

From the
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boy on the X-ray machine.

Letters Save Skytrooper From Death

Letters from home played more than a spiritual part for a 1st Air Cavalry Division man recently.

While on a cordon and search mission in the Bong Son Valley, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry working with the 1st Brigade, was setting up a small perimeter waiting for the other elements to regroup.

Suddenly, the sound of sniper rounds came screaming into the perimeter.

Specialist Four Monte R. Zierke, Pierce, Neb., was seemingly hit by one of the rounds which knocked him into some nearby bushes. Checking himself, the skytrooper was surprised to find that he was not wounded.

That evening, the young soldier decided to complete a letter he had started earlier in the day.

He reached down and pulled a stack of letters out of his bulging pants pocket, and was astonished to find a bullet hole in the center of the pack. Glancing down at his pocket, Zierke noticed two holes in the material where the round had entered and left.

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Don Jensen June 6, 2003