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(83) (1)

5 June

5 June 67
6:00 PM

Hi Kay,

This makes the 5th attempt at writing in the last 3 days - very busy way into the night lately. Right now am sitting in a Cessna (that's an airplane) taxiing out to runway - about to take off for Dak Pek. Yes, I finally got to go! Dak Pek is an A camp, Special Forces with 800 CIDG (Mike force) and between 10,000 - 20,000 Montagnards. The Special Forces asked me to go up to check on the people, do whatever has to be done, etc. Will be up there about 7 wk. Have three tremendous men with me. Roy Worthington I think you already know - S/sgt - works hard, not afraid to take responsibility or command, good sense, also an expert marksman, a medic number one. John Watson AIC - a new man, smarter than hell. Has learned all the Jarai words I know, has memorized the dictionary we have here - is a lab tech - also knows how to work - is going to med school when his air force tour is over. Larry Dalton - here we go up & away!

Well, we're up here now and the scenery is beautiful - unfortunately I forgot my camera so can't take pictures of it.

We just went over Plei Borel (my hometown) and the others. Would have liked to get a picture of it to give to Ton - Y/O.

Anyway, Dalton is an ex-paratrooper with the 101st Division - switched to the Air Force as a medic and was waiting away until we found him. Seems like a good man - keeps his mouth shut and works to point of exhaustion for me.

And we've been working since we got back - sorry this is so choppy but we're running into weather up here. Will continue this - hell I'll continue this now - choppiness or no.

It has rained steadily since last Thursday nite & maybe 5-10 minute ~~set~~ breaks every now & then. We just took off in pouring rain and are flying in & out of clouds now. The monsoon is here and it's every thing they said it would be.

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Our mission is called "Operation pig pen" in honor of me - am usually dirtier than hell - mud all the time - even now. Our plane really stinks because we have 2 pigs on board with us plus a bunch of wet rice and grain. Also we don't ~~so~~ smell so hot either.

Got shot down last nite at the officer's club - Greek & I did the dancing ~~for~~ bit. I'm told I also got in a fight (me!!) with a young giant of a 1st Lt. who made the comment we ~~looked~~ looked like a bunch of fairies out dancing. I don't know who won but I've got a sore hand and nose. Haven't the faintest idea who the guy is or if either one of us landed a blow. Sounds like a pushing-type fight to me. I'll have to pick my opponents a little better from now on.

Have been waiting most of the day for our plane - started to write 4 other times but got interrupted each time.

You should see your young hero in

my "go to hell" Aussie type hat, my
M-16, .38, 2 canteens, ammo pouches,
and field pack. If I stand in mud
I'm afraid I'll just sink into the
ground.

I'm missing the scenery - will continue
later. Love you.

Now we're in clouds so will continue.
Never get over the thrill of flying - just
beautiful - if I wasn't so damn
undependable I'd learn to fly myself but
think that would be a great way to get
myself killed. Maybe someday....

Got so mad reading that letter from
that jerk that was in the paper that I didn't
even finish it. What the hell does he think
we're doing over here, playing monopoly? This
is war, damn it, and war is like they say -
HELL. Those villages are told not to harbor
V.C or we will have to shoot the shit
out of the village. It's either pick a our
side, or you get the same treatment the V.C

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get. Also the V.C has no compunction about doing the same thing - only they torture the people first. This is an ugly war but all war is ~~at~~ ugly and no damn good. Also we won't win it by shooting people in the long run. We'll win it when we get enough people like the Special Forces who go out & live with the people, give them protection - it's got to be on a man-to-man basis and will take lots of time. Also we will then have to convince the Yards somehow that they can't go it alone - must join with the Vietnamese to make this one country. The alternative is get swallowed up by the Communists - a worse alternative. Neither one is very good, as a matter of fact.

Have been giving out plague vaccine shots to Plei Brel, Plei Sor, Plei Phung, Plei Dal (a new one for me). Talking way into the nite with Lich & Ton, selling many cross bows and having a hell of a good time but no sleep at time to myself. It's been 3 or 4 in the morning since I got back from Saigon

and no end in sight. May get some rest
tonite I hope before starting out in the
morning. Think I'll catch some sleep
now if I can.

Love you

6 ~~June~~ June 67

Here I am again writing — we came
in under a dense cloud to a landing on
a dirt runway that can be best described
as a controlled crash. A great experience.

The people up here are really out in the booms
and were lined up on all sides and in the
hills here watching the plane come in. This is
~~there~~ their only contact with civilization so
every plane that comes in is an occasion.

It's beautiful here — unbelievably beautiful.

We're about 80 miles north-north west of Pleiku

— Dak Pek — an A-camp built on 7 or 8
hills with a river — Dak Pek ^{river} running between

them. Behind us and all around us are mountains

going up to 7000 - 8000 feet — mahogany

forests on all of them. We're about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles

from Laos to the west. Every thing is

5 Jan

built underground with concrete & wire mesh for ceilings and M-60's and mortars situated on all the hills to cover all the rest of the hills. The valley has been completely leveled of trees and this is a virtually impregnable fortress. The Special Forces really know how to do it.

We were received like messengers from heaven — especially the soap (thanks to you people) the 4 quart of booze, some canned goods and garettes and the Candy Mom sent me. My letters will be coming in fits and starts this week but will write every day any way. We are totally dependent on the planes coming in — sometimes this place is isolated for a week at a time because of the dense fog and now constant rain. We had to talk like lawyers to get up here last nite and lucked out by finding a hole in the clouds at the last minute — otherwise would have had to turn around and go back.

Wish you were here to experience this — a chance of a life time. There are about 10,000 people here living hand to mouth — no soap

could use a million bars of soap at least - already have a list 2 pages long of things to scrounge on the base when I get back. Things like newspapers, magazines, sugar, mayonnaise, ketchup, candles, clothes, shoes - things we take for granted in Pleiku - I'll start right away when I get back.

Something you're probably wondering about I'll talk about now. How safe am I? I'm safer here than we are in Pleiku. This place has not even had a serious probe in 9 mos - there is a triple guard out a nite and during the day. The Special Forces have a series of patrols with radio contact here where they seek out the V.C (actually north Vietnamese and VMC (Montagnard V.C). In other words we are constantly on the offensive here instead of Pleiku which is basically defensive. This is the way to fight the war.

Will write later again. May end up to be a very large letter indeed before I get this on a plane to Pleiku.

6 June 67
noon

Well, here we go again. My men and I looked over the dispensary this morning - saw a few sick people - one with TB that'll probably die, one with abscessed tooth with high fever, one with pneumonia and another with worms I guess. Much measles here among the old people and kids. We're going out at 2 PM to see some of the villages and see what we can do.

Am learning a new language slowly - it's Jch - quite a bit like Bahnar - these people are originated from Burma, India - small features and phy signs. Different from the Jarai - less muscular and not as ruddy looking.

The medics here seem fairly well trained - will wait and see how they perform out in the field. - Hope to let them do most of the actual work - will do mostly advising here I guess - we'll see?

Am very pleased with the order and discipline I've seen here so far - feel that

The Special Forces are doing one hell of a job - like I said before → the S.F. is winning this war - if there were 50,000 of them it would be all over. Am going to catch some sleep now - will talk to you later.

Feel very bad about not writing you very much last week - hope I didn't cause you too much pain - love you very much - you're the most precious thing I have - love you. talk to you later.

11³⁰ pm 6 June 67

Am writing by candlelight in my "room" - a concrete bunker under ground with the rats and mice and other animals. Will be turning in soon. Went out to two villages ~~at~~ down the Dak Poho (Poho River) - one was built on top of a 200 foot hill which I climbed to see it - very primitive - makes Plii Brel look like stateside. People very dirty but surprisingly healthy - I'm told the sick ones would prefer to use their own

6 June

Medicine men — come in when they have one foot in the grave. Worked almost not at all — the CIDG medics and the Vietnamese medics did all the work and I just stood around and gave advice when needed. They also handed out all the clothes and toys. A good time was had by all — came to respect the Vietnamese here — they work hard (also steal quite a bit) but actually get with the program and work with the people. Much different than around Pleiku where I can't get them to do a damn thing. Went to an even more primitive village after coming back and loading up again — no order at all — the yards were grabbing for clothes, pushing and shoving and in general carrying on like I've come to expect the Vietnamese to do. Maybe very poor — I don't know. Looked over their garden and they had luscious corn, mountain dry rice, cucumbers, squash and all kinds of things — again did not seem to be too sick — except for measles, ear infections and a few assorted coughs, etc. Gave out clothes and toys here too. The S.F. has a

much different approach to these people
than I'm accustomed to - will discuss
later. Hope to get this on a plane tomorrow
so you won't think I've gone out and
deserted you.

