

30 May 1968

Dear Billy,

I received your letter yesterday and I'm very happy to hear that Mrs Mappert is coming to visit you.

The flag is an item of great value and with a great story behind it.

St Mappert's flag has its history behind it. Donating this flag to the 4th class is a great honor, and I

and the whole 4th
platoon here, know
through your letters
that you children
will be proud to
have it.

The flag not only
does it represent a
great country, but
also a great man,
and a good leader
we had among us.

I only wish it could
be there at the
school on the day
Mrs Moppert comes.

Billy just remember
no matter what

people tell you, or
what ever you see,
or hear about your
country and the men
here helping us
to bring peace to
this country, The
United States is a
great country and
I hope that you
will grow up to
be proud of it.

I know I don't
have to hope.

Come this summer
I will write to
you and let you
know how we

are doing here.

In this letter
I'm sending your
class a donation
for the bracelet
your class is buying.

Give the check to
your teacher and
she will know what
to do with it.

I'll close
for today.

I'll write again.

Love
Your Pal,
Mosquito.

P.F.C. R. Mail
US 54970885
Co B 1st CAU
APO SF 96490

Free
JUL 11 1968
VIA AIR MAIL

Billy
1040 Collings Rd.
Camden N.J.

10 July 68.

Dear Billy

Sorry it has been so long since I have written to you. Everyone here got their presents from you and your friends. They sure are great.

We haven't been doing too much lately, just laying around getting fat. It was real hot today and I got a bad sunburn. It doesn't bother me too much though.

That's all for now, Billy. Take care and have a real nice summer vacation.

Your Pal
Robert

Dear Billy,

I received your letter today and I was glad to hear from you.

We have been having a break for the last couple of days.

I've really enjoyed it. We really reserved those couple of days of rest.

I've been pretty busy today, Sgt Bailey of our platoon

leader went to
see the dentists
so they make
me platoon sergeant
till he gets back.

Tomorrow we are
going back into
the jungle, about
8 miles from
A-Sham Valley.

I also received
a letter from your
grand-father a
couple of days ago.

How are you
doing with your
school exams, I
hope good.

I'll close
my letter for
today.

By the way
it is dark out-
side, but the
moon is out.

And I've been
writing this
letter in the
moon light.

Say hello to
your friends
in school for
me, don't forget
the teacher.

Your Friend
(Jal.
(Mosquito))

15 June 1968

Dear Billy,

I suppose you are having summer vacation now, I hope that you will enjoy your self.

I'm sending you a copy of the paper clipping I'm in. I don't have another one, so let your grand father read it too, Okay.

We are still in the mountains.

Yesterday we received

3 packages for the
4th platoon from you
and your friends.

I thank you very
much for the gifts,
the cookies were delicious.

I'll close for today
and wishing you a
lot of fun during
the summer.

Your pal

Mosquito.

Sgt. J. P. Moskowitz.

RA 16728321.

A. Co. 17. Cav. 1st Air Cav Div

APO S-F. 96490.

Free
Air Mail.

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

U.S.A.

22 June 1968

Dear Billy,

I'm back in the field out in these Hills, just south of the DMZ. I have been in the rear for a week and a half. Some how I got hurt, but I'm okay now.

I hope that you received your pin I send you and the news clipping. If you did not get it let me know. OKAY.

Next week on the 30th of June I'll be going to Hawaii for a 7 day rest. I need it too. I'll send you a post card from there, while I'm in Honolulu. I'll be in

~~the~~ Hawaii till the
10th of July. I'm glad
to be spending the
holidays there.

Sometime in August
I'll be going before
a board of examinations
of the Officers Candidate
School. I hope I make
it. If I do I'll get
out off Viet Nam in
October or November, then
I'll go to Fort Benning
Georgia, to school.

Well Billy that is
all of the news for
this side of the world.
I hope that you are
enjoying your summer
vacation.

Well Billy I'll close
for today and be
carefull of everything
you do.

