

20 Nov 67

Hi Billy;

I was real pleased to get your letter. It was real nice of you to take the time & write.

It is nice that you had a good time at the halloween party. I hope that you did real well tricks & treating.

I hope you are fine, as for me I'm just great. How could I be any other way, when I only have a few weeks before I get home.

Well I'll be signing off for now. Take care of yourself.

Your Pal  
Joe McWilliams

26 Nov 67

Ki Billy:

Well it was real nice to get your letter. I hope everything is just great with you. I'm just swell, since I'll probably be in USA within 2 weeks.

I do hope you had a fine thanksgiving and fully enjoyed the holiday.

I really don't know if I'll be able to come to your school.

Well I'll be ending this for now.

Your friend  
Joe McWilliams

22 March 1968

Dear Billy,

I'm very happy to be writing to you. That will give me a chance to let you know how we are doing here Vietnam.

Well, Billy first I will introduce myself to you and give you a somewhat description of myself, and my job here.

Do you already know my nickname is "Mosquito". I gained that name because no one can pronounce my real name, which is Joseph P. Meskinitis. The P. stands for Peter.

My home in the United States is in Wisconsin, ~~the~~ small town of Coleman, it is located about 40 miles north of Green Bay.

I was not born there. I'm originally from Germany.

I came to your (which is now  
also my) beautiful and great  
country in 1959.

I went to school in  
Wisconsin and graduated from  
Coleman High School, in 1963.

After the summer of '63 I  
joined the Army to go to  
school and learn a profession.

I want to be an interpre-  
ter. I also studied at  
the University of Munich in  
Germany for 2 years. That  
was while I served in the  
Army, from 1964 to 1966.

Now I'm here in Vietnam  
after spending 1 year at Fort  
Dix. I suppose you know  
where it is, since you live  
in New Jersey.

Here I'm a squad leader  
I have 4 men in my squad  
at this time and one is on  
leave. I'm a sergeant in the  
platoon. It's a matter of fact  
I have not been here to long

I arrived in Vietnam on the 28 of Dec. Which will be 3 month ago. I have 9 more months to serve here and return to the other side of the Pacific Ocean to Wisconsin.

Today we have been climbing mountains and cutting our way through the jungle.

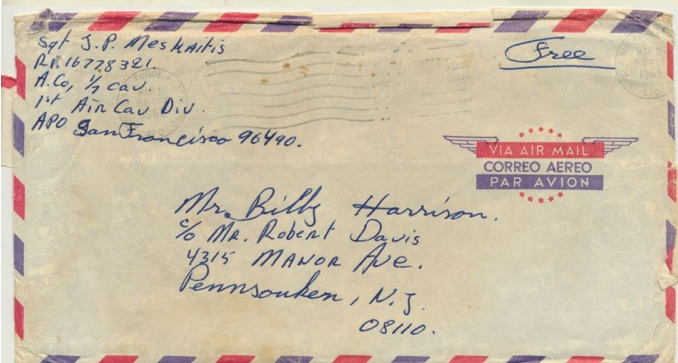
Somehow in the U.S. the mountains are beautiful but still in the winter you can go skiing in certain parts of them, or in the spring take a walk through the forest that grows on the mountain slopes. But here in Vietnam the mountains are off the east coast of the Pacific Ocean, and quite a ways in land. In the day time the sun is very hot and it makes the underbrush of the jungle very humid and sticky. In the evening the

sun goes away and that is the time to get a roof over your head, because it will rain. Usually it is hard Thunder showers and it rains for 1 to 2 hours and the clouds disappear till next day.

Well Billy one of these days I'll send you a picture of me and my squad members, in the jungle. This way you will have a chance to see what it looks like. It is very much like on TV, except I have not seen any Tigers or Elephants yet.

Well Billy I'll close for Today, wishing you and your classmates good health. I'll write soon.

Distant Friend  
Joe. (Mosquito)





28 march 1968

Dear Billy,

How did you like  
the 1st Cavalry Patches?  
I'm stuck in the  
mountains, but lucky  
we did not have  
to walk up, the  
Helicopters help us out  
today. We were air lifted  
on the top of one hill  
and we are going to  
set up camp here for  
tonight.

I received a letter  
from my brother Pete.  
He tells me "Duke" helped  
himself to one of the



chickens on the farm.  
Well like the goings  
is, don't let the dog  
loose or wrotte back.

Well Billy actually  
there isn't too much  
to write about but  
to a friend like you  
I'll think of something  
to say even if it's  
just Hello.

Today exatelly I have  
9 months left here  
in Viet Nam. It is  
a wonder how fast time  
passes.

OK. Billy take good  
care of yourself.