Love you very much sweetie.

Goodnite for now

Talk to you in the morning

Love,

Dan

(84) (1)

8 June

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Dak Lek RVN

Team House

12 ³⁰ PM

Hi Kay,

Would you believe I'm standing guard
with Ray Worthington - M-16, .38 and the
whole 9 yards. Mommy never told me I'd
be doing this

Had a good day today - worked the
dispensary today - saw about 40 very sick
Montagnards - almost every one had pneumonia
and ear infections and measles - one kid was
dehydrated - mostly children but a few
adults.

This afternoon went out to the boonies
to a village but our trucks got stuck - had
a CIDG force with us - settled for the
village near where we got stuck - saw 370
people (we count them here) - not much sickness
but a good time was had by all. - gave out
a case of toys and two 100# bundles of
clothes - just like Christmas. The people
here are unbelievably dirty and poor - live
in lousy huts partially dug into the ground
- thatched roofs that leak all the time -
and it rains here constantly.

Had to laugh - before we went out

This afternoon - a Caribou came in with two pilots and a full colonel from 7th Air Force to check the safety of the "runway" here - guess he decided it wasn't safe - any way I was introduced to him and given the job of showing these guys around. Have two new sets of fatigues and didn't get a chance to sew on my name, rank or branch of service. After a while he asked who I was - when he found out I am a doctor in the Air Force his mouth dropped open - explained I was up here & on my "R+R" for a week - me and my three medics. He damned near died. Couldn't wait to get out of her. Downed his coffee in about $\frac{1}{2}$ minute and didi'ed out as fast as he could to his air plane - didn't even wait to meet the commander here. (1st Lt. ^{Ed} Meszaros is the guy - he was out on patrol - picked up 4 Chien Hoi's - Montagnards - who had walked for 6 days over these mountains to give themselves up - actually ^{Ed} got back just as they were getting on the plane but they weren't about to stay here any longer than

8 June

they had to.

Am getting lots of sleep and really relaxing up here. None of the mickey mouse like at the base in Pleiku. Work is at a minimum here and I'm my own boss again for the first time since getting in the Air Force over one year ago. Plan my own activity but usually am back in camp by 6 PM - have 3 good carpenters with me who work like hell (and also are glad to be up here where the air is free after the same mickey mouse at the dispensary) - the yards and Vietnamese here do most of our work for us and I'm the big f-ing consultant if my carpenters can't figure out the problem - got my first taste of ~~the~~ the jungle that's all around us today - don't like it. More damned bugs than you can imagine. Right now have an entomologist's collection on my Aussie hat and am constantly knocking them off my pad to write this thing. Am writing by Coleman lantern - am getting to be an expert with these things. No electricity after midnite as I mentioned

before. Got Roy to take some more slides today - may be we'll get a few good ones yet.

Am very sorry for the long delay in writing, Sweetie. Hope you'll forgive me and try to understand - one thing after another has come up the last week and I simply run out of gas about 12³⁰ - 1⁰⁰ lately - must be getting old. Got a letter out on the Caribou today that should get to you soon - will send this when another plane comes in.

We're going to take another walk around the perimeter and check the guards now - 9-hour but not on the hour. No sweat - not ~~an~~ even a probe in the last 6 mos. Will talk to you later on.

2⁰⁰
2 AM

Well, now that we've made the rounds for the third time and Roy's shift is over, mine has started. Looks like he'll stay up with me for awhile. Ed will find this hard to believe but this is my first time pulling

8 June

guard duty — but I have one up on him — this is under combat conditions at a special forces camp $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Laos. You should see the assortment of bugs and insects crawling over me and the table and paper — a few familiar ones like moths and praying mantis but most are really odd looking — only one has bitten me so far but they keep getting down my fatigues — by golly there's a grasshopper! — just like stateside! There's a moth-butterfly here that's fallen in love with page 2 on the back side and has been sitting there since 1⁰⁰ (it's 2³⁰ pm now).

We have a Montagnard companion here that switches like we do, ^{every two hours} and leads us out on our patrol of the perimeter here. He's sitting over in the shadows to my left — gives me a big grin when I look over there. This one went out with us today as part of our "Mike force" and worked like a Trojan cutting up logs with his machete, pushing and pulling our vehicle out of the muck. A good troupe — don't know his name. He's Jek I think. A critcher

just bombed my hat - first one I've seen in
Việt Nam - he's a dead crotch now. Roy just
did him in.

If I keep pulling this guard duty will maybe
be able to catch up on my letter writing.

Jack Rudy has written me 5 letters I haven't
answered - think I'll stop this conversation
and write him the news.

Love you very much sweetie. Hope things
are going well for you. Will get my
letters when I get back to Pleiku and catch
up on all the news.

Love you, talk to you soon again

Dan

(85) (1)

10 June

10 June 67

12⁴⁰ PM

Saturday morning

Dak Lek, RVN

Hi Kay,

Almost the end of a very interesting week. Have been talking most of the evening to a man by the name of Pat Cohen - a linguistic expert who has already spent 3 years with the Jch and plans to spend the rest of his life here. Very interesting to speak with - his opinions about our war here, the montagnards - especially the Jch, the history of these people and how the war evolved -

10 June 67
8³⁰ PM

- As you see, it's harder than hell to write a letter here - much too much to do. Just finished with the last 10 patients 15 minutes ago - a family with malaria - one girl with cerebral malaria - comatose, irritable, damn near dead. We found them in one of the villages today - scared to death - guess they thought the evil spirits had them for sure.

Sgt Phillips, the number one S.F. medic ~~works~~ here takes care of these 12,000 yards without any

help, talks their language and is worshipped
in return by all these people — has only
a medical training plus the green beret training
and "can do" attitude and runs this
outfit like a Tom Dooly. Has taught
me many tricks he's found out the hard
way — we've been having a ball passing
our knowledge and tricks back and forth.
He's a ^{colored} ~~colored~~ boy from New York who has
re-upped for another 6 mos here. He's going
out with us tomorrow to the C Camp in
Pleiku — on his way to the states for a
30 day leave and then back here again.
A good man. Would like to see some of the
Southern boys who have such a case on the
Negro do half the things this boy has done.

Even did some physical today on 22
recruits from the Jeth — amazingly good health
— better even than the recruits we get from
the hills of Tennessee. And they're all solid
muscle with backs on them like stevedores.
Big smiles on all of them — they really turn
me on.

Have had a very good time here in spite of

10 June

the fact I'm out of my element here - don't know the language, no personal friends here, etc. This is Phillips' country and have let him carry the ball all the way. Told him when he gets down to my country, I'll run the show. Miss the people at Plic Brel and other villages - will be glad to see them again. Have many stories to tell them about my journey into "V.C. country." As time goes on will tell you many stories about this week - right now it's all too new and strange for me to have any well thought out observations. Have many mental pictures and Roy has taken beaucoup pictures. Amazing experiences, good company, late hour bull sessions like right now (there are 9 of us sitting around the only two tables in the camp - shooting the shit while the rain comes pouring down), relating surroundings separate from the ~~the~~ Mickey mouse at Plicker. Here we work hard but no pressure - we're our own bosses. If we want to show up 15 min late - who cares - it's our show. We just work later into the night.

Tomorrow we go back to Pleiku if an airplane can make it in. No plane today, it ground all night and all day and now - the clouds hang on the mountain tops surrounding this valley and a plane wouldn't dare come in through the clouds for fear of running into one of these peaks. The landing as I mentioned before is something else again. - a dirt runway - about 1,600 ft. - needs very good control to land here.

This letter as all my letters lately is being interrupted by the conversation around me. John Watson and I talked about medical school and the requirements take into the night last night along with all the problems of the world. Heard last night that the Jaraili kicked the shit out of the Arabs - wonder if it's true - we're sort of isolated as I mentioned before - only outside contact is by airplane and walkie talkie to Dak Seang 30 miles south of us.

Yesterday we did something I won't forget for awhile - so it was Thursday - went to a village at the end of the valley around

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a few mountain peaks and finally come to a village that was across a swinging bridge over the river here (Dak Poho) - here we go over this bamboo bridge loaded down with weapons, knapsacks, medicine, clothes, pots and pans, etc - That damn thing really swings - almost fell in the river 2 or 3 times. We had a mine force guarding the truck and patrolling the area. No sweat. The people were surprised and pleased to see us - think they got the message that we are concerned for them and have much more to offer than the V.C. - here also we can give them the security they need for their wives and families.

Stood guard again last nite - that's twice in my ~~life~~ lifetime now. Probably my last unless we can't get out of here ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow. Am anxious to hear from you when I get back to Pleiku - also should be getting some of my shots of Saigon back. Same - same ugly American.

Am surprised and pleased by my ability to communicate with the Jeh

here with my few words in Jarai -
many of the C.I.D.C. and Mike Jores
Montagnards have rubbed shoulders with
Jarai and have a speaking knowledge
of the language. Amazing how much
Jarai I've picked up. That damned John
Watson is an expert already in the language
- it's a matter of memory and a good ear
for the different sounds - and he has
both of them.

Sweetie, don't know what to tell you
right now about this week - many
mixed emotions about the war as
seen from here. Will talk to you later
when I've had time to evaluate this
thing better.

Love you very much.

Talk to you later

Love,
"Doc" Dan

(86)

12 June

12 June 67

Hi Kay,

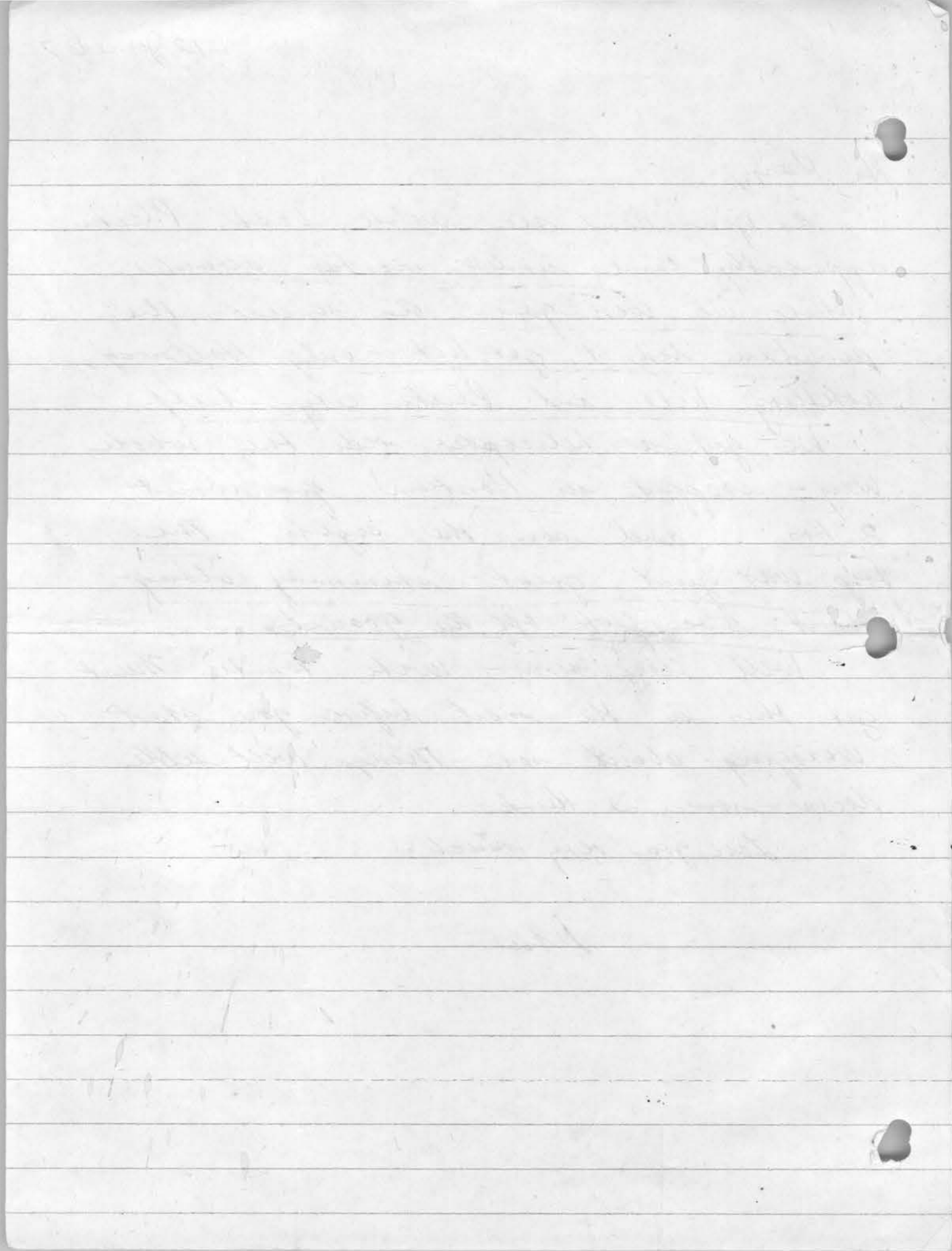
As you can see we're back. Pleiku apparently came under mortar attack while we were gone. As usual the air base didn't get hit - only Halloway, artillery hill and Pleiku city itself.

We got a helicopter ride the whole way - stopped in Kontum for about 2 hrs. and saw the sights. The trip was just great - skimming along about 500 feet off the ground.

Will close now - write tonight. Must get this in the mail before you start worrying about me. Things will settle down now I think.

Love you very much.

Dan



(87)

13 June

13 June 67

Pleiku MACV

11³⁰ PM

Hi Kay,

Just like old times - here I sit at my desk (spell card table) in my room writing a letter, cold sober for a change. Feels great - it didn't even rain today for the first time in 2 or 3 weeks. As you can see I'm back safe and sound - hope those two letters I wrote from Dak Pek got in a mail box somehow so you didn't worry sick over no letters at all. ~~They didn't~~ I am very sorry for the long lapse but has been a very busy productive 2 weeks - have averaged 3 or 4 hours of sleep during this time - much nice wine, politics and I hope constructive things done.

Cannot begin to tell you in detail all the things we saw & did at Dak Pek but was one of the fastest and most memorable weeks I have ever spent. Will tell you in detail as time goes on. Like going back before the

Since of Christ - Dark Dark ages - we
are literally trying to pull these people
up 2-3,000 years so they can compete with
the Vietnamese before they lose their country
by default. Our ~~mere~~ mere presence to
caused a sense of wonder & awe in these
people. Beautiful, friendly, warm hearted people
but ignorant, dirty, disease ridden and
totally defeated and on the edge of despair.
They literally worship the Special Force
people and us by association with the
S.F. Are very insulted and hurt if I
so much as pour a cup of coffee for
myself - wait on us hand and foot and
fight like hell and work themselves to death
for us as long as we furnish the
leadership. The S.F. are tougher than hell.
on them and they eat it up. Are proud to
have a "tiger suit" (uniform camouflaged) and
real boots and a weapon but need leadership.

Very badly. Of course there ^{(81) (2)} are no better
soldiers any where than the Special Forces and
they know how to lead. Just four S.F.
men lead 800 yards and control and defend
12,000 Jek in the Dak Pek valley. But take
away those 4 men and the whole thing dissolves
immediately and the V.C walk in without a
shot fired. Amazing but true. Every entrance
- footpath, road, even spaces between trees -
are set up each nite with a yard
ambush patrol waiting and daring the V.C
to come into the valley. I think I described
my guard duty - a riot now that I think
of it - had my weapon loaded each nite by
someone else - all I had to do was take it off
safety and pull the trigger - the next morning
someone unloaded the weapon for me. They got
quite a chuckle out of it. Your boy friend
ain't much of a warrior I'm afraid. Have
a mental block about these damn guns
(oops - weapons) - will leave that up to the

professionals — am thoroughly protected
at all times just like Leo said I would
be. Think we did some good up there but
just scratched the surface — would take
10 years just to clean up their medical
problems let alone put them on their feet
to compete with the Vietnamese. If anyone
can do it the S.F. can. Got a real
complement — was asked by them to switch
over to the Special Forces — how about that.
Would take too long — would have to go to
jump school, survival school, psych war
school, etc — my tour in the service would
be over by then. Besides, things are looking
up here any way. But a complement, nevertheless.

Got back to find out that many
Montagnards were killed in the Pleiku
mortar attack last Friday — much hard
feeling between the Vietnamese (Plei Prel).
Thinks it wasn't V.C. but ARVN that

13 June

did the most tarring. Had to hustle over there to Plei Brel (by the way, none of my villages were hit, thank God - but the ARVN red hats (Rangers) were in there in my absence stealing pigs, chickens, rice, clothes, etc.). Talked late into the night to try to patch things up a little - have investigated many of their rumors and most are false - have a date to go back at noon tomorrow to ~~the~~ a sacrifice in my honor so can talk to them again then. Any way, stayed at Ton's house Sunday night so that's why no letter that night.

Yesterday took John Watson and Bud Meekian (Captain & a masters in Sociology - will go for his PhD when gets out of service) - a good man - and some other medics and bought \$300.00 worth of cross bows, got some rice out to the men who had it stolen from them and some beds.

