

5 SEPT 68

Dear Mom + Dad,

I got another package today.

Also when we do get mail we get army papers. The article of interest is of me. On the night of Aug 8 I had an eleven man recon patrol. At about 10:30 PM we saw flashlights and I got on the horn and called in some mortars. I didn't know it would be put in the paper but since it was I decided to send it home. I don't think I wrote and told you about it because I didn't want you to know exactly what was happening over here. I wrote + told Gary Bitner about it though. I might have written Wege about it too but I am not sure.

The day after that happened we captured that NVA and at the time I thought he had been shot. As it turned out he was one of the NVA I had called

2.

but at least now I have an excuse.

As far as the war over here goes, everything is always changing. We never do the same thing or stay in the same place very long.

At the present time we are on a fire base around a large town named "Ban Me Thout". The gooks are suppose to attack this town, ~~and~~ and that is why we are here, to stop them. Out of every 6 nights my ~~platoon~~ platoon goes out for 2 nights. We split up into 4 man teams and go out to a prearranged spot and sit there waiting and watching for gooks. The next day we pick up and move to another spot.

Then we sit there that night. The reason we are out there is to watch for enemy movement and if possible call in mortar or artillery fire on them if we see them.

Since I have been in country I have not been in a regular fire fight yet but I have been fired at and about a week ago I called in mortar fire on about 300 gooks. That was the ~~last~~ 2nd night

Excerpts from letter written
5/20/68 by
Sgt Robert Knoll to a friend

A. CO 2/35

of a 2 night operation. The next day after we got back to the fire base some choppers got fired on so our whole company moved out on patrol in that area. When we got there we captured a wounded NVA. He told our interpreter that he was wounded the night before by mortar fire in the area I called it in. That is how I know how many gooks were there when I called it in, he told us he was with an element of about 300 men. From what he said alot of them got it when those mortar rounds started coming in. When we are out there we don't get much sleep because we are scared stiff. When you have only got 4 men about all you can do is run if you get in trouble because you are outnumbered so bad. I hope they don't keep this type of operation going much longer because I don't like it one bit.

When I first got here I was a squad leader. About 2 months ago my old

mortars on.

Well, back on the subject of mail, I'm sorry I haven't been doing such a hot job but we are really busy. We are still on the same firebase by Baan Me Thout. We are still sending out those LRP (Recon) patrols and we are all pretty sick of it. Just about everybody in my platoon has got ~~the~~ jungle rot all over the legs including me. I have sores all over my feet and around the tops of my boots. Since we have been on this fire base, (6 wks.) we have only gotten clean socks ONCE. I am lucky I get them in the mail once in a while.

Well so much for now

~~Dr. Orders
4581505~~

Love
Bob

~~John is in V-F
250 miles~~