

It's been a strange day for me remembering (or trying to) what I was doing 30 years ago today. As many of you know I was FNG in-country and not flying yet. I was in the mortar pit blowing shit up. Our CO had some knowledge of what was about to come down as he had us ready. He had us out..... just waiting. We didn't know exactly what we were waiting for, but wait we did. Around midnight all hell broke loose. They were up on the north side of the fence and the incoming was intense. I remember being so tired I couldn't see straight.

I remember that on the first day, towards afternoon, we were told that back home it had been reported that Ban Me Thuot had been over run. They gave us postcards and told us that we had to write home right then and there to let the family back home know that we were still alive. A plane was sent in (and I'm pretty sure it was a Caribou) to pick up the postcards. There was nothing else on the Caribou to the best my knowledge. They just came in and picked up the mail and took off again.

I remember falling asleep after 2 or 3 days just leaning up against a wall. The helicopters were working out almost constantly and when I left the mortar pit I went to the maintenance area to repair blades. We would get the helicopters back up and then I was back to the mortar pit.

I remember going to downtown Ban Me Thuot in a sand bagged deuce and a half and being armed with a Carl15 although I never knew why we went.

I remember the roads being clogged with people either trying to leave Ban Me Thuot (or get back in) and we were sent to turn them around and prevent them. I stood in the middle road armed with a 60.

I remember working on the helicopters and the sniper fire whizzing all around. At first I ducked every time and then I realized that by the time I heard it going by it was already too late for me to worry so I just quit ducking and kept on working.

I remember thinking how nice it would be to get home..... and..... finally I remember that after I was home I realized how much I wished that I was back.

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