Our primary mission was to set up a school & English school - in one of the hooches - probably Ton's. Must keep it small or will attract too much attention from the V.C and they may make trouble when we're not there.

You have by now heard the news that PLEIKU WAS BOMBED again last nite - no problem - the only problem was that we couldn't get back in to the base till this morning - again stayed at Ton's - Plo put up Meekhan and Larry Dalton. Lick and Worthington stayed with Lair all nite. Arrived on the base at 7³⁰ AM through II Corps gate with Lick and fed him ham & eggs and then we both went to work like nothing happened. We were safer out there than they were on the base. Again the Air Base did not get

hit or even aimed at. ^{87 (4)} 13 June The only trouble
is that damned rice wine - get one hell
of a hangover the next day. Spent the
whole day at the dispensary - asked Kent
Combs (a new doctor here) if I could take
his call. Needed to dry out - and here
I am.

Read and reread ~~of~~ your letters eagerly
when I got back. You're a doll. Got
a letter from Tom Hart & Dianne and a
very good one from Weezer today. Will
answer your letters carefully tomorrow since
they're down in the dispensary now.

Got my slide back from Saigon - only
one roll turned out - apparently didn't
do something right in inserting the film
- will learn - also seem to have to learn
the hard way. What's more - most of the
film came out too light - think I'd be
better off going back to ~~an~~ an Instamatic -

"idiot proof" camera.

Pleiku looks like the land of plenty
after Dak Pek. Learned many things from
the S.F. and that linguist I mentioned
about how to deal with the Montagnard.
Must learn to be patient and let them
help themselves, draw their own conclusions,
suggest subtly, etc. Can you see me
being subtle? Will try anyway. Or
patient? very hard but will try.

I love you very much sweetie, have
a huge ache of loneliness for you, the
kids, Weezer & Ed right now. Please pray
very hard for me. Am proud of you —
by the way — did I tell you that I
lost a bunch of your pictures at Plei
Brel? Well I did about a month ago
— actually was showing them around to

my friends there and some how Ton got the idea I was giving them to him. Got back from Saigon and went out to see Ton - lo and behold here's Colleen smiling back at me from Ton's picture gallery, you and me hugging, the six of you on the couch and that one of us on a ~~couch~~ couch in Wichita Falls - me with a big cigar in my mouth. Wouldn't ask for them back for the world.

Am up to 5 bracelets on my arm again - probably will get another one tomorrow - rattle like a Ubangi as it is - maybe I'll sink into the ground like that tank when I really gets muddy with all this metal on me.

Have 4 nice cross bows saved - will get on the stick and send some out one

of these days.

Will close for now. Can't tell
you how much I love you. Take
care — Danni says your shining but
in excellent spirits — hope the last
two weeks didn't wreck that with no
letters. Am back on the track again.

Love you

good nite, sweetie

your good buddy,

Dan

15 June

15 June 67
11¹⁵
AM

Pleiku Dispensary

Hi beautiful girl,

Really put you through hell last week didn't I - am very sorry. Hope you have gotten some of my letters by now, your spirits are better and the rain has stopped. As you know by now - I didn't even know there was a Middle East crisis till I got back to Pleiku, didn't know we had been mortared till arrived in Kontum Sunday 12 June. We received a few more rounds Monday nite as well - but no damage done.

Got your letter of 10 June 67 today and could almost cry reading between the lines at how worried and concerned you were. Hope a letter came Saturday for you - maybe they got it on the plane - had to come from Dak Pek by helicopter -> Pleiku and get mailed and then out. Don't know how much time that took. I'm sorry sweetie - will try very hard to not let that happen again.

Have been interrupted many times since I started this. You would be amazed

at all the interruptions I've had since getting back from Dak Pek Sunday. Would you believe have not had a chance to ~~read~~ listen to your entire tape I got last Sunday yet? And today is ~~7~~ Thursday already.

Went out at noon as planned yesterday to the sacrifice in our honor. Had one hell of a party. Lt Col Torplay from Saigon - chief honcho of Civic Action - asked to go and he had one hell of a party for himself. Think we have an important ally for the Montagnards now. Up till now he was of the opinion that the yards were just a few isolated, stupid, ~~un~~important segment of Viet nam. Thoroughly indoctrinated him all day yesterday. Also got him very drunk on rice wine and beer La Reaux. We talked much politics - ended up with three more bracelets from my bow makers. There are 8 ^(bowmakers that is) of them in all - met some for the first time - had shish kebab pig, pepper, rice, hot sauce, mangoes and beaucoup rice wine.

15 June

and beer. One hell of a party was had by all — much good food — a real roaring blast in North side Negro style. Left there to take Rich home by 7³⁰ and got back to the base by 8¹⁵ but was too tired to go see Jonathan Winters — went to bed instead. That Lt Col did so also and was still in bed at 8 this morning. Said he wouldn't have missed it for a million dollars but also would never do it again for a million dollars. Each one got a cross bow and some got friendship bracelets. They put three beautiful carved thick bracelets on me accompanied by much talk & rice wine — am very impressed and grateful for their friendship. It's taken quite a while but now feel solidly "in" in the village. John Watson and Bud Meehan have made great strides themselves — now feel that we have 4 or 5 good men working with us so can relax a little and don't need to do it all myself. For awhile there felt like the lone ranger.

Charlie Jenkins was in just now - well
go over to Lick's with me this afternoon
- he needs some rice and a few beds.
Will have to start scrounging again and
get off the rice wine kick. Am really
exhausted the next day. Am now on
call and volunteered for this afternoon
so I can get some rice. ^(oops! Indian slp - meat real) Call is a
beautiful excuse not to go anywhere.

Karla sounds like a scream as
does Megan & Jimmy. Would like very
much to see a picture of them. Am
sure they have all changed very much
since the last pictures I got in March.
Your descriptions are excellent lately - thank
you - feel sometimes like the states
are not real but only a story & I
read a long time ago - your letters and
tapes bring me back to reality. Need them
very much and you do an excellent job
with them. Am sure letter writing &
tapes are getting to be a drag for you
same-same me - but very necessary.

④⑧③

15 June

Cannot say I am bored - and the days are ~~whizzing~~ ^{zipping} by lately but Jan still seems a hell of a long way off.

Will try to get this in the mail now - it's noon and time to eat. Will talk to you tonight - may make a tape or two also.

Love you very much.

Again am very sorry for those lost two weeks - hope things are better for you now.

Love,

Dan

②
The most important thing about the
camp was the sleeping bag. I had
a lot of fun with it. I had a
lot of fun with it.

I had a lot of fun with it. I had
a lot of fun with it. I had a lot
of fun with it. I had a lot of fun
with it. I had a lot of fun with it.

I had a lot of fun with it. I had
a lot of fun with it. I had a lot
of fun with it. I had a lot of fun
with it. I had a lot of fun with it.

I had a lot of fun with it. I had
a lot of fun with it. I had a lot
of fun with it. I had a lot of fun
with it. I had a lot of fun with it.

17 June

17 June 67
Pleiku Desp.
11⁰⁰ PM

Hi Kan,

a quick note so you don't go without. Col Hullar is giving a sacrifice of his own for Ton, Lich and myself today - should be a rest. Will be going out to pick him up shortly.

Will also bring some medicine for Beinh (Bing) - one of my medics at Plei Brel. Have about 70 crossbows in my room and am trying to get some outlets for them around the base - hope to get a place in the BX for this - may be give them \$500 profit as a motive.

Slept most of yesterday and last night - also almost finished Sakhon - a very good book. Thing it would be wise to make that required reading for anyone coming over here. We really are stupid about this country - AND I INCLUDE MYSELF. We can't figure out why the Vietnamese hate us, laugh at us, in general dislike us - but the only

Since they come in contact with us is when we screw their women in the whorehouses, fight and get drunk in their bars, ~~spray~~ ^{spend} our money all over the place and raise the cost of living $\times 3-4$ and drive our jeeps, trucks, etc all over town and make for congested, noisy traffic in a previously sleepy town of Pleeke. Saw Kanton as I mentioned last week - a sleepy town - very peaceful like Pleeke used to be before the G3 came to it.

You know the problem with the Montagnard - will have many opinionated discussions with people when I get home - until I find out to my dismay they just don't give a damn. Same - same Jack Rudy found out.

Have the Ugly American & Nation of Sheep in front of me - same message - different form.

Enough of this preaching. Am slated for now - will get on the ball shortly.

17 June

No letter from you in 2 days now
— suspect you are very discouraged from
my lack of communication. Hope the
tape arrived with some words on
them this time. Apparently sometimes
the X-ray they use to inspect the
baggage for weapons, booby traps etc
sometimes erases the tapes.

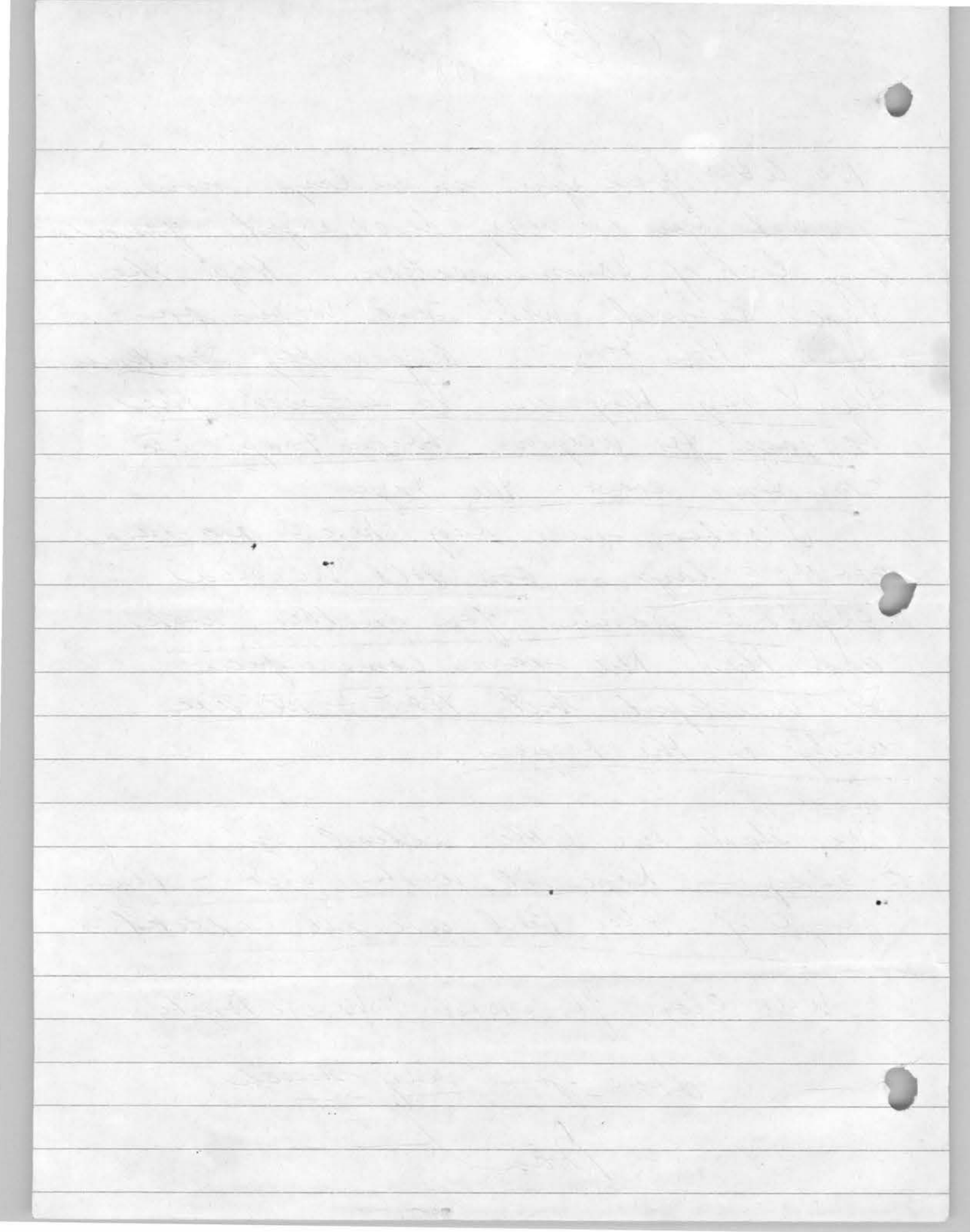
Another nice day here — no rain
for 4-5 days — am told we can
expect a pause for another week
and then the rains come again.
So beautiful but HOT — we are
really in the tropics.

We start our little school in
2-3 days — hope it works out — the
people of Plei Brel are all excited

Will close for now. Write soon

Love you very much

Dan





U. S. SPECIAL FORCES

U. S. Armed Forces - Vietnam

(90)

18 Jun

18 Jun 67

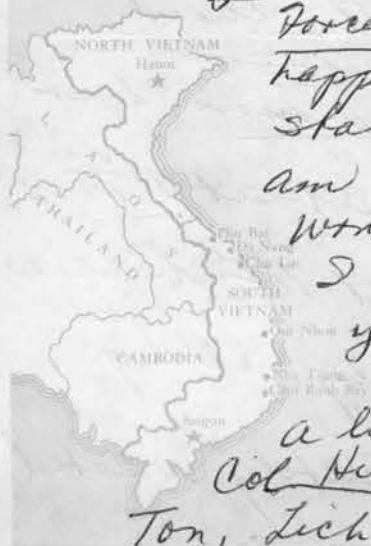
Pleiku AB, RVN

Hi Kay,

Got your very disgusted letter yesterday afternoon telling me you hadn't had a letter in 12 days - must assume the 2 letters I sent from Dak Pek never got there. Feel even worse than I did about those two weeks - hope by now you have gotten some mail. If I went that long without mail then I would have sent a telegram or something - invariably when I'm poor about sending mail - the letters I do write get all fouled up.

As you see, I've joined the Special Forces - no war hardly! just happened to find some of their stationery on my desk and am using it. Don't worry, won't do that altho admit I admire them very much as you know.

Had a good time, although a little stiffy and formal, at Col Nullar's "sacrifice" yesterday. Ton, Lich, T.I. Harris (Jack Rudy's



successor as Judge Advocate, myself
and Col Hullar had a very good
dinner put on by [Joe Delasco] -
ate on the Col's porch - some good
talk, much beer. ~~and~~ As I say, a
little stiff and formal - much different
than at ~~at~~ Plei Brel where things are
much more relaxed and informal.

Some awkward moments watching Dick
and Tom trying to cut their steaks
- at Plei Brel every thing is present
before cooking to bite-sized pieces - then
you eat with your hands. We broke
up about 7³⁰ - took them home and
came back to a party at CBPO (my
roommate Bob Schutty is the chief
honcho there) - drank some more beer
and then called it a nite about 11⁰⁰ PM.
Slept in this morning till 11⁰⁰ believe
it or not - am certainly getting
my sleep lately. Have completely wasted



(90)

(3)

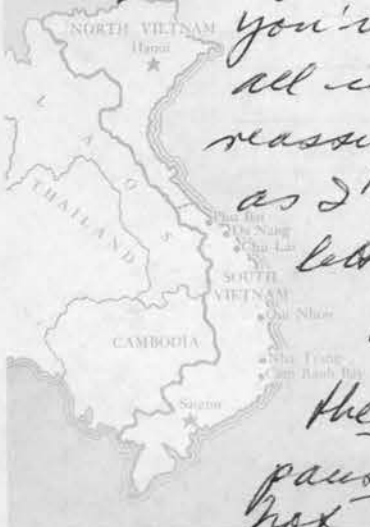
18 June

U. S. SPECIAL FORCES

U. S. Armed Forces - Vietnam

The day so far - happy father's day, am supposed to go out to Plei Boel this afternoon to drink rice wine at Hinh's - It's already 2⁴⁰ PM and still haven't gotten completely dressed. Maybe I'm running out of gas.

Quite frankly, most of my thoughts have been with you at home - worried about how you are - not getting letters for so long. Hope all this we about Pleiku hasn't shaken you too much - will go down to the airbase soon and try again the mail box - hope I get a letter today saying you've heard from me and all is well with you. Be reassured all is well with me as I've mentioned in all my letters.



Another beautiful day for
the sixth straight day - a
pause in the monsoon. It's hot but not muggy and the

roads are easy to travel on. altho
bumpy as usual.

Not much doing here really.
Will get busy this evening and
start answering some of these letters
from the clinic, the folks, Tom Hart,
etc.

Hope every thing is okay with
you - I AM FINE.

Love you very much,

Dan

(91)

19 June

Monday 11th Jun
19 June 67
Pleiku Dep

Hi Kay,

No letter from you yet saying you've received mail. Have been worried about you constantly for the last 3 days. My activity here is almost at a stand still waiting for your next letter. If don't get any today will send a telegram home inquiring what is going on and saying loud and clear that I am well, fat and as happy as can be expected.

Have an acute case of loneliness for Imple, the VSA, you, the kids etc and am horny as all get out. Possibly this is due to the fact am worried about you. Probably when I get some mail today saying you got my letters this will resolve itself and I can get back to work. When every thing is going well as far as letters are concerned the long pause between our communications doesn't make much difference — but when there's trouble of any kind this pause really makes for trouble.