Your Pal.
Morquito

Dear Billy,

Well I'm back with
my unit again.

I just spent 7 nice
days in Hawaii on rest and
recuperation.

I thank you for the
nice package you send me,
I really appreciate everything
you're doing to keep my head
up and keep on going, but
as long there are Boys and
girls like you and your
class, I don't think we
could let you down.



Tomorrow I'm
going to take
my examination
and see if I can
**I'M SURE LEARNING A SWELL
TRADE IN THE SERVICE,...
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT TOO SURE
HOW MUCH CALL THERE
IS FOR TWO-SEATER
LATRINES IN CIVILIAN LIFE!**

qualify for Officers Academy.

I'll let you in on every-
thing that I will be
doing for the next couple
of weeks.

I hope you do fine in
your swimming lessons, I
learned to swim the hard
way, in the stream.

Well Billy I'll
be here for today, I'll
write soon again.

And I thank you again
for the package.

Your friend
Moskito -



**I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU
HEARD THAT EXPRESSION
SOLDIER, BUT IN MY MESS
HALL, IT'S CALLED CHIPPED
BEEF ON TOAST!**

19 Aug 68

Dear Billy;

I hope that you are not angry at me for not writing for awhile. But between working in the field and studying for my exams I've been pretty busy, but still I should have written you, so actually there is no excuse.

I'm O'Keefe right now and I only have one more test to take and I'll know if I qualify to be an officer.

We are working out in
the sands, which is
the flat grounds of
Viet-Nam and next to
the Ocean, maybe you
have heard of the
Gulf of Tonkin That is
the North eastern part of
Nam.

Today I lost my pack.
for the first time
we could send our
packs on the helicopter
to our next position
and of all the packs mine
had to fall out. So we
will try to find it. But
here it's just like loo-
king for a needle in a
hay stack.

My picture I took on
R-R and A-Sham Volley
where in the pocket, they were
all slides. I sure hope
I find them, because I
had your pictures in it
and the ones I was going
to send you and your
grand Parents. By the
way could you give me
your Grand Parent's address
because I lost the one
I had. I tell you one
of these days I'm going
to get lost if it don't hang
on to my self.

Well Billy that is
all for today.

P.S.
Give
your
Parents
my regards.

Your Sistant,
Eunice Joe

29 Oct 1968

Dear Billy,

I sure hope that you forgive me for not writing for such a long time. But I have been very busy for the last couple of weeks.

I've been taking my exams for OCS and I also received a promotion to Staff Sergeant.

I'm back with the company out in the field. On 4th of November we are going to move south near Daigon on a new operation.

So I suppose we will be working in the rubber plantations near the

Cambodian Border. The
Whole Division is moving
there with us.

In about 60 days I
should be home, back
in the States.

I sure will be glad
to get there and get
a good feel of the winter.

Well Billy I'll
close for today and
I hope that you are
fine and doing okay
in school. If there is
anything special you want
for Christmas let me
know and I'll see
what I can do for you.

Your friend
Joe (Mastita)

18 Nov. 1968

Dear Billy,

I received your letter yesterday, and am very happy to hear from you.

I'm sending you a couple of Pictures from here. They were taken in Tây-Ninh-West Near the Cambodian border.

I should be home for New Years.

Don't forget to send me your new address if you move. Okay. and I'll try to write a little more often.

Other wise everything is okay here and I'm

getting a pretty good
sunbath.

Don't forget to give
your grand Parent my
best regards and I'll
try to get a letter out
heading their way.

I'll write again soon.

Your friend
Joe.

P.S. Don't mind my
writing, I'm still sleepy.

Dear Billy,

With all the nice things you have done for me here, in Viet Nam,

I'm sending you this fraternity pin.

I hope that through our future communication we will become closer friends.

I hope that you will wear this pin with pride.

Because I and all the men in the 4th platoon are very

proud of you and
your classmates.

We were afraid
that the pin would
not get here before
school closes for
the summer. But
I guess we made
it.

