CASTAIC, CA - MEMORIAL DAY -
5-27th 1996

DEAR DICK -

FORGIVE ME THAT I AM ANSWERING YOUR LETTER FROM 3-3-96 TODAY, A MOST 3 MONTHS LATER. MY WIFE WAS VERY ILL, (KIDNEY PROBLEMS, ONE STONE, ONE "BOULDER", + SURGERY, 2x KIDNEY INFECTION ---) AND MY FORMER CMDR, NOW RETIRED LT. COL. AT AUBAGNE FRANCE WAS ALSO LITTLE LATE IN ANSWERING MY & YOUR QUESTION. I LEFT DAU-DIENG IN EARLY APRIL 1952 HE IN LATE 1952 - OUR REGIMENT, THE BDBLE PULLED OUT FROM DAU DIENG TOWARD END OF 52 AND WENT TO TONKIN. THEY WERE REPLACED BY REGULAR FRENCH ARMY AND THEIR UNITS LEFT DAU-TIENG TOWARD THE END OF 1954 (AFTER DIEN-BIEN-PHU FELL) THE LAST LETTER FROM THAT OLD PADRE, NAMED LE-VINH KUONG, WHO'S LITTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS NEXT TO THE HOSPITAL ABOVE MICHELIN HQ IF YOU CAN REMEMBER, I GOT IN 1954 TO GERMANY WHILE I WAS ALREADY WITH THE U.S ARMY AT NAHBOLLENBAH (NEAR BAUMHOLDER) IN HIS LETTER HE WROTE ME (IN FRENCH) "ONLY GOD KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW"----

I WAS INVITED TO CAMP PENDLETON BY A FRENCH LT. COL. THERE, TO CELEBRATE "CAMERONE DAY", ON 4/30/9 (AS IN 1863 THE 62 LEGIONNAIRES BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF 2'000 MEXICANS AT EL PUEBLO, IN MEXICO). IT WAS WONDERFUL, TO STAND IN ATTENTION AND SALUTE THE FRENCH, U.S. & MARINE CORPS FLAGS WHILE THE MARINE CORPS BAND PLAYED "LA MARSEILLAISE", "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" & "FROM THE HILLS OF IWU JIMA TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI ---" ENCLOSED A PHOTO.

ALL MY BEST TO YOU, KEEP IN TOUCH!

YOUR OLD FRIEND

[signature]