Ironically my name appeared in the Air Force Times dated 7 June 67 about the

mail situation - can't remember ever
being interviewed on the subject. Suspect
they took my name out of a hat.
Of all people to be sounding off and
especially now - I shouldn't be the
one after the way I've treated you
lately. Am sincerely sorry.

What is your phone number?
If this ever happens again will want
to call you just to let you know
every thing is okay. Right now can't remember
the area code or your phone number.

Went over to Henk's house yesterday
and had a good chat - a good friend.
GIR is looking forward to school starting
tomite at 5 o'clock. John Watson and
Mekhan are going to teach. Was surprised
to find out that GIR can't even write his
own language. So forced to learn Vietnamese
in school - much like the Irish were forced
to learn English years ago. Maybe we can
teach him to write Jarai along with
learning to talk & write English. The
Vietnamese have gone to great lengths to

(91) (2)

19 June

exterminate the Montagnard - as thorough and as vicious a job as Hitler vs. Jews, English vs. Irish, American vs. Indian + Negro. For a change I'm on the receiving end of this albeit vicariously ~~to~~ and I think it stinks! We discussed very carefully with Vinh and others that education i.e. learning languages lu via miut (very many) Jarai, Bahnar, Edang, Vietnamese, English - is the key to acceptance and advancement in this society here. They all agreed and are very anxious to learn as much and as fast as they can. Hope we can help.

My thoughts continually come back to you and the anxiety you have been feeling lately. Hope the problem is solved soon. Love you very much sweetie, although you may not feel I do after what I've put you through lately.

Will get this in the mail. Can write again tonight since I have a nite off (am on call). It's great fun out at Plei Brel and very stimulating but I

get emotionally spent and need a rest
once in a while.

Love you, talk to you later

Love,

Dan

(92)

19 June

20 June 67

10 ³⁰ PM

USAF Dispensary

Hi Kay,

Got your lovely, lovely letter last night
chewing me out something royal - enjoyed
every minute of it.

Hi, I'm fine - will write later.

Love,

Dan

Hi Kay - it's later - now 11³⁰ - have
had continual interruptions since
finning that jewel above.

Am thoroughly ashamed of my self as
have mentioned numerous times - this will
not happen again. Will not go into
further explanations but will discuss
at great length when I see you next.
The differences between a combat zone
and the unbelievable quiet and peace
of the U.S. - even the San Bernardino
freeway at 4³⁰ PM doesn't even approach the
tension, excitement and confusion felt by

all of us here. There really is a reason why most people would prefer not to be in Viet nam aside from the fact we don't have any milk here. It was this I was hoping you'd understand.

Enough of this — I'm very sorry — will go back to my 2-3 AM vigils when things are relatively quiet around here and write you more faithfully.

I understand and admire the facade you've put on and the immense energy and strength you've shown. Also understand how hard it is to keep going without word from me — I have same same problem — have been just sleeping for the last week waiting for you to finally get a letter from me.

Now that I know you're mad but satisfied I'm okay — can resume my activity. And people more or less sit on their asses here unless I'm actively pushing programs for them to do, places to go, etc. We've been cast in a strange role for us, sweetie.

Usually you and I can blast off at each other and settle our problems and then

(92) (2)

19 June

Show a cheerful and enthusiastic face
to the world - now we sort of have to
go it alone. Every word you said in
your letter was true and justified and
I love you for saying these things. If
you couldn't, it would have made me
feel very sad. I know we're a good
team and very much in love when you
are able to tell me what's on your mind.
Will treasure this letter for that if nothing
else. Please keep on as you have, will
carefully keep this end open even if I have
to write out in the villages. Have written
a great deal - hope I've said something.
LOVE you, LOVE you, love you very
much - so much I ache. - you "showered
up old young masquerading as an iron maiden."

You're a doll - let's go to bed and talk
about it some more. Almost 5 mos gone
- how about that!

What's the entertaining all about?
Tried that some where. Am looking forward
to this father's day thing & coming along
soon I hope. Can I mention one more

thing that just occurred to me? I received
your very good tape 17 June 67 - heard
one side on Wednesday afternoon but
didn't get another chance to listen to it
until Thursday. Have yet to sit down
and really enjoy it as I want to and
today is 20 June 67. Does that give
you some idea of the rat race I
and some of my men are in? I know
it's hard for you to visualize or imagine
but the urgency and excitement of the
place is unbelievable - the reason
why Dah Pek was an R&F for me.
Somehow the word has it that I am
able to scrounge anything - from generators
(15 KW to Pat Smith in Kontum) to
well pumps (to Province hospital) to
hospital beds, mattresses, medicines, etc
to food, C-rations, Coleman lanterns,
you name it - have really gotten myself
involved - makes the time pass but
half the time don't really know where
my next move is.

That's also one of the reasons why

19 June

I like to go out to Plei Brel - can
relax there - only minor problems like
Cross bow, sickness, etc.

Come to think of it - a girl died
at Plei Brel last night - no one asked
me to see her - was sick only 3 days
- maybe the plague. Will see her this
afternoon and her mother who is also
sick.

John Watson & Mekha went out to
Plei Brel last night by themselves and
taught school - it was a riot but
they did very good work. Every one was
very responsive - sounds like it's going
to be a great success. If the Vietnamese
"good guys" don't get wind of it and
cause trouble. They object to the yards
learning anything - a smart Montagnard
pose a threat to ~~the~~ the Vietnamese
attempt to dominate this land and they
don't like it - much like the Southerners
fears a smart Negro I guess.

You're a doll, Sweetie. The rest of
your letter just sparkles with good

anecdotes and comments. It's nice to
be talking to you again. Hope we
have sunny times again. I like you.

You can say all you like.
I AM FINE, I AM ALIVE (also
very horny.)

Talk to you later,

Love,

Dan

(93)

21 June

11⁰⁰
AM

Pleiku Disp.

21 Jun 67

Wednesday

Hi Kay,

Got two very good letters from you - one dated 8 Jun 68 and another dated 15 Jun 68 - both very cheerful and fun to read. Thank you very much. The mail seems to be coming through again, for some reason. Hope the same is happening with you. Got a letter from Jack Rudy yesterday chewing me out for not writing also - wrote him from Dak Reh along with yours - will probably have to wait another week before that one arrives as well.

Went to Plei Boxel again yesterday afternoon as I mentioned - bought about 20 bows - good ones - they've really got the message now and are making them hand over fist out there. Also talked politics, went to a funeral and got some good news. Ton's daughter ^(Blet) is engaged to a fellow by the name of Tich K'sor so I'm off the hook now. This is the girl that was "married" to Jack Rudy and was being lined up for me I guess. They must have gotten the message that

I have all I can handle in U.S.A. because I'm free as a bird now that the court ship is going on. Tich just got back from serving 3 years with the "Miki" force in Chao Phoom. — knows English fairly well and seems to be a pretty good troupe — we'll see. Tich doesn't appear too excited about him but as I mentioned, he's slow to warm up to people.

Have a picture of Ton & Tich would like you to save for me. A good picture — this is taken in Ton's yard — the "kitchen" window is shown over Ton's Rt shoulder. This is my home most times out in the village. Someday will get Lu via mut pictures of my own but haven't had the nerve to ask lately. That's the next door neighbor's house to the left of Tich. Ton's motor cycle — makes him a millionaire by their standards. He (Ton) is number 4 or 5 in the province government (Montagnard) and works for the official Province (Vietnam) government as an advisor. Is chief in his

21 June

own right of 2,500 people and 7
villages and owns them lock stock
and barrel & administers justice, marries
people, gives out birth certificates, etc.
A good man, a lot of responsibility and
I think, my friend.

Lick you already know. Will get
them to tape a letter to you people
someday. As I mentioned Ton already
has your pictures on the wall in his
house. Lick stands about 5'4-inches tall
and Ton (a big man for a Montagnard) stands
nearly 5'8-inches tall.

Got some soap from Mary Whitlock - will
write a note tonight thanking her. Also may
catch up on some other letters. Fell asleep
last night in the chair next to my bed
and couldn't wake up long enough to
get undressed. Got my boots off and
fell in bed - woke up around 6³⁰ AM
this morning. Must have got by 8 hrs
sleep because my back hurt.

Sounds like you're getting the
monsoon season instead of us. A

little rain yesterday but today is
nice again. Chicken pox will be
lots of fun - should have that around
for quite some time - incubation period
14-21 days if I remember right - haven't
taken care of that for quite some time.
We found that Benadryl and Perioctin
works real well for the itching - if
you have some might be worth trying.