Your friend  
Joe: (mosquito)

28 March 1968  
Camp EVANS. (L.Z)

Dear Billy,

I hope that you are feeling fine and that the New Jersey weather is not too cold for you. How is the weather there?

Billy today I'm sending you two unit patches we ~~not~~ wear on our uniform. They are for you to keep.

I'm a while I'll be able to send you a picture of me on a slide, somehow I can't get film for my camera. So it will take a while.

You mentioned in your letter the dog you have.

Well on the farm I live on in Wisconsin, I have a dog. He is a pointer. His name is "Duke". I call him Duke because ever since he was a puppy he would never get out of the way for no one that walked on the path or drive way. I guess he is just a proud dog. I also have another dog a German shepherd I call "Rex" he is our watch dog.

I hope to send you a  
souvenir from here if  
I find something different.  
So this way you will have  
something to remember me  
by.

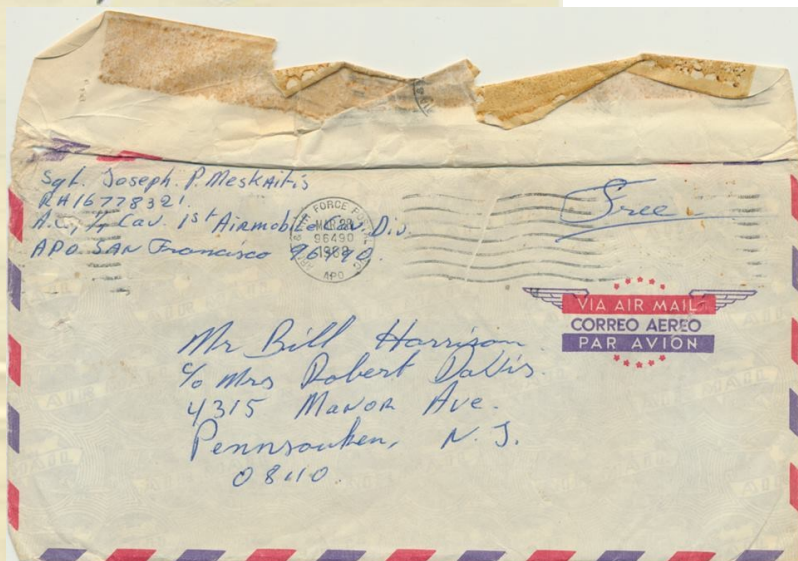
Tomorrow we are going back  
into the mountains. I tell  
you every time I think of  
those hills I just get tired  
just sitting here writing about  
the mountains.

Well Billy I'll write  
again soon. Take care of  
yourself and keep up your  
studying in school.

Say hello to your friends  
in school for me.

Your Friend.

Joe (Mosquito).



7 April 1968

Dear Billy,

I thank you very much for the mustard, ketchup, sugar, Orange mix, tea and the peanuts you send me.

The mustard and ketchup make my C. Rations taste better.

I also received your two pictures you send me. I'll try to get some made in the near future and send them to you. At this time I don't have any handy. (over)

I have some Vietnamese  
money, I'm sending you  
a 20 cent piece here and  
when I get some more  
different ones, I'll let  
you have them too.

Well Billy thank  
you again for the  
things you send me.

Take good care of your-  
self and study hard in  
school.

