

Wednesday - 5 March 69 - Camp Eagle

Tonight I sang with the Division Combo again. I sang the "Draft Dodgers Rag" for them and they went wild. The M. C. was very sharp and introduced me as Chaplain "Speed." That gassed everybody.

Thursday - 6 March 69 - Delta Company in the jungle

This afternoon Delta Company sat down in our outdoor theatre to enjoy a USO show. The show started at 1630. At 1645 the show was stopped and the men were ordered to run to their tents, get all their gear and form up for a Combat Assault. I went along. Four Chinooks took off at 1715. We all wondered if the LZ would be hot. When you are taking Chinooks in, the LZ is usually cold and this one was cold.

I was in the first bird and we were on the ground at 1730. The whole company was deployed on the ground at 1745. Four Cobras circled.

We were sent out to look for two helicopters which had been shot down. We walked until dark, then ate and slept in the jungle.

Somebody else ate the steak dinner that was cooking for Delta Company.

Third Sunday in Lent - 9 March 69 - Camp Eagle

Preaching theme -- my second weapon to defeat the Devil with is the Ten Commandments. As a soldier in a combat zone I have an especially good chance to strive for the sainthood God made me for, using the Ten Commandments as a guide.

- 1) I must depend on the Lord and on my commanders. Sometimes I don't understand what is going on. But I know that the Lord does. I need to depend on Him.
- 2) I must not confuse God with the equipment of religion. I have to worship, sleep, eat, and soldier in the open air. Usually I don't even have a chapel.
- 3) I can use about any kind of language I want to. When I speak of any of God's holy names, I must mean them.
- 4) I get little rest and no day is holy.
- 5) I can re-evaluate all my vocations as a man -- I am a son, husband, father, brother.
- 6) I must sort out the difference between murder and killing in war.
- 7) I can be faithful.
- 8) I can keep my own equipment in top shape.
- 9) I must tell the truth, even when it hurts. If I lie, I will never again be trusted.
- 10) I must not wish I were somewhere else or had another job. I must do the job I have with all my power.

Friday - 28 March 69 - Camp Eagle

Today at Eagle International Airport (General Zais' Helipad) General Abrams presented to our battalion a Citation and Battle Streamer for an action engaged in in June of 1967. The men wore starched and pressed jungle fatigues, spit-shined jungle boots, and brand new web gear. General Abrams, in his remarks, said that as he trooped the line with LTC Dyke, every soldier he passed looked him "right in the eye."

Saturday - 29 March 69 - Camp Eagle

Today here in Viet Nam we heard of the death of General Eisenhower. I recall those pictures of him encouraging Screaming Eagles the day before they jumped into Normandy. I see pairs of flags, American and South Vietnamese together, bowed at half staff in silent tribute to a president, to a general, to a soldier.

I recall the cartoon -- one cross talking to another in Arlington.  
"Here he comes."