Was the Merck Manual my father's
day present? - if so thank you very
much - didn't realize what it was
for but have already used it many
times. It's a precious commodity here
in the land of no books, etc.

Don't sweat Ma too much - she'll
find something wrong with nearly
everything you say and some how twist
it to make it come out wrong.
An old trick, if you will, get's me so
mad I could hit the wall. Just nod
and let it roll off. I know what
you mean and the people who count
know so - Y/O. - I agree with you

21 June

Diagnosis, Doctor. Will be interested to see how the tape recorder works out at the Senior Conlon household.

And lonesome for you guys - feel this acutely lately - may be just a normal spell can expect in the tour. Never want to get to be an expert on tour psychosis - one experience is plenty. Do you realize that previous to a little over one year ago we hadn't spent more than 2 or 3 nites away from each other in all our married lives? - now we've spent most of the time away from each other - a complete switch around. Prefer the previous arrangement. Wouldn't switch jobs with a traveling salesman for the world.

Miss the kids - Bob Shultz and I said this almost in unison last nite when we were talking about our kids. He's a bike fan - his kids are older than mine - bike's every where, also takes a walk every nite with his wife - a good custom

— maybe when our kids are older (all ten of them) we will do the same.

Bill's house sounds like it's going to be a palace.

Can't wait to see the jump point — get in practice, lady. Plan to lose 10 or 12 pounds that first 2 or 3 days. Can best be described as 140# of active, closely packed liquid sperm at this point.

Your comment about Tony Dean is very interesting — we have many intelligent Negroes here who ~~who~~ have volunteered for Viet Nam and have extended many times. They, too, have a chip on their shoulders much as the Irish Catholics used to have in USA till Kennedy. It motivates them and this is good but in many cases makes them hard to communicate with because of the underlying tension and paranoia accompanying each statement. Maybe just a matter of time — but this wall that both white and black put up between themselves

21 June

hurts both of us - prevents understanding
and free discussion. Can see things
from a different light here - may be
not as clearly as if I were in the
states - but worth putting down anyway.

Much of this letter is serious - am in
good spirits in spite of what this sounds
like. Am interrupted continually
lately as I mentioned before - don't like
it any better than I used to when the
kids interrupted me - but am learning
patience biā biā. Maybe I'll be a
changed man when I get back - but
don't count on it. Still have all my old
bad habits - have just added a few
new ones. One thing, though, have you
noticed how my language has cleared
up? - except when I get smashed and
angry - even then it isn't so bad.

Will close now - it's almost
noon - will get this in the mail - hope
to write or tape tonight. Love you
very much.

Dan

(94)

22 Jun 67
Thursday AM
¹⁰⁰
MACV, RVN

Hi Kay,

No word from you yet that you've received any mail telling you I'm back in Pleiku, safe & sound. Hope it comes soon. Am beginning to worry again.

About the care package you're planning to send — would like: 100 pounds of cheese, any kind, Sausages — you know & the skins on, etc. No candy — cookies are well received. Those English taffies are also welcome. Any care package automatically becomes the property of the whole group that you happen to be with. Will open it in the room and carefully hide the cheese, and meats if that's possible to send. Would a thousand pounds of that seem too much to you? Seriously anything here is well received — even candy — but candy really isn't necessary or even no 1 or 5 on the list. We've all sort of lost our taste for candy somehow. We've all got diarrhea & cramps already and candy just sort of adds to it. Can't explain — you'll have to take my word for it.

Started setting up Lech's new house today —

his brothers and friends are going to dig the footings today or tomorrow - we got them shovels & picks ("we" meaning Dick Miller who is chief kanche at the Animal Husbandry place) Should be able to pour the footings sometime next week, then the foundation and then up goes the house. Should be okay - don't know the first thing about it but Dick seems to - will help do what I can. Lick is very happy and excited about it.

Was back on base by 3⁰⁰ pm - immediately fell asleep and didn't wake up till 6³⁰ - my favorite place - my examining room table - saw a movie by David Turen - haven't the faintest idea what name it was. Then took care of a guy who fell 2 stories out of his barracks, cracked his head open on a concrete slab - got a free ride to the states - alive but with blood coming out both his ears - should be okay in 2-3 mos but will have one hell of a headache. Another guy fell out of a truck - we have more injuries that aren't battle connected than

22 June

anything

You are going to hear shortly if you haven't already heard about it - that Dak To got overrun and that there is one hell of a battle being fought "near Kontum" or even "near Pleiku". Actually Dak To is about 10-15 miles to the north east of Kontum on the Dak Poko river (same one as Dak Pek but about 40-50 miles south of it). They did, indeed, get overrun and there is indeed one hell of a battle shaping up (we hope). The 173rd & 101st is up there (the best two army outfits we have) - and they'll stay there in a seek & destroy mission till they get the job done. This should help take some of the pressure off of us we hope. We are in no danger now as far as that battle is concerned but the U.S. papers have a way of misinforming you people about what goes on here so thought you should know the straight scoop.

Nothing much going on here today - a sleepy day - actually I'm tired again now but must be my imagination as I've had nearly 12 hrs of sleep in the last 24.

Haven't written any of those people I said I would - may be tomorrow. Have a whole weekend on call coming up so may be I'll get some letter writing done then.

Have to rummage through the mail and find that Prudential jewel you sent - hope I can find it okay. That's a part of the good ol' USA I don't mess at all. You're going to find I'm pretty irresponsible when I get back, I'm afraid. Will have to slowly wean me back into the land of excess, good booze, fast cars, hard work, etc. You be my leader, okay. Will bring a jug of rice wine home and we'll sit in the living room sipping on the hose & talk it all over.

Not a very good letter, Sweetie. I'm sorry.

Thanks for the tip about Erin's birthday - didn't realize July was coming on so fast but it's already 22 June. Happy anniversary tomorrow to the Ivory's - will never forget that

22 June

date - the start of an adventure for us.

Still feel very bad about the long delay in letters. Will not let that happen again if I can help it. Very sorry, sweetie. You're a doll for not sending divorce ^{papers} ~~letters~~ or something lethal, etc. Was very stupid and inconsiderate of me - I would have been madder than hell given the same treatment.

Love you very much. Find I am now only 7 mos ~~exactly~~ at the most - may be less - to my DEPOS.

God bless you,

Love,

Dan

Let - the student of the literature

shall find out that the book
is not a book, but a book

is a book of a book, a book

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(95)

Friday
23 Jun 67
11 ⁴⁵_{AM}
USAF Dispensary

Ni Kay,

A quick note as per your instructions. Am way behind - saw beaucoup patients this morning - 6 with a weird set of symptoms I can't identify. May be one of these tropical medicine-type things.

It's now 12⁴⁵ - went for lunch - checked the mail - no letter again today - think this is the 3rd or 4th day in a row. Hope this doesn't mean you also are not getting mail. Still no word from you that you know I am safe and sound back in Pleiku - this time it's not my fault for sure - have not missed a day since getting back here on the 12th of June - that's 11 days ago. By my ~~reckoning~~ reckoning you should have received a letter at least by the 16th so should get an answer or two soon. Enough of this. Have apologized for early June in each letter. If that isn't enough don't know what more I can do.

Went to Plei Brel last nite with a large tent (meeting-hall type) and 3 150# bundles of clothes - had some more rice wine and a good time.

Took Lick, John Watson, Roy Worthington, Larry Dalton and Charley Jenkins. ^{all} good men. Played "football" as they call it here - actually use a soccer ball - I assume they play soccer here and call it football - then had a jumping contest - it was a riot. It's been a long time but discovered I could still get off the ground okay. Was exhausted after about 30 of the high jumps - kept up with Lick okay though. Worthington begged off but John, Larry and Charlie jumped right along with us. First time we've loosened up physically out there - we should do that more often. After that Ton served us Chicken a la Montagnard. They chop the whole damn thing up, bones & all and then boil the piss out of it and serve it just that way. Ton and Lick ate bones and all but I couldn't back that - dauntily took the bones out - hope I didn't offend them.

Talked politics but mostly just sat around and talked about this and that. The time flies out there - before we knew it - it was 9³⁰ - finally got back to the base about 10³⁰ after dropping Lick off at his house. Had less than my usual

23 June

quota of rice wine this time. Started
 talking to Sims in the officer's club.
 Last night - the 6'5 in Negro I mentioned
 in my tape last week. He helped
 pay the analyst me and my motives - very
 piercing questions - was very uncomfortable
 at first but then just relaxed and
 let him work away. After he was through
 working on me decided to work on him
 for awhile - examined the Negro question
 from many angles. Very frank and
 good discussions. Didn't solve any
 problems however - the Negro will
 still get a shitty deal for a long time
 to come. We broke up about 2³⁰-3⁰⁰ AM
 so that's why I'm writing now.

