

28, Aug. 69 Friday

Dear Dad,

What I am about to tell you is something that I must tell you and only you. Dad something happened here last night that has been on my mind ever since it happened. Please don't let mom or anyone else read this and please keep it to yourself. I'm writing you about this because I think you can understand better than anyone.

You see Dad, I had guard on the berm last night, I was in my bunker when I spotted some movement outside the barb-wire. I had the gun section M-60 machine gun so I loaded the belt and waited for the VC to trip a flare.

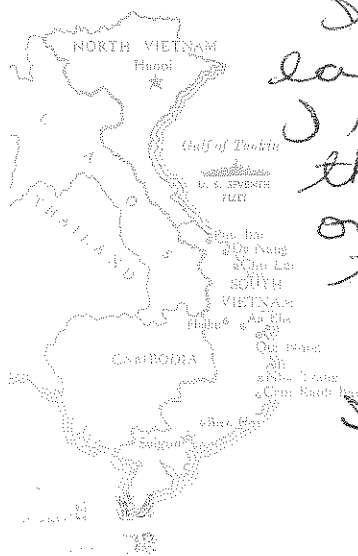
About a minute later a trip flare went off and I saw a lone VC crawling under the wire. Dad I was so scared that I couldn't pull the trigger. He saw me and threw a grenade towards me. I hit the floor in the bunker



and it went off in front of the bunker and I wasn't hurt except my head felt like it was coming off. When I raised up again I saw him on his knees coming at me. God Dad I didn't want to kill him, I ~~shot~~ / shot the M-60 with a long burst and he fell. Dad I cried like a baby after it was all over. This morning the first Sgt. gave me the day off and I've come to the conclusion that I really didn't do anything wrong, just saved my own life.

This is something I dream about the rest of my days I guess. You never told me about what happened to you during the war and now I know why.

I pray that this is the last time it happens but I know I'll act sooner the next time. Dad, everyone was patting me on the back and the Captain shook my hand and said I did a great job. Is killing great? Don't worry Dad,

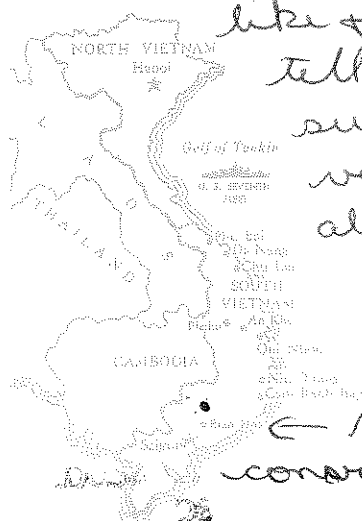


I'm fine now, I know now what to expect and what to do. maybe I shouldn't tell you this but I've got to tell it to someone and you, the only person in the world that I want to know about this. Please don't tell Mom because it will worry her badly, And especially Dad.

Thanks for listening Dad, I'll close for now, I feel better that is for sure.

your son,

P.S. Dad, if Dad David knew anything about this she would worry, but she is strong and I love her so much, you like + love too, I can tell. If she knew I'm sure she would be very strong + mature about the whole thing.



← My mother is here now, we conveyed from Buol a week ago.

Sept 3 2:1
1969

[refers to Dave's letter
of Aug. 28, 1969]

Dear Dad Disney

I recieved this letter from Dave today. It is to you. He must have put it in the wrong envelope or something. I wish I hadn't of read it but I did, not realizing it was to you until I had read quite a bit. Since, Dave only wanted you to know about it, please don't tell him that I know. I'm not going to mention it to him in my letter. Right now Dave needs an encouraging letter from you. Since you have been through a war, I know you will think of the right words to say to him. He loves and respects you very much. This will be our secret that I knew about what happened. Please don't tell Mom, because it will hurt her as it has hurt

me. I didn't actually realize what
Dave would be going through, but
I do now. I guess he is wondering
why you haven't answered it by
now so answer him as soon as
you can.

Love
Dad

Help me pray for Dave.

postmarked Sept 4, 1969
[5727036 S12CTE
Bradenton Fla 33505]

Sept. 14, Sunday

Dear Dad,

I received your letter today. I thank you for writing me back. Dad, I realize now that what I did was a have-to case. I'll definitely not wait too long the next time.

It is hard to forget a thing like killing a man but I want to live more than every V.C. over here. I'll be all right, I was just lucky to have survived my first contact with the enemy. I'm on my toes more now than ever.

We just got back from a two-day operation on the other side of the mountain. It went off real well. Nothing happened and we went through some suspected V.C. locations. I get shook everytime we go through a village. The V.C. are everywhere and you can't tell one good from

another.

Dad, I don't believe in what we are doing over here. Men are getting killed every-day and for nothing. I'm glad you agree with me. I'll be glad when I get out of here, and the Army.

I'm looking forward to the knife you are going to send. I can't find one that isn't copper or tin over here. A bayonet is as scarce as a hand tooth in the artillery, why I don't know.

