

HEADQUARTERS  
52D AVIATION BATTALION  
APO 95, San Francisco, California

ASK-CO.

17 August 1964

Mrs. V. W. Cawthorne  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Cawthorne,

I received your letter of 7 August and fully share your proud feeling for your son. It is men like he who have carried this fight for our country and democracy deep into enemy territory where we shall defeat communism.

To answer your questions, while Bayles was piloting the helicopter he was wounded through the shoulder and chest. Despite this mortal wound he assisted other members of the crew from the crash which caught on fire shortly after impact. While helping Captain Turner he was reported to have said, "Come on, Come on", but I have no indication of other words being spoken by him. Your son's gallantry in action has been recognized and we have recommended him for decoration.

Captain Turner is doing excellently, however operations on his left leg have shortened it by two inches which may end his military flying career.

PFC Salinas was returned to full duty three days after the crash, having received minor injuries while also assisting the other crew members.

To you, Bayles' parents, we extend our deepest sympathy, and wish to assure you that your son was of the highest caliber of men.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely,

*Daniel C. Prescott*

DANIEL C. PRESCOTT  
Lt Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding