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1 Aug 67

~~Monday~~ AM

Tuesday

U. S. SPECIAL FORCES

U. S. Armed Forces - Vietnam

1 ³⁰/_{AM}

MACV, RVN.

Hi Kay,

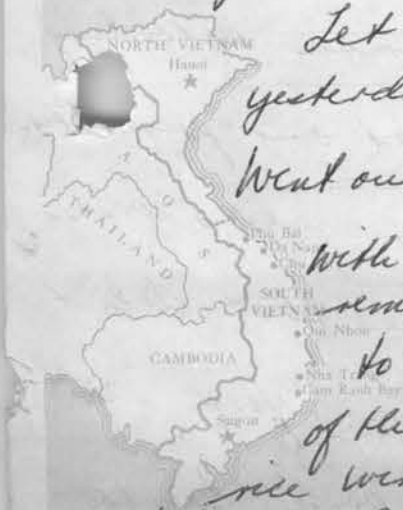
Have really goofed - meant to write before 1⁰⁰/_{AM} so I could get this in the mail early. Am very sorry. Have been sicker than a dog all day - full of gas, nauseated, etc etc from my experience Sunday at Plei Brel. Not that I'm sorry for my experience - just exhausted and hung over. - Slept from 5 PM till

9⁰⁰ - ate a few bites for supper and have been making trips to the latrine ever since - just got back. Have read an entire pocketbook on basketball in the process.

Let me tell you about my day yesterday - hope I don't bore you.

Went out to get Lich at about 11³⁰/_{AM}

with John Watson - took out the remaining 5 sewing machines to Ton's - arrived to see many of the village assembled and six rice wine jugs in a row in Ton's house. Bought a few crossbows and then



the ceremony began. They had me take off my right boot and then place it on a piece of metal with cotton on it - on top of my foot they put some wet red stuff I still don't know what it was - then the priest (not Ton) started saying some words very fast and poured rice wine all over my foot while saying the words - Ton kept talking in a low tone and the priest sounded to me like he was repeating what Ton said. Finally the ceremony was over and then I was asked to drink two levels of the ceremonial rice wine (Ton's) jug - that started it - after I finished, then Ton drank, then John Watson, then Leck, then the priest, then each man according to his rank. Each group had a representative in each of the six jugs - my medics were there with their jugs - those that didn't have a jug had beer Le Kue, food, etc. Ate a chicken head, much pork, bamboo



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U. S. SPECIAL FORCES

W. D. Cloud Snow - Vietnam



greens, all kinds of stuff. When I
got to the last pig had only vomited
we and had held down most of
the ten loads (about a fifth a load) -
then drank 3 loads out of the last pig
- then we went to beer to Binh and then
moved on to the next hatch ~~there~~
(Brau'o) where we started all over again
- Finally made it back to Ton'o where
we drank some more rice wine - have
no idea how much - finally found my
bed and passed out for about 2 hours.
Made it back here to the base somewhere
and so & behold - had 4 letters
from you and a tape from Mike
and the people at Cam'o party.

Played those carefully in spite
of my splitting headache and
someone managed a long letter
to Mike & Mary Ann and my
short lovey letter to you. Am sorry



Sweetie - but it's called fighting the war here - Have been sicker than a pup all day today as I mentioned but am recovering slowly now. The shake is over and the head feels fine - only the stomach cramps & gas are still with me. Look like the wrath of God but will get over that by tomorrow.

Thank you for the letters - They are beautiful - will answer them carefully tomorrow I hope.

Think John got initiated also into the village yesterday - he's very quiet about his experience - possibly hooked up with Blex in some way - don't know. She starts working in the officers' club tomorrow morning which ought to be something else again. The first jerk that makes a pass at her is likely to be picking himself off



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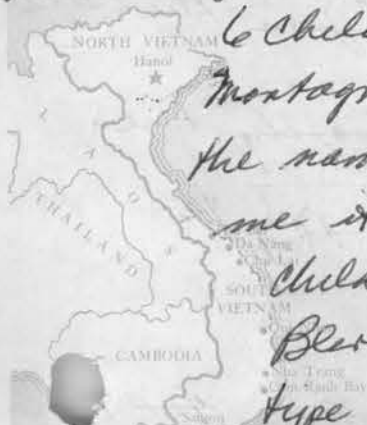
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1 ang

U. S. SPECIAL FORCES

U. S. Armed Forces - Vietnam

The floss. She has a motor like Megan - doesn't stand for any nonsense. My comments about Blex must be very misfiging to you. Forget for a moment your strict upbringing along your rigid lines on what is & what is not permissible with regards sex. Accept for a moment that other cultures have just as rigid rules about sex - but they are different rules. If you can - then maybe you can understand all this junk about Blex. Can talk with detachment about my "granddaughter" (By the way you now have 6 children - the new arrival is a 45% Montagnard chief of 3,500 people by the name of K'Sor Ton - and believe me it was a rough labor and child birth on my part) - about Blex - she's very modest, hands-off type with great pride as befits a chief's daughter. Laughs with her eyes but always with great dignity. Her walk



is like a movie stars - or an Indians -
back straight, ~~head~~^{head} held high, etc. Her
picture is in the same frame with
you and the kids, Colleen's school picture
and Jack Rudy's picture. She is no
prostitute or loose liver same - same
Vietnamese. These many comments I've
made in the past about her and the
Yards' offers made to me, Jack Rudy
and John Watson are made as a
token of deep friendship. Hope I'm
making myself clear. Hurt their
feelings very much when I refused Ton's
offer - but we've both adjusted very
well now with this arrangement of
ama (which makes Blex my granddaughter
and taboo) - confusing? Join the club.
Virtue is, I find, not necessarily the
lack of opportunity, I'm happy to
report.

Have just been interrupted for
last $\frac{1}{2}$ hour by Charlie Brown (the

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new information officer and Frank Royal who is very drunk. He's waiting to go home - Charlie is his replacement and wants to go and Frank is all burned out and ready to go home. The two of them have been screaming the officers' quarters looking for company - they usually end up here. Had a drink with them and now they're gone to bed. It's 3 AM now and I'm going to find me also. Sorry my letters have been so few and so long lately. Will improve I hope. There is a constant demand implied here to talk and be sociable by the mere fact that a person cannot ever be alone (even at 3 AM in his own room.) Enjoy these people - especially guys like Frank Royal but it does get wearing as you know.

Frank (Lt. Colonel) Royal will be calling you when he gets back to the states - hope he has a few good words to say - I've been giving

him hell ever since I arrived. Don't
want or need his publicity and am constantly
refusing to take his reporters and photographers
out to the village with me. He has a
tough job (or had) - now Charlie Brown has it -
must constantly court the Saigon warriers
and newsmen who come up for a day, look
around, talk to the nearest P.R. man they
see and then go back to Saigon and write
their "authoritative account" that they learned
all about in 2-3 hours. Guys like Jack Rudy
myself and others don't want anything to do
with them - and after they've interviewed us
they don't want anything to do with us, either.
The story we have to tell is confusing, no
for broad lines of heroes & villains, no easy answers,
and no photographs or posed pictures. They
usually give up in disgust and take the easy
way out - take the canned pictures and publicity

⑤ and use that for their story. There's
two gals right now up here wanting to go
out with me to Plei Brel tomorrow — hope
to quietly avoid them without putting
Charlie Brown in a bind. If not will get
them in & out of Plei Brel as fast and as
unobtrusively as I can — without pictures.

Would like just once to see the montagnard
story told as it really is according to what
Jack Rudy, myself and the rest have learned
it from the montagnards and other sources.
But that's too tough to get down on paper
— John Value found that out — lived up here
6 mos and found out for himself — hasn't
written a word since he got back to the
U.S.A. — is writing children's books instead.
— like he said he wanted to do in the first place.

Am beat, sweetie, would like to sit down
or lie next to you and chat all nite but

must be up again in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Love
you, you wonderful, wonderful girl. Like you
have a new insight into our love and
friendship. There ain't no one like you
at all.

Love,

Dan

P.S. will answer your letter tomorrow, I hope.

Also will send some of this stuff that's
piled up here. Will also answer Kaela's
very nice letter (spell that PICTURE - very well
done)

Love

Dan.

Sat mite
5 Aug 67

9⁰⁰
PM

MAEV, RON
Pleiker

(127) 5 Aug

Hi Kay,

Have done it again, sweetie — and very sorry. Am man who talks, not who walks. Somehow 2 days got away from me completely — after that 7 tape affair the other nite have been on the run constantly — literally this is the first time I've sat down by myself since then. Am in my room for the first time in 3 nites and plan to spend the nite here.

Am still in the clothes I put on Friday morning — slept at Nick's house last nite — will tell you about that later. Should have rushed off a note to you yesterday I know but got fouled up all day — this morning was impossible as I will relate. Am very sorry.

First a large thank you for your letters — they are simply beautiful — each one has been a song — you sound beat but content. Weezer said you were just magnificent & Mike & Mary Ann Hope you're not hurting your health. Don't like the sound of that tightness

and pain in your chest. Please take care of yourself, yourself sweetie. Tonite I will get my first sleep in a long time - should feel like fighting tigers tomorrow.

Now for the "diary." Thursday got your 7 tapes off to you, pouring rain + mud as usual. Left dispensary promptly at 4³⁰ for Plei Brel to buy bows as promised - bought 20,000 piastre worth (≈ \$190.00) but not before getting stuck in the mud out there and in Pleiku Kho 8 times - much huffing and puffing. Also got 10 rabbits from Special Forces, some grain and some clothes and took them down to Lich's - the rabbits for him and the clothes for some poor Vietnamese carpenters who have been helping Lich build his house - it's done, by the way - his house - looks great - will call for another party I'm sure.

After buying the bows - cornered Bing (my medic at Plei Brel) and Lich forced him to give the names of the 2 Vietnamese who told my medics they would be shot if they went to school at S.F. Returned the names to Special Forces - they will deal with the Vietnamese in their usual abrupt fashion - quite possibly will kill them - am sorry, sweetie - but this is a war and a violent people. The Vietnamese have

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5 Aug

my people thoroughly intimidated
as I've mentioned - it's

- Just got interrupted again - this
time by Paul Hawkins - new civic action
officer.

about time they got some of
their own medicine. Had a few
drinks at S.F., came home to write
you a letter but had to say goodbye
to Bob Boyer - a good man, combat
engineer - stayed in his room with
a party philosophizing till 3 AM - (this
is with only 3 hrs of sleep from the
nite before. Hit the sack hard and
was out immediately. Overslept for
sick call next morning - worked
till after 3³⁰ PM straight through - didn't
even have a chance to check the mail
- tore out to flea Brel to buy bows
and keep my date with Hank (have
been promising to drink at his house for
2 mos "and you no go my house"
- bought 23,000 pesos worth of booze
- and sat down to drink with Tom
Hank, Lick, Watson and Katt (school teacher)
This wine had been brewing for me for 2 mos!

drank $2\frac{1}{2}$ levels and collapsed - no sleep,
very little to eat and powerful rice wine
are a lousy mix - Woke up at 2 ^{PM}
on Hinh's bed - he was still drinking
- had another level and hit the sack again
- Woke up at 6 ³⁰ AM and drove back here
with Lick, Watson & Blex. Took Blex &
Lick to Pleiku and then made it in
for breakfast and the dispensary. Ate the
first meal I've eaten in Vietnam with
a real appetite - great! Don't even
know what I ate. - Oh yeah french toast.
- not very good either. Have been on
call all day and am still on call now
- had time to write 2 times in all this
time - both of them today. But have never
had such a foul hangover in my life.
Have finally recovered now - just the headache
left - Couldn't even write on the charts
this morning my shake was so bad.

§ So that's my story - have many other
details to add when I get back - a few
"war stories" if you will. How Ton takes
my fatherhood very seriously - drops whatever
he's doing and conducts me every where.
Some of the things we've discussed out there,
etc. I smell like a barn - will get
a shower tonight.

3.

5 Aug

10 ⁴⁵/_{PM}

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Hi, sweetie - have had a continual interruption for the last hour.

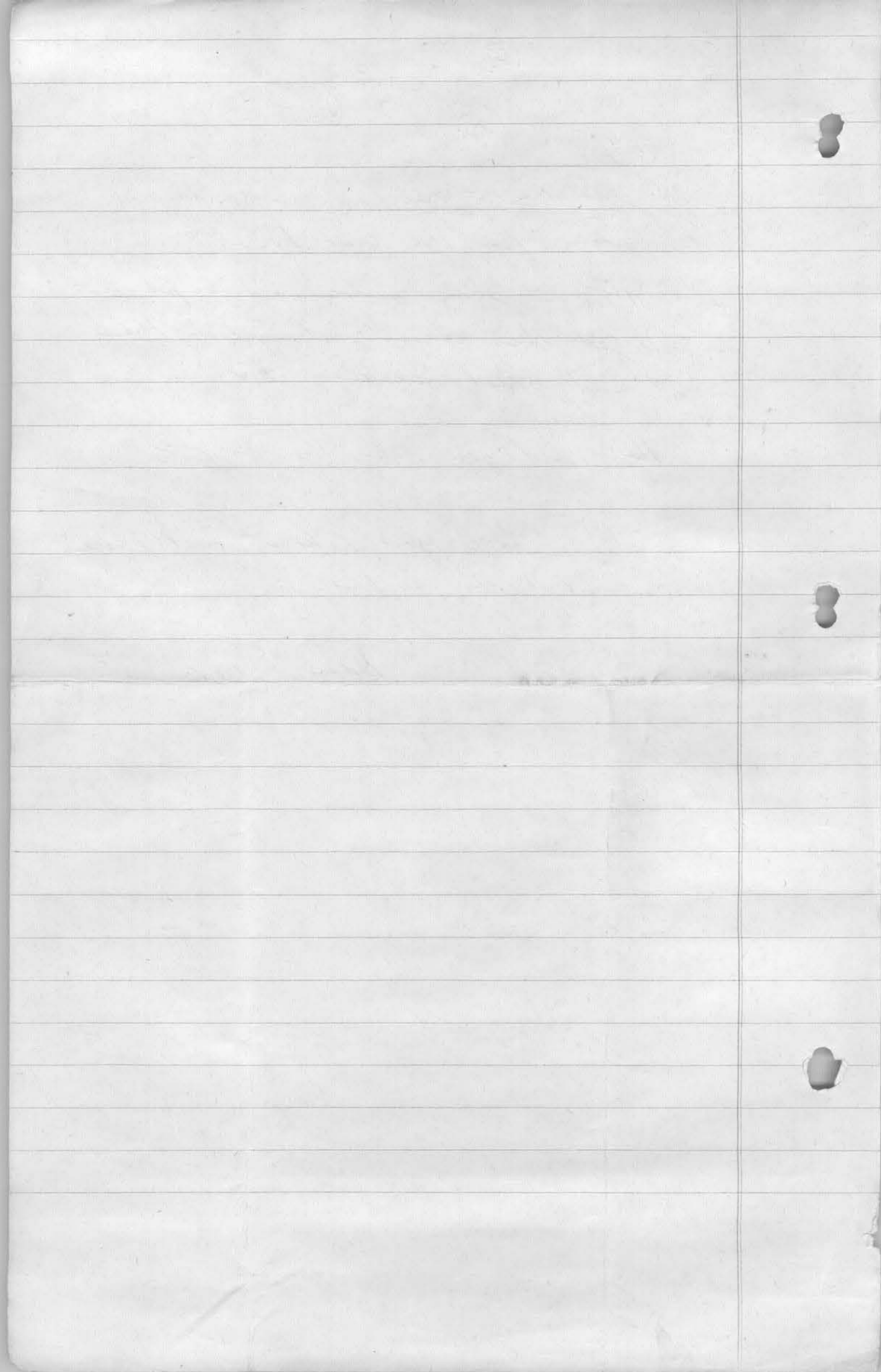
11 ⁰⁰/_{PM}

— some more interruption — will get this damn thing in the mail and start another one.

How did you like the tapes?

Love you like a toothache
— it hurts so bad.

Dan.



6 Aug 67
Midnite
Sunday mite
MBCV, Pleiku RVN

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Hi Kay,

Will start this letter now - when it gets near to 1⁰⁰ am will turn it off, mail it and start another one.

Thanks for your loyal letters coming in every day or other day - helps the morale. My letter writing has been lousy lately - am sorry.

Had an exhausting day today doing psyche work some more - will tell you some of the stories like old times. Jim Williams, my opium, marijuana, alcohol addict came in again today considerably better than he was yesterday or the day before. Had had a full night's sleep, no booze or pot or anything except coffee. We had a good chat - tried to guide him along a little more from his deep despair - sort of a bottomless pit he has been falling into - think I told you about him before. No sweat about him admitting his helplessness in controlling alcohol or in his wanting help - trouble is he's got him self in so much hot water

and had made so many enemies he really finds it hard to believe there's any way out of it for himself. Is slowly seeing a hole in the overcast sky — got him over to Jim Martin for a chat over coffee. The kid even went to church today. Maybe *biên biên*, as the yards say, he'll find his way back — it's guys like this that, once straightened out themselves, can do wonders with people like themselves because of the depth of their understanding of the problem.

Had a three hour chat with another man who had just come back from compassionate leave to patch up his sagging marriage. 4 children, "beautiful" marriage of 10 years — no problems till he came to Vietnam. Trouble is he had gonorrhea — swears the only woman he's ever had relations with is his wife. Cried & sobbed when he learned he has gonorrhea. Doesn't know what to do. Examined with him all the facets of the problem. Tried to help him see her problems, his attitude toward sex (typical Catholic one) — how one fall on part of his wife wouldn't be the end. If a really good marriage, but if it wasn't worth saving — then would be a good excuse to terminate the bad arrangement. Dug deeper than hell into

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his marriage and slowly tried to show him that her unfaithfulness and ~~free spending~~ ~~spending thriftless~~ and lack of letters ~~was~~ were maybe only symptoms of a deeper problem. He finally did see that he had married a child of 16 who has not essentially changed even tho 26 now - that they never did attempt to communicate, etc. Didn't condone the SC but maybe - just maybe - (and I could be wrong - but where's the rule book on these situations?) - this could turn out to be far the best if they'd sit down and try to talk the situation out. Tried to put myself in his shoes - believe I'd give it a try if I really loved the woman - very difficult to know what to say to the poor guy. Was exhausted when the three hours were over.

Had three more psych cases - mostly problems back home - also 3 very good fist fights - more morale problems at the food service. The Montaguards are much easier to deal with, believe me. Am very well and sober today altho very tired - but will be okay completely by tomorrow. Needed the 2 days off

to recover. Wan't go out till 4³⁰_{pm}

tomorrow so should be thoroughly rested.

Saw the other guys parade back full of rice wine and good feelings for jobs well done today - felt like the guy who was kept after school and couldn't play ball with the other guys. But I did need the rest.

Will be rasing to go again tomorrow.

You're letters are full of all kinds of good things as are Weezers'. Will start now to answer them - both yours and Weezers if you don't mind.

Am back to 27 July (got 2 Aug today not bad - things are picking up)

Your 27 July letter was a treat - no water, basement pipes dripping and so Ed to save the day. Sounds like you're really keeping him happy. You cuss pretty good yourself, doll. Can just hear your voice going up 2 octaves and cracking right now. You can't set a match to the house - we don't own it yet. ~~What~~ What's that got to do with the Air Force is what I want to know. ?

Thank the folks for me for the nice time they showed you and the kids while M & M ~~were~~ were there. They are very considerate and on our side when

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the chips are down.

Got to Mass today - have been
poor about that lately - too many other
things going on and no definite
obligation to make it here. The priest
here and I have been at odds openly
since he arrived - have knock down, drag
'em out arguments every time I see him.
But he's a well meaning, good man -
just stubborn and of the old black
and white school so we don't see eye
to eye on many things.

Will be glad to see Fr. Russell
Ryan's notes again - thought they
were gone forever - got an anniversary
card from him - did I tell you?
Will have to answer it for his birthday.
Maybe send him a cross bow. He
sent the card to 73 Beaumont.

Say, Sweetie - will end this here
and start another one right away
after mailing this

Love you, doll - talk to
you in a minute

Dan

Will
Blankets
Shells

1. Spaghetti
2. Chicken
3. 4 lbs lamb
4. 3 lbs veiners
5. Roast
6. Mashed Potatoes
7. Steaks & Hotdish

(129)

7 Aug 67
Monday AM
1⁰⁰_{PM}
MAEV, Pleetun, RON

Hi again,

Just got the other letter in the mail - will hope it gets there first - it says that the mail pickup is at 1⁰⁰_{PM} - so try to get something out before that and then can write a leisurely letter after that for the next day - of course can't count off on the P.O. anyway it's two separate envelopes and that's something.

How was your visit with Bill and Mary Jo? - Did you have anything in common at all?

Hope you enjoyed the tapes - if you can't would enjoy another chatty one from you sometime. It's a real ~~project~~ project to get all the junk together, isn't it? Won't push it too much - enjoy your letters just as much but every now & then like to hear your voice. Hope all 7 tapes came together or that will be a hopeless mess. Think I labelled them from "0" to "6."

Sounds like the weekends are the hardest for both of us. Bob Shultz made that comment today, too. Find myself day-dreaming about our meeting

and good time ~~are~~ in October on our
R+R. Have 2nd thoughts about
waiting for October - but it's already
so late to apply for September so
we're stuck.

Sweetie, ^{your} ~~you're~~ letters are beautiful
songs lately - best way to describe them
- love letters - full of all kinds of good
warm things. Thanks you.

You can write Lick's letter in
care of me and I'll deliver it.

Sorry to hear about Erni's pock
marks - maybe will turn out to be
beauty marks later on. - same-same their
beautiful father. Sounds like you're
missing such call back there every day.

Sounds like fun - your plans for
a week at the lake. It'll be good
for all of you. Glad Ed is pretty
much his own boss again and can't take
some time off. Am happy that his
job is coming along so well - will take
a good two years total to build a
practice I would guess.

Have completely mislaid that Boulder
bill - haven't the faintest idea where it
is. Guess it would be hard for anyone
in the state to understand - but we
don't have anything you could call
a stable life here - we're all going by
the seats of our pants. Got a desk

