

Sat April 23 #15

Dear Mom and Dad

Saturday morning the 11 H's went out to Miller Hill to construct tank cribs. We went and tore one down, moved it and rebuilt it. It consist of 20 ft. logs 1 1/2 in diameter to 8 ft. dia. Also poles that are sunk 5 ft. It takes a dozen guys to lift a log and a long time to dig a hole in stony ground with the entrenching tool.

I got over to main PX today, then went to the sporting store. I bought a good bike for \$27.00 also a wrench and lock. Through an error caught too late I only paid \$25 total. I assembled the bike there, went to a gas station to get air and took off. I locked it to a lock down in the stairwell. I'll try to get a safer place as soon as possible.

Went to Roy with it in only half and hour.

Got my set of civ clothes in the laundry. I am wearing a pair that I bought at the PX. the pants are western and are tight on the legs and loose at the waist. the shirt is of good quality and a good fit.

There was a time change last night, so I woke up at 9 am, I had chow then went to church. 2 Sergeants borrowed some money to tide them till payday. and a third also asked. I didn't have anything to loan him. Had chow then took off bike riding.

I went to Roy. Got there in 30 minutes. I went down a back road at a slow pace. I saw quite a few homesteads.

Came back around 4 pm. I put the bike in the platoon C.P. and cleaned it up. Lt. Likins is in for a shock tomorrow morning.

Well the usual drunks dragged in at 3:30 am today. They are still sleeping it off. There is also a booze party in one of the little rooms. So far all is quiet. I hope it stays that way tonight. I could have taken pictures but it is cloudy today and in the 50's. Will close now.

Ron

Wednesday 27 April #17

Dear Mom and Dad

Well I looked at the tomorrow's schedule so I think I will write this now and mail it tonight, May not write again till Saturday.

Tomorrow we put in a 36 hour day. Yes starting 6 am tomorrow our day doesn't end till 4:30 pm the next day. I guess they figure the medics are crazy when they say the average person must get 8 hours of sleep. The 11B have been lucky if they got 8 hours of sleep all week. Especially when they come back at 11pm and have to clean weapons till 1am. this place was a disaster area this morning. guys were in bed at the time of reveille.

Today we had review and test on 90 and 106's. We had class A meal today. They ran out of trays so many ate out of bowls. We fared better then the 11B's out in the field. Not only did they run out of trays but also chow.

They say that AIT is suppose to be like a regular 8 to 4:30 job. Well it had gotten to be a 4:30 to 8 job and worse for some. From what I hear from letters from guys at other post they say they never heard of such doings as has been happening here in the past few weeks. We may get passes this weekend but most guys will sleep off Saturday and Sunday morning.

Anyhow tomorrow night is escape and evasion. Guys will probably get lost. There will probably be less goofing off at night hours back at the base as a result of this week.

Friday we get helicopter rides. Some of the 11 B got rides today.

As far as the latest rumors go they will take 3-22 1-22 and maybe 2-22 to Vietnam by an unknown date. Probably August. We will definitely know this if they give us a 2 week leave on short notice. The 1 and 12th left today.

Will take lots of pictures of Roy Rodeo. I will go down with Sergeant Moore. May go by bike Saturday and take a few pictures of some more farms and homesteads. I get paid Saturday and also collect. Will close now,

Ron

Friday April 29th #18

Dear Mom and Dad,

Although yesterday didn't end up 36 hours next Monday is. That will be a company field problem including long hikes on guard all night. attacks etc. and lousy meals.

Yesterday started out as little going on except we had some bayonet practice. In the afternoon we went to the west end for our escape and evasion. this was an area of swamp, woods, hills, and open area, about 5 miles long and two miles wide. We start from a 2 mile front and travel through heavy brush and woods at night.

We were lucky to start in the evening so we had some daylight for the first few miles. Our group of 4 double timed over a hill into the brush as soon as the truck stopped. the other groups stuck by the truck too long. As soon as we were over the hill a jeep load of aggressors attacked the other group and took some prisoners. We continued on at a quiet walk for 400 yards then took a bearing and headed for our objective, which was a paved road. there are several dirt roads along the way. But we stayed away from them and open areas as they were patrolled. The large plain had a radar unit set up. The aggressors were dressed up in green beret uniforms and dressed to look like north Vietnamese army men. They had a prison made up of wire. Any person they captured got questioned and tortured in order to try to make them talk. Some of the tortures were double time, push-ups, yelling, static electric shocks, green snakes, lock one up in a wall locker and bang on it etc.

We were not seen by aggressors, but we had to be careful and move quietly when we crossed a dirt road or large open area. There were three places we hid as others went by. We went around some small swamps and through wind falls of trees, logs and brush. Some groups hit a huge swamp and went through waist deep water to avoid going around a long way. and possibly being attacked. Near the end of the course we hit a long downhill stretch then up a slope. On this slope were huge Douglas fir trees with trunks 8 to 12 feet in diameter. They were almost as big as Sequoia's much bigger then Hartwick Pines biggest tree. We started at 7:30, at 11:30 we finally reached the paved road which was the safe zone. We then went two miles and reached the center point at 12:30. We were the third group in out of 50 that went.

We got to bed at 2 am. They let us sleep till 11 am today. Some groups didn't find their way out till 9am today. Those that didn't make it by 5:30 am have to run it again tonight. Also those that got caught and didn't escape by 5:30 take it again.

Today I got ready for guard inspection. So I got guard duty tonight.

Got a letter from home telling of the bad weather. As far as weather here it snowed Monday a little but other wise has been cool. I had a few guys asking me where I got my bike and maybe some will get one. When I have to leave here I may take it along or sell it or ever just give it away. It would cost too much to ship it home.

Tomorrow is pay day. So I collect from the borrowers.

Ron

#17 Sat April 30th

Dear Mom and Dad,,

Today I finished guard duty. I got out of the PT test by getting off at 8am and playing evasive in the barracks to avoid the 1st Sergeant until 10am. We then got paid at 10am. I got \$82. after expenses were taken out.

Got my pass at 12 noon after chow. Got the bike out the hard way and took off. Also went over to the rodeo arena. They have the steers there for tomorrow.

Sunday went to Roy Rodeo. Ed Shell took Sgt. Moores car and I took the bike, put it in the trunk and went to Roy.

The rodeo lasted all afternoon. They had roping events in which all the kids 12 and under lined up on one side then charged the calves, roped them, took off a ribbon from the tail and took it to the judges. Another event was the cloverleaf barrel races. This was like 4 hrs. event. There was 2 events of calf riding and bull riding. They were yearling bull and the kids were 14, also there was an event for 14 yr. old girl bull riding. Got some pictures there. I went down to the fence for the bronc riding.

Got some very good pictures of this. Some as close as 10 ft. I hope they're not blurred. Got a good close one of a pick-up. Got one of a guy as the horse came charging for the fence. He went by and the rider went plop right next to the fence. Some of the horses just bucked, others really got mad. There will be a professional rodeo June 4-5.

I'm officially a PVT E2. Everybody is, figure that out? I got E2 pay this month as well. I bought my dinner and supper out at Roy.

Well tomorrow is a 36 hour day. It will be a long hike, tactical meals, night defense and attack withdraw hike again. All in 36 hours, the rest of the week is easier and passes next week. Will close now

Ron

Tuesday May 3 # 19

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just finished the 36 hour day. It started out as a 8 mile hike with heavy gear, sleeping bags and the 90 mm. All during the way we were hit by aggressors. Otherwise It was a long hot march. I figure it out on the map as about 8 miles, We then set up a defense , had chow, then walked on additional 3 miles and attacked aggressors. We then dug in on a hill for the night. We were attacked at midnight. It was a very cold night, on top of it we were all wet from sweating. We used our sleeping bags to keep warm. In the morning we pulled out and chased aggressors for 4 miles until noon. Then we walked 2 miles and attacked the hill again. Finally we started the 8 mile back and already tired.

Wednesday half of the company was on sick call for sore feet.

Got a letter today you wrote Monday. The battery finally gave up . I will get one at main post. Get me that tire pump. They don't have any small ones here. Got the Rodeo pictures. I have 3 very good close-ups of bucking horses. They are blurred but that's because of the action. the rest are very good, I will make copies to sent home to keep.

Well I came back from training today and found all the beds upset. Seems though the LT didn't like them.

As far as the hike goes the company commander rode most of the way. Only 2 LTs walked all the way. One had blistered feet on sick call. So did some Sergeants. So the first Sergeant can't just call it a little walk as we had a fast hot pace and he rode anyway.

Will close now,

Ron

Thursday May 5 #20 Money order included.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Today was nice out, the temperature reached 80. Now it is cooling off and going to storm.

Today we practice riot control formations. Then one group formed a mob while another went through the formations to break it up. The mob group had sticks and stuff and tried to break through. Some did as the scrapers were on the bayonets but with bare bayonets it can't be done.

I saw next weeks schedule. It is the worst yet. there will be 3 days bibwac and 8 mile hike with 72 hours between then 7 hrs. of sleep. So that will really tire everyone out except the candyasses *out of physical condition* of headquarters and company commander and first Sergeant. Those few will have a 7:30 to 16:30 instead of a 0001 to 2400 day.

We leave at 5am on the march. to top it off after we get back at 0001 Friday morning we got to get prepared for inspection Saturday morning.

Made up a large package to sent home. It has 3 giant pine cones, some rags for rugs, plastic spoons and stuff from c rations. plus a complete C rations with all the original {YICK} goodies. You can eat it. It was packed in 1962.

Friday, It was wet miserable and pouring rain today. We went to the pistol range to qualify in pistol marksmanship. We walked 4 miles down there. It wasn't too bad of a walk. Got back at noon.

Got 2 letters , Stuff is really getting green around here. The trees have blossoms and leaves are out almost full., that crazy plant is getting leaves and is loaded with yellow flowers. My pictures to send home should be here tomorrow. They were one number behind for arriving processed today.

I mailed a package today. It is full of goodies including 3 giant pine cones, C rations. a pants for rags, my magazines and others.

Will close now.

Ron

Saturday May 7 #21

Dear Mom and Dad,

Today was the graduation from AIT. My future is to stay with the 2-22 for the entire 2 years. As far as I know up till August 6, the unit will stay here. From August 6 on we could stay here or be shipped out as a combat ready unit. As chances are we stay here until then.

Our schedule for the next 8 weeks include 100 hours at night or an average of 3 days a week in the field. a 52 hour week work day.

There is a big party today. We had a picnic lunch at noon today. There is also 4 kegs of beer and for today only everyone is 21. The LT. and even the Coronal was there. So everyone is getting loaded. the guys are using all kinds of containers even coffee cans and canteen cups.

Here is what the O.D. didn't see, up in one sergeants room. They have a beer party every weekend. It is usually quiet and I sometimes go in and talk to this Sergeant and the other guys. Well I stayed away from there last night. They smuggled up a keg of beer as well as some hard liquor and had a wild party. That went on till 2 am. Xxxxx came out of there stoned drunk. It is too bad I didn't have flashbulbs but one guy got pictures of how silly he was. His mind was really scrambled. He kept calling Zackory, Murry and he thought I was Roy. Boy did we have a good laugh. We finally got him in bed at midnight. He was in my bed and though he was on the top bunk and looking down at the floor though it was the bottom one with me in it. So it was a wild night but no fights. We even gave Xxxxxxx a piece of chicken loaded with hot sauce. We told him it *was a nice girl* and he said it was real boney. He didn't realize it had hot sauce on it. He woke up today and couldn't remember anything last night. *Drunk beyond all reason.*

The military map is better than a county map and has buildings marked and elevations marked, also all rivers, roads farms etc.

It is nice again today with the temperature in the 60's The party started again today. Another Keg half full was smuggled up. *The first one was tossed out of the window.* But it is empty now and there is beer spilled on the floor and it looks like a disaster area. It is quiet up there now.

I'll go ahead and mention this. You have probably heard about this in magazines about pay for play. *Prostitutes*. A lot of this does go on in the bars in Tacoma from what I hear. Well one guy found out how dangerous it is and got infected with a disease that I don't know the name of but he is really hurting. He is confined to the base. I think the guys are going to be careful about what they do in Tacoma at night as a result of this. It is hard to cure. So this poor kid is in misery every time he had to go to the latrine.

We go on a 3 day field maneuver this week. I will take my camera along and get pictures of it. So that is all that is new now. Will send a letter Monday night.

Ron



Monday the 9th #22

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well tomorrow starts the 3 days out in the field. At 6 pm the PX had sold almost all candy, cookies and all gum. I bought 5 cans of fruit cocktail to take along. Guys bought all kinds of beans, potted meat and canned meat, even packages of sandwiches.

We will have to get up at 2:30 am, eat at 3 am and leave at 4:30 am. We will come back Thursday noon instead of Friday morning as there is a Parade Friday afternoon.

Today was doing mostly odds and ends and getting ready for the outing.

Got my copies back. Instead of being better they are a little over exposed. I am putting all my pictures in a photo album. If you ever need film let me know.

My magazine came today along with a letter mailed Saturday night from home.

It was quiet last night and the guys came back then went to bed. I guess they had it in the wild parties Saturday night.

I will take my camera along tomorrow. We will be near the compass course. maybe I'll see those horses if we don't scare them off with or blanks and tracks. Last time I was near there I saw some range steers.

Will close not and mail a letter Thursday or Friday.

Ron

#23 Wed. 11

Dear Mom and Dad,

We had a schedule change. There is a parade Friday and inspection Saturday. So for some off reason we came in at noon today instead of midnight tomorrow. We rode in on tracks. It was the dustiest ride I ever had. Anyone who stuck his head out was covered with dirt. The tracks were refueled then we cleaned them and washed them. This didn't take long. We came back here at 3 pm and cleaned ourselves and equipment.

Another mark on the side to Vietnam. All the 90mm have been taken away from A company. We no longer have them. Right now we have no real assigned job. We will possibly operate more machine guns. No one knows why they were taken away from us.

Yesterday was the start of the field problems. Only Company A seems to get up at 2:30 am and then goof off around and waste time till 7:30 to start our march. It was 7 1/2 miles and much better terrain. We were less tired at it's end. We had C rations after setting up defense. I borrowed a small canned heat can and made a small stove out of the large C rations can. I works quite well and saves fuel by allowing it to burn slow, only it heats up food fast. I had a ham and lima beans. It would have been sickening if it was cold. We had some attack maneuvers with blanks on a hill. Had A rations for supper.

I picked up ammo for one machine gun. The weapon squad set up defense positions for the night. I had 400 rounds hooked up on one belt. When We were attacked I found out the 1st 100 rounds were no good and the weapons malfunctioned. We got rid of the bad 100 rounds. There was a long cold wait for the next attack. We knew where the aggressors were when they got near because the forward observer would spot them and tell us.

The aggressors were the rest of our men on patrol. One group got lost in the dark and didn't find their way till dawn.

We were attacked at midnight. The machine gun jammed again but then got the good ammo and we fired 200 rounds in 30 seconds. The blank adaptor turned red hot.

We got 5 hr. sleep last night. Had a very lousy burnt breakfast. It was cooked by our mess hall out in the field. We then had more attacks and defense. One last attack the machine gun crew I was with had the only machine gun still working. The others had broke down because of dirt and lack of oil. We had oil with us. Still the blanks make a lot of mess. We were supposed to get only 200 rounds for the position. I managed to find 200 more left by careless personal. I fired the machine gun on the last attack. Shot up 400 rounds in a minute. The weapon became so full of dirt it would slow down then speed up.

Got a letter today from home. I took pictures out in the field and while on the APC's Seems though weapons squad is goofed up again. I go KP tomorrow. Half the squad had KP and guard today.

Here are 3 pictures. They were taken by Sweeney when he came back from Mt. Rainier. One is with the snow on the ground in the morning. The mountain pictures look like they are near Glacier Park. Will close now.

Ron

Saturday May 14 #24

Dear Mom and Dad

I would have written Friday but I have been so busy that I didn't have time. Got only 6 hours sleep last night and 6 Thursday night. Also through the week 7 1/2 Wed. 4 Tuesday, 5 Monday, and 7 1/2 Sunday. So you see how far behind on sleep I got this week.

The guys had a late supper Thursday, So I didn't get done from KP till 9 pm. Friday was parade for AIT graduation. I believe they forgot about it as they changed the schedule while we were in the field. Today was a full field inspection. I put my bike outside on a chain and soon as it was over brought it in.

The inspection was shortened for 2 reasons. First the company commander got cold in the short sleeve khaki uniform as it was 42 out and windy. Second they moved head quarters platoon out of the bay downstairs. As a result the weapon squad lost its small bay. I got a good deal out of this. I'm in a 3 man room with 2 others that like sleep. I also have my bike in here. The 3 of us are going to fix up a lock on the door to keep other guys out during off hours.

In answer to your questions

As far as that city life, I don't like it at all. Some guys took pictures of their party in a rented room. They had some wild pictures. They also had plenty of booze. There has been a few broken wrists and arms from fights in Tacoma.

I read the army newspaper. We may go to the Olympic forest in the near future for jungle training. They don't know but as far as I can see I might as well prepare for Vietnam. Our LT tells us we may luck out and not go there but we might as well assume that we are going.

Caught up on Z's last night. Went to bed at 7 and didn't get up till 8 today.

I don't know if I told you or not but when I was on battalion cleanup I saw a well detailed map of Yakima firing center. According to the elevation some of the hills rise 2000 feet in a concave curve from the creek valley.

I will close now. I haven't seen the schedule yet. Just saw the schedule. It is like last weeks and the same area.

Ron

#25 Monday the 16th

Dear Mom and Dad Grandma and Grandpa.

Well tomorrow is the 3 day field problem. I got 5 cans of fruit cocktail and an extra c ration to take along. I also bought 2 very small cans of Sterno {canned heat} I take a c rations can, cut slots in it, set the canned heat inside and I have a miniature stove that I can throw away.

I guess I've been buying lots of goodies lately, its probably the set of clothes and the bike that did it, but I got \$40 left for 2 more weeks, Well I've only spent a little over \$20 in 2 weeks. I forgot what I sent home. Its going to be a big laugh Memorial Day week end. There will be a 3 day pass before payday, which means everybody will be broke.

I got my heavy pack ready for tomorrow. I am assigned to a machine gun crew. The 4th division took all the 90s from all its units.

Saw something very odd for around here yesterday. A guy from the 1st and 12th walked in the PX dressed in cowboy coat, pants, boots and felt hat. Boy did he look out of place.

I am taking my camera again tomorrow to take pictures of the next problem. I will have on taken of me loaded down with a machine gun and ammo.

It is certainly nice and quiet in this room.

Could you get me a Bendex 2 speed for my bike here. I have the tools to put it on except for a spoke wrench. and I'll pay for the thing. Also send a bicycle horn with it. I can get it registered with a horn. I haven't registered it yet. The instructions just recommended to get one registered.

That's all that is new, will close now,

Ron

Friday 20th #26

Dear Mom and Dad

My bike has a flat tire. I found a small piece of glass in the rear tire. Tomorrow I will try to temporarily patch it with OG tape and find a pump to put air in it. That should hold until the package arrives. The supply room has a air pump but no attachment for the standard nozzle.

The field problem started at 8 am Tuesday. We marched on foot with full gear for 10 miles. We then set up camp. The 3rd platoon was the aggressors for the night. We hollered all kinds of harassment at them. One they must have taken serious which was "what's the matter GI you cold, crawl in sleeping bag, nice and warm there" As when they did that they fell asleep. At midnight we made a full scale attack. Before this some of our troops infiltrated in between the lines and even took weapons from some positions. We then went to bed. It was 1 am and the frost was on the ground.

I got hold of some good binoculars and took a mountain picture through them. It should come out real good as it was evening and there was a lot of color on the mountain caused by the sunset. We did formations with the APC all morning. In the afternoon we did more ambushes. We sat around till 1 pm and then took a 2 mile hike through woods so black at times you couldn't see anything in front of you. Some one stopped and there was some bumping. We were on the 2 rut road and you felt with your feet where the road was. At 1 am we set up camp and went to bed. We slept till 10 am, stayed there till noon and took off in the APC for maneuvers. I rode assistant machine gunner in the lead track. It was a very rough ride across country. The track gives a smooth but very rolling ride like a boat going over huge waves. One bump sent everybody flying. I was standing in the cargo hatch and the machine gunner, the TC and I just about got flung out The driver was going slow.

We rode the tracks back. It was dusty and we wore gas masks to keep out dust. Here are some pictures. Will close

Ron

PS Got 2 letters through the week from home.

Sunday May 22 #27

Dear Mom, Dad,

Got some pictures back that I loaned out. They came back by mail.

Today I got up at 8:30 am. after chow I took off on my bike

I may get a new map some day. If I do I'll send the old one home of Tacoma South.

My package came Saturday. The tire pump doesn't work. The attachment does not seal tight enough and the pump won't build up much pressure. The rest of the kit is good. You have spare links and valve and patching. I put a patch on it before the package got here. It is OG tape and is holding up good. I took the bike to the gas station to get air. The banana bread is good. The bike bag works very good. I can carry my maps and tools in it.

Guess What? I am getting a military license to drive an APC. Monday. I sent the application in yesterday. I was picked out to be an extra driver. The present drivers are also getting license tomorrow. So maybe instead of marching I will drive a track.

Ron

Wednesday #28

Dear Mom, Dad,

Got 2 letters through the week from home.

. Here are some pictures. One was an experiment. I used a binocular, I put it firmly against the tree to take the picture. One I took in the day was in good focus but blurred from some wiggling. this on is in the evening.

Monday morning I went to the license testing area, while the other guys took a 10 mile forced march. I got some Z's while waiting to come back to the company. They sent me out to area 20P at noon on the supply truck. We had helicopter training in the HUID Huey helicopter. they are jet powered and carry 12. I had my camera along . The helicopter flew over some land I traveled on by bike once. I took 16 pictures about 12 are taken inside and most are looking at ranches on the ground. The mountains really looks close from 300 feet off the ground. Saw some horses on one farm from the air. We had chow out in the field. The new cook makes good coffee now. So me and a few other guys filled our canteens up with coffee before it was dumped. We had a night attack. Didn't get here till 12:30. Had 4 hours of sleep Monday night.

Tuesday We got everything cleaned and prepared for a big inspector general inspection. Got to bed at 10 pm and got up at 4:30.

We were inspected in fatigue uniform, the Colonel that inspected us asked questions about different things. He was good natured and went on like a conversation from one guy to another. The barracks were inspected in the afternoon. The Colonel also checked the kitchen, supply room and the motor pool. Today was warm. It got near 80. Until today it had been quite cool but clear and no chance of rain. I hope it is a nice weekend.

One kid bought a Honda with the 120 cc twin motor. It cost him \$400 for the bike and insurance. Will close now.

Ron

PS I'm going to need a 6 volt battery soon for the radio. You will find out slide developing is much cheaper \$1.40 here.

PS You can keep all the pictures in the envelope, I have copies of ones I want in the letter.

Friday 29th letter

Dear Mom and Dad;

I

After the IG inspection we went out on field problem again. It was a 10 mile hike. In the evening we moved to a different area in the tracks. At 11 pm we moved out to attack Bravo company on foot. We crossed the creek 4 times and got soaked to our knees. Lt. Flick got his wet. He didn't sleep out afterwards, We spent a cold night with wet pants and feet, at 4 am Bravo attacked us. Got up at 8:30. We walked 6 miles then rode track back here. The 80 guys that came out have 3 day passes. The 100 that some way stayed here are catching all the guard, KP and detail for the 3 day weekend.

Here are some pictures including 3 taken Monday from the helicopter. Don't forget to sent some back soon. I have an album to put them in.

I'm going to have to sent my watch in for repairs. Some dirt in it is causing it to quit running when ever I am riding the APC.

I been asked 5 times for a loan of a five today. Several offered to give me seven back Tuesday.

So a lot of guys are going to have a broke weekend. Well it is 9:30 now and I will close

Ron



Sunday #30

Dear Mom and Dad

I had KP yesterday. Still I got off early enough to make a trip *off the base*.

Today I got up at 8:30 am. Had breakfast and went to church.

After chow I took off again.

I will go to the rodeo next week June 4,5. I hope it is good weekend and I will get a pass before I go.

The road system here is sure funny. there is no pattern like there is at home. Sure they run N, S, E, W. but they are set on a random pattern of distances from each corner.

MAP HERE

This is the area I traveled in the weekend. As you can see the roads are a mess and one can get lost without a map. Also the roads are numbered or named after people and town combinations except for Avenues.

Monday I went to Roy today.

Sergeant Moore was going to take some guys to Roy today. He never left the base. The points burned out in his car.

Well the Rodeo is next week, I got a roll of film already for that. This is a professional one. Will close now,

Ron

The 31st of May. #31

Dear Mom and Dad,

Today I got Division guard. I am guarding 4 division ammo dump. Other guys are guarding the division motor pool, the pay office and special weapon center. They sit up in the watch tower at special weapon center. Pluff and I take turns sitting in the guard house and walking around the storage tanks. From material left in the guard house for the past 20 years the big tanks were originally for moth balling large supplies of weapon. They have since been unsealed and doors installed so are now used for Div. ammo storage.

This is late as I didn't have time to finish and mail it. WaterBufflo, the first Sergeant, sent us in the field as soon as we came off of guard. I did find time to take my watch down to get it repaired.