I'll close for
today. Wishing
you and your friends
a nice summer
vacation.

Your Friend
Mosquito.

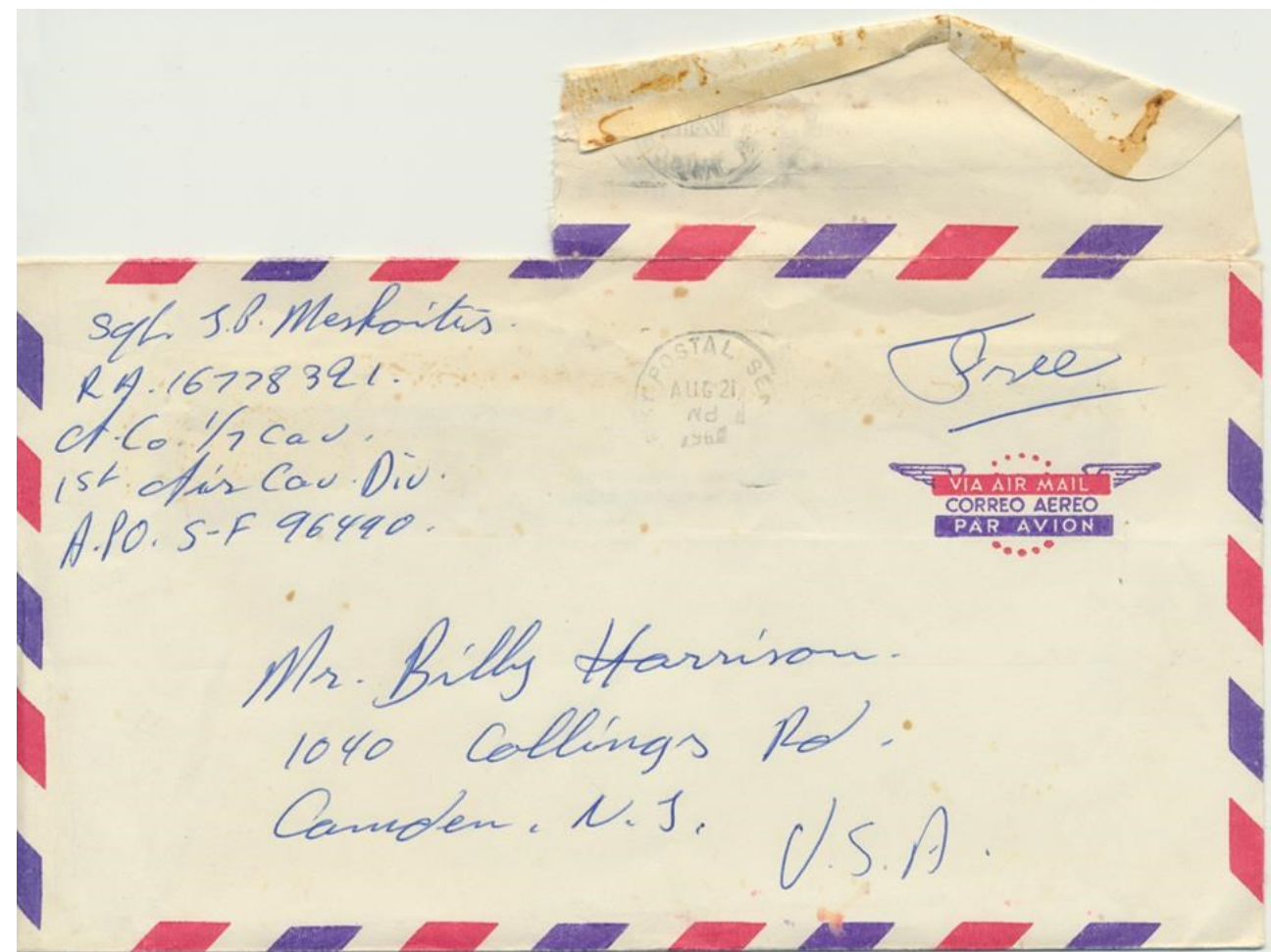