I'll close for now Dad, I am going to get me a cup of coffee and hit the sack.

See you soon,
Love

EXACTLY 10 months
TO GO.

David
X

ONE VI
101

Oct. 15, 1969

Dear Dad,

I thought I would write you and let you know what's been going on around here. It has been quiet up until tonight. I was asleep when Larry came running into my bunker and yelled "Hooks in the Wire". I grabbed my weapon and went into the FDC bunker. Things were under control so I went outside and manned the blast-wall. The tanks were shooting 90 mm bee-hive as they guarded us. The 50's were cracking and we could hear the sharp crack of the AK 47's.

We got a report of about 30 Hooks about 100 meters out. We fired with time fuses and stopped them. The tanks and infantry were up-tight, it lasted about an hour. Our Artillery killed 20 and the tanks got about 50. They dragged a lot of their bodies away but an estimated 90 were killed. We didn't have but one guy hurt, he was hit in the chest by a brick as it recoiled. He got a few broken ribs but he is all-right. It was raining for a while. We have a awful good perimeter and the tanks guard us at night.

Dad, I hope you don't mind my
writing you about this. I just think that
you would like to know. If not let
me know O.K.

We haven't had to fireball for about
a week and it sure feels good not to
have to travel these roads.

It's time to make the cooks as
I'll close for now. Don't work too
hard, there isn't that much to gain.
See you in about nine months.

I love you,
David

P.S. Don't show
this to mom
unless you want.

54
Oct. 29, 69
Wednesday

Dear Dad,

I'm glad you don't mind my letting you know what is happening around me. Don't worry Dad, I'm doing the best I can to not get hit over here, I definitely don't need a purple heart.

Dad, about the insurance, Pat should be home soon and if she is going to drive it O.K. But if not tell her to cancel the Ins. If you drive it yours will cover you won't it?

you bet I'll take \$1200⁰⁰ for that ford. If you find a buyer for that much let me know O.K.

Dad, we got a new battery commander last month and he has been hell on everyone.

Well last night we were on a red alert and it was raining real hard. He was out checking to see if the guns had muzzle plugs in them and a guard on #3 saw what he thought was a Hook trying to blow the gun up with a grenade. He was sleepy and tired and anyway he cut loose with his M-16 and put about 10 rounds in him. He died instantly. The guy (Jones) got off OK because the B.C. was in the wrong. He has to go before a court but he won't be bothered. No one seemed to care and you sure can't blame the men here in the battery for hating him. A lot of us are really wondering if it was an accident.

5/3/1
We'll never know will we.

Things have been pretty quiet for the past few days I'm glad we don't have to fire ball for a while.

Dad, I forgot to ask mom in my last letter but will you or her get Guy Fain's address and send it to me. I'd like to know where he is.

I've got to close, write soon.

Love

Dave
x

Love
x

18, Nov. 1969

Tuesday

Hi Dad,

I was glad to get your letter, I hadn't had any mail for three or four days until I got yours, mom + the girls.

I'm glad to hear that you bought a new truck. It is a six or eight? I sort of hated to see black beauty go. It will probably be running when your new one is wore out. How about sending me a picture of it. I'd like to see it. Did you buy it off a car lot or from an individual? Who bought the old truck?

Dad, about my car, I like it awful well and it is in good shape. I'd like to have a car when I come home and if we sold it we'd be without. But, if you can get a good price for it go ahead and sell it OK.

We have been firing a lot at night and early in the mornings. The afternoons are usually quiet and it is the only time I have to write. They air-lifted three infantry companies to the top of the mountain and they swept the mountain. They found a underground VC hospital and storage

area. They killed about 45 VC and we got a body count of 24 so they considered the operation a success. We (the infantry) had 18 killed and a lot wounded. Dad, they had the dead in our mess hall. I went down there and it was awful. The guys were shot up awful. I got sick and I thought how that could be me or one of my buddies. This damn chicken fight makes my stomach turn. Why do they waste lives for these sorry filthy people. They are nothing but a bunch of animals and we are trying to help them HA! I think its a joke only it is a joke that costs guys like me, Gai and the rest a lot of worry and even our lives. The news we hear about the peace talks and everything is funny. It is all a bunch of bull. Don't you think so.

Dad, I just wanted to tell you this, I can't tell this to Dad or Mom but I've just got to tell it to you.

It's chow time so I'll close for today. Take care & I miss you.

Dave

5 Jan 70 7-1

Dear Dad,

I received your letter day before yesterday but tonight is the first time that I've had a chance to even think much less write. We are on a three day operation out on the opposite side of the mountain. Tonight is our second night. Last night was a little hairy, we had movement about 600 meters to our South. We got a clearance to fire killer rounds, so I loaded up the gun at almost point blank range and we fired, after quite a few corrections we stopped and fired illumination but we couldn't see anything

the next morning rather⁷⁻²
this morning our XO went out
and he found some blood trails
but that's all. So far things
have been quiet, we have two
tanks for security so we don't
expect nothing.