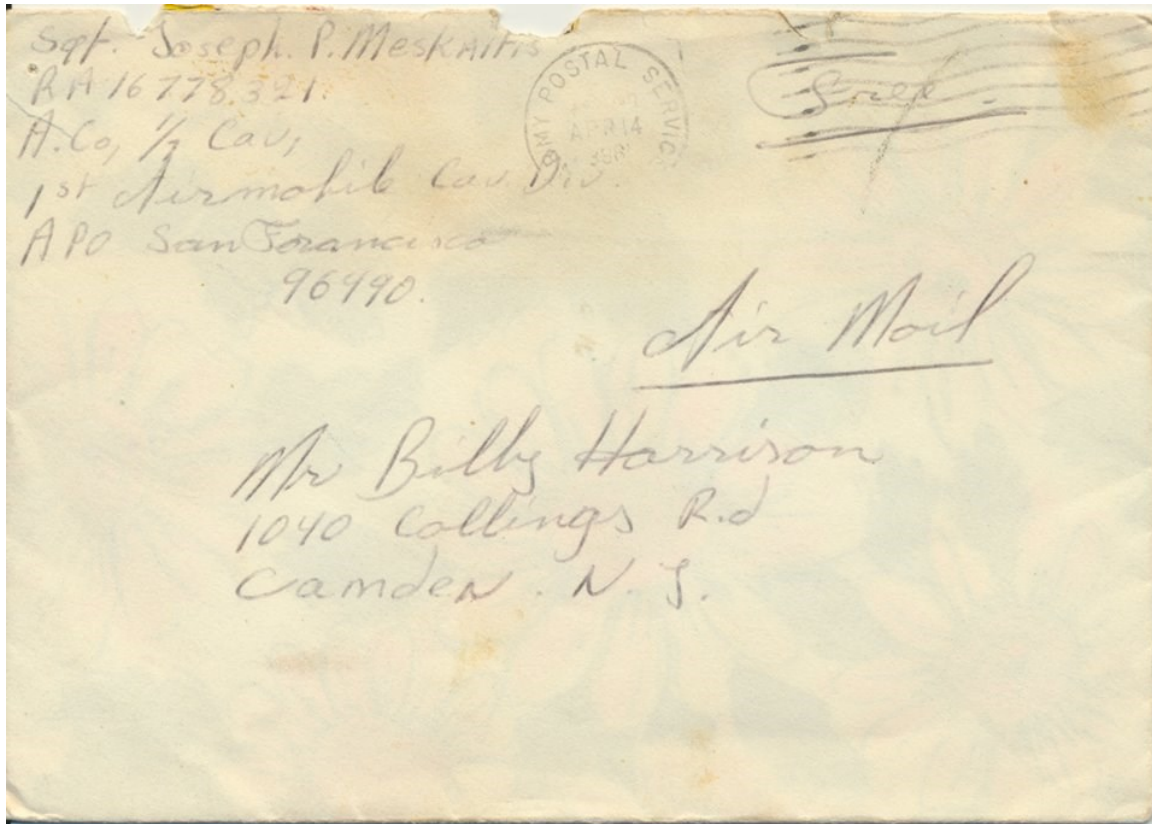
Your  
Distant  
Pat.

P.S.  
My address  
is on the  
envelope.

Mosquito,



Mr. Billy Harrison  
1040 Collings Rd  
Camden, New Jersey



Mr Billy Harrison  
1040 Collings Rd  
Camden, N. J.

9 April 68

Dear Billy,

While visiting my husband in Hawaii last week he showed me the letter you sent him during the Christmas holidays.

Bob has wanted to answer your letter but when he did get time to write he sent his letters to me & our son Bobby Jr. In fact we only hear from him maybe once a week or more.

Bob carried your letter & picture all over Viet Nam w/ him till he met me for his R & R of 7 days.

I just want you to know he thinks of you & all your classmates. Its a wonderful thing you children did for our

men & they really enjoyed the  
kindness you youngsters did to  
make their time more pleasant.

What other things do you do  
besides roller skating? Am sure you  
a wonderful young man & I hope  
you have much happiness all your  
life to come.

God Bless you now &  
forever & may he watch over  
you & be with all your friends  
& family,

Truly,

Mrs. Robert S. Zead

& son Bobby Jr.



18 April 1968

Hi,

It's me again. I've been trying to think of something to send you, and so far my mind is blank and all I got out of thinking was a headache. So Billy if there is any thing special you want let me know, and will see if I can get a hold of it. Okay. I was thinking of sending you a small Viet gift. But I don't

think that would be possible.

The cookies we received from you were ~~so~~ great. ~~The~~ Tell your mother she is a good baker. I thank you for them. The peanuts I passed them around to everyone, since I was the only one to get Peanuts. My men in the squad tell me, I'm getting spoiled by you, but I don't mind.

Today, the platoon sergeant tells me, we

are going to walk  
5 or 4 miles. Well I  
guess I'll go see the  
doctor and think off  
some excuse or tell  
him I'm off and I  
can't make it. No! not  
really. I don't really  
mind the walking, all  
I say to myself, one  
day gone, one less to  
go, and before I  
know it I'll be home.  
Well Billy I'll close  
for today and a good  
man.

Your Friend  
Mosquito.

29 April 1968.  
A-CHAU Valley  
Viet. Nam.

Dear Billy,

I hope that you will forgive for not writing for the last 2 weeks. But I did not have time for letters.

We are now at the or in the A-CHAU Valley.

The first 4 days were rough but we all made it good and safe.

We captured a lot of equipment, like

trucks and anti-aircraft  
guns. We expect to  
be here for the  
next couple of weeks.  
Today we are moving  
into the mountains  
from the valley so  
it won't be too much  
fun climbing hills.

If I come across  
some of the communist  
scoundrels the enemy means  
I'll send you a set  
for a souvenir.

Tell your classmates  
that I will try to  
get the rest of the  
men to write the first

change they get.

I have some more pictures coming in from the Tab, so I'll send you some.

