410 Selkirk Ave

Selkirk, MB R1A 0G7

December 10, 1965

Dear mom,

I hope all is well at home. It has been really hard adapting to the conditions we have been put into. War is not all bad. It definitely has its pros and cons. Fortunately I really haven't been hurt physically, but have absolutely been hurt mentally.

It's been hard waking up in the morning. I'm not use to these hot, humid, sticky, Asian jungle mornings, compared to a crisp, cold, Minnesota mornings. I honestly think I might have chronic back pain from humping all of our gear through the Vietnamese jungles, (just letting you know humping means to carry.) To be honest I’ve developed bravery and courage throughout the battle and experiences I have been through. The hardest things I’ve experienced is witnessing two of my platoon members being brutally killed. One was shot in the head after walking back from taking a pee, and the other one stepped on a rigged 105 round and was blown up.

I have a question Mom. Are there still lots of people rioting and protesting about, the war’s draft card? I’m going to be honest I haven't told you that before going to the war I was planning on running to Canada because I couldn't wrap my head around taking another person's life. I didn't run though, because I feel that if I had chosen to run away, I would be a dissapointment to not only the country but also to you guys, especially dad. The only things he can ever talk about are medals and honors. I would love to hear your opinion on all of this. Try to write back soon!

Love,

Tim

Work cited

O’Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried.* Houghton Mifflin, 1990

Ty Johnson

EN30SC

December, 19, 2020