26 Feb. 69

Dear Gary,

I got a letter from you this morning. We've been out in the middle of the rice paddys for 6 days now. The going has really been rough. The temp. here is 100° F in the shade. And there is no shade out in the rice paddys! No trees - so we use our ponchos to make leantoos for shade. I'm sleeping up on a grave! It's high enough where the water doesn't reach it. They bury their dead standing up - its their religion - so they make big mounds of dirt because the bodys waist is at the level ground so half the body is up out of the ground and the other half is in the earth.

I've seen a guy get blown to pieces. He sat down on a mine. We found a piece of his leg and

an eye and one finger. The rest of the body was in millions of little pieces. It's really sickening. The boy was 18 and has been in V.N. for 8 days.

I wish I could get you a map but they don't sell any over here I won't be able to get any maps until I go back to Da Nang a few months from now.

I'm getting all your letters and all of moms but I'm not getting all of Cindys letters. I think somebody is getting my mail and reading it.

I'm sorry I didn't get you some money for your birthday. I didn't get paid.

The airtracks just brought us in some more water and supplies. We've been without water and chow for two days. Would you believe that I've lost 25 lbs already?

It sounds to me like you like the girls who's always busy. I wish you luck with you and your girlfriends. I don't have to worry about that anymore. I've found my girl. You'll find yours soon too. Who ever she is... she's waiting just for you. That girl that you described in your letter sounds real good.

I got shot at with an AK47 automatic weapon. It's better than my M-16. I was kneeling on the edge of a huge bomb crater waiting a head call at 5:30 A.M. when all of a sudden, crack, crack, crack, I rolled over and down to my fox hole 6 feet away and grabbed my rifle. I sure was scared. The bullets went over my head by about a foot. They were a little off to the left of me too. So how's that for another close one?

Please keep praying about getting to be a lay leader. I haven't been given the chance to see a chaplain yet. But when I do I hope I can get it.

Everything has been getting real bad here in Nam now. Four ~~four~~ days straight now they've mortared and rocketed Saigon, Da Nang, Phu Loi, An Hoa, etc... It's been really bad. We've been on this operation 6 days now and already we have 15 dead and 18 wounded.

This heat has got me. I feel so terrible. I've got a terrible headache, sun burn, heat exhaustion, weather overexposed and dead tired. I wish I'd get sicker so they'd take me out of this place so I can get some rest.

Well I don't have much news so I'll close this letter

and try to get it mailed.
Thanks for that Scripture.

Your Brother,
Larry

P.S.

How does it feel to be twenty? I went swimming in a river for my Birthday. What did you do?

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FREE

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