm striking my face? The worst surely is now over---We must be concerned with the living---the gunner---my other personnel. Oh for time to pass quickly to heal these wounds---cruel wounds to the very soul. One or two Vietnamese wounded were also killed---only further tragedy.

An unforgettable day! 2115.

2330 13 Feb 63

To Saigon today for planeside service. We sent Sgt. Patterson home!

Hey Bob,
I think I sent
you a copy of
this book several
years ago. If not,
I think you would
find it of interest
Jim