It was the most miserable field trip I ever had. The temperature averaged 40-50 and it rained. When we went on Patrols we removed wet weather gear. So we all got soaked. The boots got ruined. Thursday night we had four groups of patrol. The group I was in knew more about what we were going to do than the others. I was compass man. The company commander gave us the toughest route. It was as thick as the jungle and 2000 meters long in the night.

We got right in the area we were heading for. When we came back we were the only patrol that had all the information about the objective. All objectives had fires, ours had the smallest.

I got stuck on guard Saturday. We had 3 hour shifts.

Went to Roy rodeo today. it lasted 3 hours. They had 2 events you never heard of. There is wild cow milking. The cowboy ropes the cow, the way he would in a calf riding, then his helper holds the cows head while he tries to get a few drops of milk in a coke bottle. Then he runs to the judges area. You see why a cowboy drinks his coffee black.

The other event is wild horse racing. There were 6 entries. The horses are wild range 2 yr. old not even halter broke. The halter is on a long rope. 3 guys make up a race team. The horses are let out. One guy holds his head by the ear and a nose while the other 2 saddle it up. Then one gets on and tries to ride it between 2 judges at the other end. It is a regular mad house. Those guys had 3 horses tripped up. One reared up and was tripped down , one tripped himself in his panic. 4 got saddled. 2 guys were bucked off. No bucking straps or spurs in this event. One of the saddles came loose, Two managed to ride their mounts between the judges only because the helper scared the horse that way. Took 3 pictures of that event.

Today, Monday, is the 4th division Holiday. I got a package after I called home. I'll try to get a Bendex here if I can. Got the horn, pump and spoke wrench. Got the letter with 4 pictures Saturday, mailed Friday. I will go shopping in Spanaway this afternoon and. Will be back here by 6 pm. Will close now.

Ron

PS today's temp is to be near 80 You can keep the unmarked pictures. New Zip code is 98433

Friday June 10th #32

Dear Mom and Dad;

Got back from the field problem. We had no tracks but rode 2 1/2 part of the way. There was a field test of which 3rd platoon did the best in the company. After that it was a foot march to our assembly area. I was lead man for the company, when we took a compass course. I took an estimated bearing. It was only 150 meters off. The company made a night attach on a position. Our platoon and the second did good. The first really mess it up and make Flick Fiery mad.

For the first time there was 50% security. I had no sleeping bag and froze. So I was keeping half the platoon awake. The company commander checked security. You could hear him screaming at the other platoons.

Wednesday morning the 3rd platoon set up ambush for the rest of the company. Half of us got captured, 4 of us hid in heavy brush and was missed. In the afternoon the company moved to a new position. 1 AM at night I led part of the company back to the old area.

Thursday we visited a mock Vietnam mine hamlet. It was several grass huts with barbed fence and punji sticks all around. All the huts had escape tunnels and there were camouflage entrances all around the tunnels. We crawled through several tunnels of various sizes. There were underground rooms. We walked back. Only got 5 hours sleep in 2 days.

Got my rodeo pictures and back yesterday. They are good and cost a total of \$9.40. Will close now as it is bedtime.

Ron

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June 12 Sunday. #33

Dear Mom and Dad;

Got a pass. Everybody got one except the squad leaders and a few others who had to GI the place for leaving it a mess.

Got up today at 8:30 ate a lousy breakfast. After I cleaned up and called home I went back to bed till noon. After chow I took off.

Will close now and try to write tomorrow.

Ron

no 34 Monday June 13th

Dear Mom and Dad,

Got a letter today mailed Saturday.

I lucked out for the field problem of tomorrow, 30 hours of stay awake. I got KP duty tomorrow. Still I get up at 3 AM to get in the kitchen.

Our APC got new radios. They are the 265 with a 25 mile range and 600 different channels. Another weights on Vietnam side. We got the PRC 25s. It is a more compact transistorized plastic case radio with 200 different channels. It is easy to operate as it is unnecessary to calibrate frequencies. One just turns to the one he wants.

Oh yes guys are broke already. I have \$60 left. I'll send some before payday just in case I buy some cowboy boots.

You can hold on to the pictures for a while so you can show them around if you want.

Do you remember the crazy plant I sent you home? Well now it has leaves like clover. lots of yellow flowers too. Its name is Scotchbroom. *A noxious weed* and came from Scotland. It took over the Washington country side.

Here are some more pictures. Will close now.

Ron