I'm glad everyone had a nice
X-mas, I just wish I wasn't away
from you all. I'll be glad when
I get out of here, I'm so sick of
seeing dust, rice, smelly goats and
GIT's.

Dad, enclosed is a picture of
a little movement at Buell. you
can see a 50 cal and a chopper mini-
gun on the right. The cloud is
some hand flares that were burn-
ing on the ground. I think it

is a good picture but I didn't
have picture taking on my mind,
Tom Spratt from N.Y. was crazy
enough to use a camera during
the battle.

I've got to close for now and
shoot some illumination for
a ambush patrol on the mountain.

P.S. Tell mom +
the girls I

love to see you

See you in
184 days.

Dave

[Photo not included in donation]

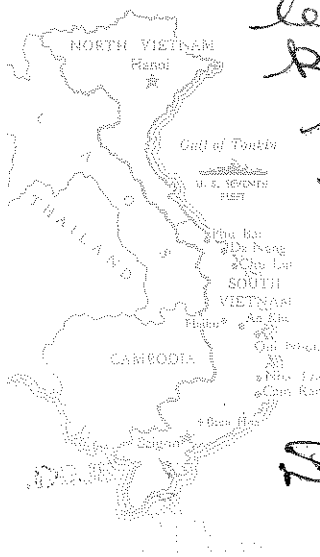
12, Jan 70

Hi Dad,

I was just sitting here at my desk thinking about you so I thought you'd like to hear from me.

We just got back from a three day move that ended up as ten. It was one of the biggest operations in our area since July. We fired over 14,000 rounds at the mountain. They tried to take the back-side of Mui Ba and we were in support. We fired almost constantly for four days. I didn't get any sleep for three days.

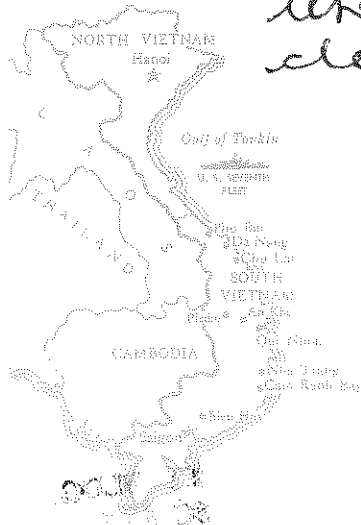
Our battery got credit for 90 bodies and I killed or at least I feel as though I killed 5 GI's. The FO had us fire and we were firing continuous fire within 100 and sometimes less. Dad, we got check fired, the FO said ~~we~~ they had took some of our rounds. Dad, they reported 5 of



82

Dad, reckon I can 'sawing
working and going to school.
I've been thinging a lot about
going back.

It is time for me to work up some defensive targets for the Ambush Patrol so I'll close.



I love you,
Dave

10 May 70

Dear Dad,

As you must have already guessed I'm in Cambodia, we (the Btry) have been across the border for five days now. It is a bad place, it is literally infested with NVA and VC. We're at the present time about 18 miles inside and moving deeper every other day. Tomorrow we move three more miles West. I hope we can move safe.

The minute we crossed the border we hid dense jungle, our trucks had a rough time because we just had a trail to follow made by tracks, we we stopped for a minute and I just got off the truck to get some water when he hit us. The VC shot everything at us. I grabbed the '60 and started to get under the truck when AK's hit the truck and all around us again. I just got on the ground and fired into the trees until he quit, contact stopped and I counted 16 holes in the truck I was driving, I was lucky, some of us wasn't, we had three

killed instantly and four wounded. One of my guys were wounded but not too bad. He will get at least a good months rest.

Last night we took rockets and mortars, two more were hurt and one serious. We are in the same place tonight but I doubt if he will mess with us too much.

The real reason for writing is to tell you that yesterday I killed four G.I's when a guy misdirected our rounds and we shot on top of him. You'll probably see it in the papers well I was the one who computed the data sent it to the gunner and gave the command to fire. Dad, I'm going to go nuts, I've killed my own people friendly villagers and God knows who else.

I'm scared Dad, I've got 65 days of this hell left and I don't know if I'll make it or not. I've never been so scared of dying before.

I just had to write this to you I know you'll understand.

I love you - Dave

KY BLDG.
SC 844

910
PFC DAVID R. DISNEY
400-72-8380
Btry B, 7/11th Anty
APO SF 96385

Free
Via Air mail

Mr. Clyde Disney
205 main st.
Cumberland, Ky.
40823

SP/4 DAVE DISNEY
400-72-8380
Btry B, 7/11 Anty.
APO SF 96385

Free

Mr. Clyde Disney
205 main st.
Cumberland, Ky.
40823



SP/5 DAVE DISNEY
400-72-8380
Btry B, 7/11 Anty.
APO SF 96365



Mr. Clyde Disney
205 main st.
Cumberland, Ky.
40823