


873 Broadway  
2nd floor south  
New York, New York 10003  
March 10, 1969

TO ALL BRANCHES

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we received from Irene Ashley about her husband Ray. Ray is a member of the Seattle branch of the SWP and the Seattle local of the YSA.

Comradely,

  
Jack Barnes  
Organization Secretary

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(Mrs.) Irene Ashley  
2033 E. 25th  
Vancouver 12, B.C.

Tuesday, March 4, 1969

Lew Jones  
% SWP N.O.

Dear Lew:

Last night I received the following telegram from the U.S. Army. Ray has been seriously wounded. The telegram reads:

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR HUSBAND, SPECIALIST RAYMOND E. ASHLEY WAS PLACED ON THE VERY SERIOUSLY ILL LIST IN VIETNAM ON 1 MARCH 1969 AS A RESULT OF MULTIPLE FRAGMENT WOUNDS TO THE BACK AND TO THE HEAD, WITH PENETRATING FRAGMENT WOUNDS TO THE BRAIN. EXTENT OF BRAIN DAMAGE IS UNDETERMINED AT THIS TIME. HE WAS IN COMBAT OPERATION WHEN ENGAGED HOSTILE FORCE IN FIREFIGHT. IN THE JUDGEMENT OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN HIS CONDITION IS OF SUCH SEVERITY THAT THERE IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT THE BEST MEDICAL FACILITIES AND DOCTORS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE AND THAT EVERY MEASURE IS BEING TAKEN TO AID HIM. YOU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HIS CONDITION. HE IS HOSPITALIZED IN VIETNAM. ADDRESS MAIL TO HIM AT THE HOSPITAL MAIL SECTION APO, SAN FRANCISCO 96381. HE WAS WOUNDED ON 28th FEBRUARY.

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. ARMY

His address then is: Specialist 4th Class  
Raymond E. Ashley  
U.S. 56961417  
CO "C" - 3rd ABN BN - 506th Infantry  
1st BDE - 101st Airborne Division  
HOSPITAL MAIL SECTION  
APO - San Francisco 96381

I have informed Seattle of his condition and today received a solidarity message from the Seattle YSA. Our friends here in the LSA and YS have sent greetings to Ray.

My telephone number is: (406) 876-9351.

Today I received letters from Ray written just before his injuries. He reports receiving the Militants; that most of the guys liked the paper; and that they have heard stories about Presidio and about demonstrations in Vietnam.

I will write about this later.

Warmest comradely greetings,

s/Irene Ashley