Billy, did you ever collect stamps or do you have a collection?

I used to have one but I gave it to my step-brother "Peter" after I got in the Army.

If you do have one I'll send you some stamps from here.

If you don't have ~~an~~ a collection I could send them to you any way and you can do

Anything you ~~want~~  
want with them. Okay.

Well Billy I'll  
close for today.

Take good care of  
yourself and be  
good.

Your  
Distant  
friend.

Joe.

(Mosquito).

P.S. I lost your address  
so I wrote your Teacher.

17 May 1968  
L.Z. Jack.

Dear Billy,

I thank you very much for your package. It was quite a surprise I was not expecting it. My squad and I had a little feast on the food you send us. Again I thank you.

I received a letter from your grandfather and grandmother, I wrote them back.

Billy could you tell me when your Birthday



is?

You asked when I'll be home. I should be home by New Years I leave here on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December. I still have a little time to go, but time for me passes by. I manage to keep my self busy and occupied.

Well, with summer vacation around the corner, do you have any special thing that you will do or any certain place that you spend your vacation?

(3)

Tell Joane Hown that  
Roger is still in the  
hospital and I guess  
he does not want to  
come back out in the  
field. Has she been  
receiving any mail from  
him? Let me know okay.  
I'm getting to be  
clumsy. Here I am  
walking and climbing hills  
without hurting myself.  
Yesterday we came to  
Landing Zone Jack and  
it is flat ground,  
What do I do? I trip  
and fall in some barb  
wire, I went to see

the medic <sup>(4)</sup> and he gave  
me a shot with the needle.  
I think our medics  
and doctors here they must  
all be needle happy. I'm  
Okay now. I think  
the medic hurt me  
more than the bark wire  
did.

Well Billy I'll  
close my letter for  
today, wishing you  
and your class and  
of course we can't forget  
your nice school teacher  
Mrs Davis, a happy summer  
vacation, have fun, but  
take care of yourselves.

fun is fun but you  
also have to be cautious  
in everything you do.

So kids enjoy yourselves.

I'll write again

soon.

Your  
Friend  
Masquita,

22 May 1968

Dear Billy,

Here I sit  
Broken Hearted  
Trying To finish  
A letter

That I started.  
It always makes  
me feel good and  
puts me in a good  
mood when I write  
to you.

We are back in  
the mountains today  
but to my disappoint-  
ment, I find myself  
in the valley instead  
of a high mountain.

This morning we  
were flown to the

top of a hill. We were told that mill will stay there for tonight. Ferris got the shovel and dug the fox hole. And guess what? We had to take our tents apart and be ready to move in one half hour.

The birds (helicopters) came and picked us up and away we went. Down to the Valley about 6 miles.

I got a feeling if we were in the Valley to start with they would have told us, to walk up hill.

When we get some thing easy like get

off of a hill they  
fly us. Well I  
don't really mind  
flying any time  
even down hill.

If you want any  
thing special from  
here let me know  
and I'll see if  
I can get it, or  
buy it.

Well Billy  
I'll close for  
today. With my  
thanks to you  
your grand parents  
don't forget to give  
them my greetings  
and regards.

Don't try to run  
your good teacher  
wild for the last

couple of days. Even  
if I used to. But  
I never could get  
away with it. My  
teacher used to give  
me extra work, when  
I messed up. So  
be a good man  
and you will get  
along fine. Besides  
I don't think there  
is a better Teacher  
than Mrs Davis, is  
there?

I'll close for  
Today.

Greetings  
From  
Abroad.

Marquita.



RETURN TO ADDRESSEE WITHIN 5 DAYS

Sgt. S. P. Meskaitis.  
RA 16778321.

A. Co. 1/7 Cav. 1st Air Cav. Div.

ZIP CODE APO. S-F. 96490



Free



Mr. Billy Harrison  
1040 Collings Rd.  
Camden, N. J.



Sgt. S. P. Meskaitis  
RA 16778321.

A. Co. 1/7 Cav.  
1st Air Cav. Div.

APO. San Francisco.  
96490



Free

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Billy Harrison  
1040 Collings Rd.  
Camden, N. J.



Sgt. J.P. Meskaitis  
RA. 16778321.  
A.Co. 1/2 Cav.  
1st Air Cav. Div.  
APO. San Francisco  
96490.



Free

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Billy Harrison.  
% Mrs Robert Davis.  
4315 Manor Ave.  
Pennsauken, N.J.  
08110. U.S.A.

Sgt. J.P. Meskaitis  
RA 16778321.  
Aico. 1/2 cav. 1st Air Cav. Div  
APO. San Francisco.  
96490.



Free

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1040 Callings Rd.  
Camden, N.J.