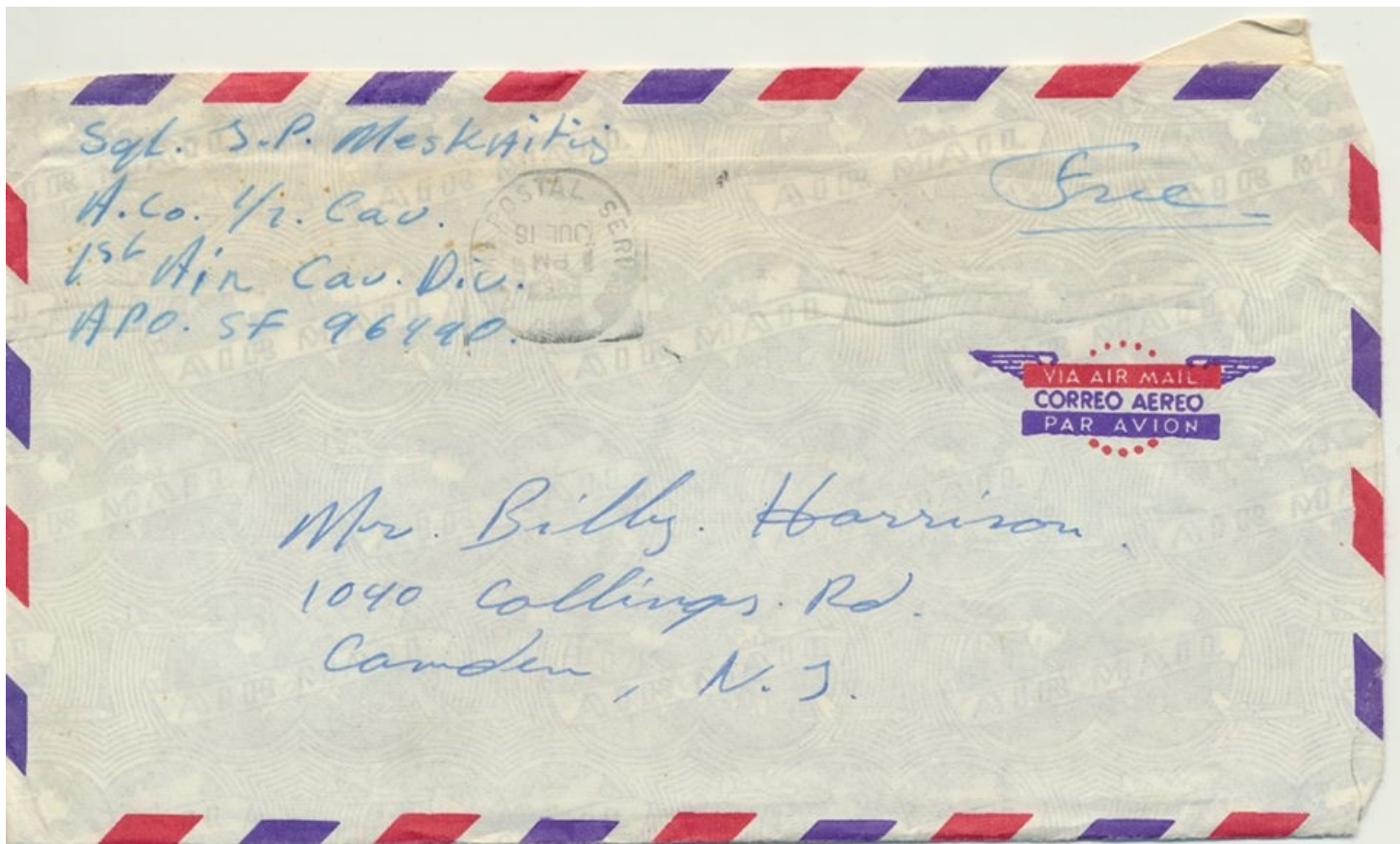
Dear Billy

My name is Robert but
I don't think I'm the same
one you were writing to before.