Today, as I mentioned earlier,
 has been one hell of a rat race. Like
 the BLC all over again. Enjoyed working
 this hard again - after the first 20 patients
 hit my stride and did quite well, thank
 you.

At 3³⁰ have a date at Pilo's house
 for rice wine. The ~~full~~ moon festival
 is here for sure - 3 days of drinking.
 - Always an excuse - as bad as the
 St. John's days.

It's now 2 ³⁰ PM - just finished 3 physicals for separation from service. These lucky SOB's are getting out of the service when they hit Travis in July. We'll have a little more time to serve, won't we sweetie?

One fellow wants to start pressed in the fall - had a good chat with him - Viet Nam & the service have really made grown men out of boys for these three. A good experience and they can be proud of themselves.

Have been elected to write up a bronze star recommendation for Dave Dulaney - my boss. Will get to work on that tomorrow. Have the weekend "off" - that is $\rightarrow$ I'm on call. Can't go to village to drink rice wine etc - a relief in a way - need a vacation every now & then.

Will close for now. As usual my short note saying I'm okay and am alive, etc worked itself up into a bit more.

Love you very much. Miss your letters but wouldn't dream of complaining after what I put you through.

Love,

Dan

25 Jun 67

Sunday mite.
USAF Dispensary

Hi Kay,

My vacation is coming to an end - am pretty tired although stayed up till 4³⁰ this morning writing, reading, etc. Slept till 10⁰⁰ am and have been fairly busy today.

This is a projected attack tonite by the NVN "V.C." so this letter will probably be disjuncted. Will stay down here in the dispensary just in case.

Gota very good, cheerful letter from you today announcing that you received some letters finally. Am glad things are back to normal again. As I write this am getting sleepy so may get a little shut eye and write later - my favorite place to sleep - my examining table.

John Watson and Bud Mehan are out in the village right now teaching - have sent Charlie Jenkins and Larry Dalton out to get them - they have no transportation so gave them my truck. Hope they get back before the action starts around here. Would be embarrassing if they got stopped by the M.P.'s. Have I told you about my truck?

I say "my" because I use it most of the time - actually it belongs to the dispensary. It's a Dodge pickup with 34,000 plus of the roughest miles in the world. Someday I'll show you pictures of the roads it has traveled - afe deep in mud (oh yeah, the monsoon started again today - exactly at 4⁰⁰ PM as predicted - can expect it to continue now the rest of the summer.)

Any way - the steering column is shot, the real axle is a little wobbly, the wheels are all out of line - every nut & bolt is loose, the horn is gone and the wind shield wipers work now & then. Add to that a fuel line that works poorly and a differential that sometimes doesn't work at all. Otherwise she's a pretty good old gal - has gotten me many places with a minimum of fuss now that I know how to put up with her faults. She visits the motor pool 3-4 times a week to get fixed up - but keeps puffing & snorting along - may even make it to the end of my tour here.

- Kay sweetie - it's now 2^{PM} Monday

(96) (2)

25 June

morning - sorry I got so side tracked - will add a note in the morning - have had a busy day with nothing really accomplished but call and talk. Did manage to read through some magazines + journals going all the way back to Jan 1967! Also got 2 boxes of slides back from our trip to Dak Pek and Kontum - some very good - most just so-so.

Will get some copies made for the other guys - then send them on their way to you.

Would appreciate your sending me some pictures of the kids when you can.

Am beat tired, sweetie. Don't have the energy to answer Ed's beautiful letter as it should be - will try tomorrow.

Love you very much. Got a good letter from you today - will answer it later - you're nice.

Love,
Dan



(97)

26 Jan 67
MAFV officer's club
1245 AM (27th)
U. S. SPECIAL FORCES

U. S. Armed Forces - Vietnam

Hi Kay,

Just a quick note I'll try to get in the mail by 1⁰⁰ PM so it'll get in early morning send off.

I'm fine - had another day away from the villages - on my "vacation" - couldn't get a vehicle tonight so spent the evening until now saying good-bye to Larry Coffee one of our dentists whose DEPOS is tomorrow.

— he leaves from here to the good ol' USA - may call you if he gets near but doubt it - he's going from here to Germany.

Lost his wife in child birth - their first child - volunteered for Viet Nam - one of the quietest, most friendly people have ever met. Spent a good tour - now has a consecutive



overseas to Germany. Is riding on
cloud nine now - leaves at 6³⁰ AM
on the golden bird (727) to home.

Each one I say good bye to brings
me that much closer to my own
good bye.

Will continue writing in another
letter - will rush to get this in the
mail now

Love you,

Dan

(98)

28 June

28 June 8

USAF Dispensary

Pleiku RVN

Wednesday

afternoon
~4⁰⁰ PM

Hi Kay,

Just a quick note to keep the lines of communication open. Wrote Ed & Weez a very sober letter the other nite to make it the 3rd nite in a row up past 4 AM. Was exhausted yesterday, but instead of going to bed, like an idiot took some loads of lumber to Lich's place for his new house and then went to Plei Brel. That was my mistake. Was dead tired as I mentioned. Had to go out to arrange to get my medic (8 of them now - all Montagnards and raven's to go) to their classes at S.F. School. will run for 3 mos and will feature physiology, anatomy, wound treatments, care of common diseases e.g. malaria, plague, sores, boils, leprosy, etc. Also some preventive medicine, public health, etc. A good course.

- Any way (have been interrupted by 6 different individuals since starting this)
- met Ton on the road with a jug of rice wine on his shoulder and carrying a gourd filled with the same stuff. A man (Thuy's brother - one of the bow-makers) had committed suicide and they were

having one of their famous Montagnard Wakes.
Of course we had to drink along with
them - what a blast! Got home about
midnite after vomiting 3-4x and in
general getting sick and smashed along
with everyone else. Am a bit nervous
and tired today but haven't had time
to lay down + rest. Mission accomplished
though - will pick up the medics Saturday
AM 7 o'clock and drive them over to S.F.
Was worth it.

Will make a small trip over to Plei
Jut this afternoon and arrange to
get a medic from there also.

Have to run, Sweetie.

Love you very much.

Here comes some more interruptions
now.

Dan

(99)

29 June

29 Jun 67
USAF Dispersing
Pleiku RVN

Hi Kay,

Here I am again writing on the run.
~~again~~ Have been continually interrupted
since writing that first line. Had an
airman Hutcherson bend my ear worrying about
his curtailment, bitching about Viet Nam,
the conditions here, etc. Know it's necessary
to listen to these people but find it harder
and harder to sympathize with them. Feel like
telling them to quit counting the days, get
their ass in gear and make something out of
their tour. Try to do this as subtly as I can.
What usually happens is that they ask if
they can come out to the villages with me.
If I took all the guys that asked me would
have an army of 50-60 guys and most of
them looking around like tourists and I don't
need that.

Went to a new village with Bud McKen,
John Watson and Lick yesterday - Plei Yut
(pronounced Jut) - 1200 people, very prosperous
and clean - out to the west of Pleiku - had
a good time - no drinking. Talked to the
school teacher and others. Want to get one of them

as a medic to go to S.F. school. So far. no luck. Lich and I will go down to Pleiku this afternoon to Province chief and see if we can't arrange a salary for these medics when they graduate - will give them an added incentive to learn. Right now the teachers are paid so maybe we can get the medics paid as well. Will take some talking but will try. Maybe can take out of Civic action funds - we'll see.

Weix is the name of the school teacher - he was in prison with Lich - and for the same reason - too smart - no charge - was released 10 mos later by the Vietnamese "suspected Dulro" - no proof, no trial, etc. Weix appears to be a good man - very sensitive, talks very softly, great soulful eyes. Apparently has suffered much and has much repressed anger. Looks you over very carefully - but when decides you're okay warms up more as time goes on. We'll be back to Plei Yut many times I suspect.

Went from there to S.F. where we drank bia bia beer and got home at 11³⁰ PM - went right to bed and got as

99-2

29 June

fairly decent nite's sleep. Tonite I'm on call so perhaps I'll finally get caught up. No letter for the last couple days — suspect P.O. fouling up again. Some guys have gone up to 14 days without letters so won't complain. Hope to write a better letter tonite, sweetie.

Had to lock my door to write this much — maybe will get some sleep this afternoon and stay up after midnight when I can talk to you in private.

Love you very much.
Dan

P.S. Bob Reid just came in with Even's gift and a pipe and dagger wrapped for sending. People here break their backs for me in many ways — feel like a heel when I want privacy and many of the interruptions are from people trying to help me.

Talk to you tonite,

Love,
Dan

