

Wednesday - 9 July 69 - In the Jungle with Bravo Company

At about 0630 this morning I was finishing my morning cup of coffee before moving out. There was an explosion about 15 meters from me and everybody got down next to the ground. A mortar round hit squarely in the middle of the "flag" section of our company. It killed three and wounded 22 men. I didn't get a scratch. I helped the injured as best I could -- I wrapped up the company commander's leg. It is the first time I have literally got the blood of my own men on my hands.

Thursday - 10 July 69 - In the Jungle with Bravo Company

When talking about things on the radio, we use the first letter of their names in the phonetic alphabet. For example, tango (trail), romeo (radio), Charlie rats (C-rations). This morning we called for 50 gallons of whisky (water).

Friday - 18 July 69 - Kona

Lorraine and I called on the mother of a soldier who had been killed in action in Viet Nam, serving in 1/502.

Lorraine and Larry and I drove over to Kona and spent the night in the Kona Inn.

Saturday - 19 July 69 - Hilo

We drove back from Kona to Hilo by way of the Volcano Road. We stopped for a bit by the ocean and some people were making cones of flavored ice. They gave Larry one.

Seventh Sunday after Trinity - 20 July 69 - Hilo

Today I celebrated the Holy Communion at the local parish church with my family present. This was the first time my mother had ever been present when I was celebrating Holy Communion.

Today men landed on the Moon!

Monday - 21 July 69 - Hilo

The last day of R and R. Already our time together is a memory. I have new confidence as I return to Viet Nam. R and R is the greatest invention since the wheel!

Today is National Moon Day. Today I have 101 days left in my year in Viet Nam.