I hope that we can write to
each other just the same, okay?
I live in Bloomfield Hills,
Michigan, about three miles
from Pontiac. That's where
they make Pontiac cars. I'm
twenty-one years old and have
been in Vietnam for almost three
months. I'll be glad to get home
to my family and friends and be
able to go to movies and go ice
skating like you do. That's all
for now so take care of yourself.
Please tell me your last name.
your pal,
Robert

Billy

1040 COLLINGS Rd.
CAMDEN, N.J.



Sgt. S.P. Meskaitis.
A. Co. 1st Bn. 7th Cav.
1st Air Cav. Div.
APO. S.F. 96490.

Free
HAND STAMP
AIR MAIL

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

SSG Joseph P. Meskaitis
RA-16778321.
A. Co. 7th Cav.
1st Air Cav. Div.
APO. S.F. 96490.

Free.

Harrison
Mr. Billi ~~Collings~~
1040 Collings Rd.
Camden. N.J.
U.S.A.

VIA AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO
PAR AVION

French Speaking Skytrooper Aids Viet Villager In Huge Cache Find

By SP5 MIKE LARSON

Cavalry Staff Writer

CAMP EVANS—During the 1st Air Cavalry Division's part in the Battle of Hue, Sergeant Joseph P. Meskaitis, Coleman, Wisc., was a pretty handy guy to have around.

Meskaitis was working with the 1st Cav's 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, sweeping through Thon La Chu, a tough pocket of enemy resistance five kilometers northwest of Hue. Two battalions of U.S. troops had been stopped here by an unknown number of well-armed, well-dug-in NVA soldiers, but now the Cavalrymen had broken through and were clearing the

hamlet.

Suddenly, near the southern end of the hamlet, a villager came running toward the Americans, his wife right behind him.

"He's lucky he didn't get shot," said Meskaitis, "because we had been getting plenty of enemy fire, and we knew the NVA were still around." The man began talking to the soldiers, but they couldn't understand him, until someone thought he was speaking French and called for Meskaitis.

Meskaitis, who occasionally wears a black beret in the field, lived in France 11 years before coming to the United States. He speaks fluent French.

"The man had fought here in

1942, with the French," Meskaitis said. "He had learned French in school, but spoke very good, high class French. He told me he had been captured during the Tet holidays and had been used by the NVA to carry ammunition. When I asked him if he could show us the ammunition dump, he painted it out on our map."

Going to the location, 1/7th found a huge weapons cache: 13 RPDs, one M-60 machine gun, one M-16 rifle, 100 new gas masks, 150 pounds of AK-47 ammunition, a complete 60mm mortar, seven AK-47 rifles, four SKS rifles, six 82mm mortar rounds, and a motorcycle.

"He told us that an entire NVA Regiment, nearly 1,000 men, had been here four days before," Meskaitis continued. "He showed us their escape routes. He also said that the NVA perimeter guards never left their bunkers. Food, ammunition, and water were carried right to them. And when the big force moved out, they had left this man behind."

The Frenchman, a medic with the French Army and now a doctor, sifted through medicines at a deserted NVA infirmary, explaining their use to Meskaitis. "We had one man with a form of jungle rot. The Frenchman picked up a bottle, nodded toward the man and said it was that. He poured some on his own hand to show that it didn't hurt, then he put some on our man. That afternoon the jungle rot was gone."

Viet Cong, the man said, had entered the hamlet as civilians, then guided the NVA as they moved in to take over. They had kept many young men and women to help carry ammunition.

Meskaitis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dimitri Zubko Coleman, studied French and German at Coleman High School. When he served in Germany, he taught German at Merrel Barracks German Language School, in Nuremberg. He also has studied Russian but he's still somewhat disappointed: "I can read and write it pretty well, but I can't speak it fluently yet."