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(129) 7 Aug

to practice medicine with just recently — the examining table just barely fits into my room — have cross bows piled every where along with my field medicine bags, clothes, soap, etc. The room I'm in now has about 60 cross bows all over, we have 3 "chairs" and a card table we call a desk. Have stolen Col Bonneaux's coffee table for our one piece of luxury — have a target for cross bow practice on one wall and maps on the other wall. There's mold every where and even "clean" sheets are literally a light shade of brown. * Don't want to sound like I'm complaining — the Army boys spend months on end sleeping in their ponchos under the constant rain — consider it a privilege to come in to our base to get a real hamburger & malt and have no one shoot directly at them for 24 hours. So I'm not really complaining — just want to point out that even our situation isn't really conducive to conducting stateside business as usual —

in fact the states right now seem like a very far away dream land. We never really fully appreciate the difference till we get back, I'm told, just take mud, rain, dirt, lousy food, fatigues, etc for granted now. Yesterday a bulldozer got itself buried right up to the seat in mud - took another bulldozer and two tow trucks all day to get it out. All the stories they told are really true - mud is everywhere except on top of this desk - here it's dry so it's dust instead

see →

- All this griping is by way of suggesting you tell Jan to figure up the difference between our dividend in June and our premium + the interest on our \$499.00 loan and we'll pay the difference. Thanks.

You mentioned the fighting around us in Pleechu. What do you hear about it in the states? There's not a word about it in our papers. It's the biggest battle so far in the Viet nam war was none. We have the 173rd, 101st, 1st Cav, 4th Division and Special Forces Mike Forces, plus 2 regiments of ARVN para troops just flown in from Saigon just north of us. This is the

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big one we've been expecting for so long. We're taking a beating but are decimating probably the last intact regiments (estimating to be 5-6 full strength NVN regiments) that are here in So Viet-nam. After this the feeling is that the "war" - that is, the regiment to regiment fighting - will be essentially over. That doesn't mean the other war will be over for a long time. We still have the V.C., the V.M.C., the Fulro, the almost 80% corrupt Saigon government, the 70% insecure villages, the lethargy and the almost total lack of central government influence to contend with. Besides, it's becoming more and more obvious that it'll take at least 10-15 years to build anything remotely resembling a stable, efficient government if we let the Vietnamese proceed at the pace they're going - if they ever make it at all. The alternative is to make a real colony out of this like the Communists have been saying we wanted to do from the beginning. From my point

of view, I hope we take our time —
maybe 10-15 years — in the meantime
the Special Forces and people like myself
can train the Montagnards, develop an
intelligence, cottage industry & cattle
ranching, soldiers and statesmen and
eventually a civilization actually
surpassing what the Vietnamese can
attain. The Montagnards have something
going for them that the VN do not —
mutual trust, a genuine desire to take
advantage of what we have to offer, eagerness
to learn and a genuine unity and
trust in their leadership. Sounds like
a pipe-dream? — The S.F. don't think
so. They preach to the Yards and Fulros
that they can never win a total war
with the NVN or the SVN governments —
but that, once they've developed their
resources — material & human — they can become
a force that no one can ignore and must
be dealt with on equal terms. Will take
approximately one generation of very hard
work — but the Yards are eager to learn
and not a damn bit afraid of work. And
they can see some hope with this arrangement
— can pour all of their frustration into
working hard for this goal. Wouldn't it
want to tangle with them in 10-15 years,
if I were a Vietnamese.

(4)

129 Tang

Just read over that lost bit - sorry to get so carried away - but believe what I said. (Can hear the almost constant sound of mortars, cannons, big stuff and the constant drone of air planes and helio coppers off to the north - it's like living by the railroad tracks - have to concentrate to hear it but it's there almost continually - will have to tape record it for you some mite.)

Would like that article about addiction in Look. Are you saving articles for me or is that asking too much?

Colleen's swimming I'm anxious to see - she's very proud of herself I know - am happy for her. How have Kaela and Erin been doing or haven't you pushed this?

Am anxious to go fishing and just sit in a boat with ~~just~~ peace and quiet.

- Gotta little diverted, didn't I - let's start a new page.

oops - a Hudson slip I'm sure - am horny as hell. Do you think it'll atrophy after all this time? - Have heard of guys going on R+R and couldn't get excited. What a tragedy!

Weezer talks about Tim Conlon being quite a guy, too. Know Mike would be proud as hell to know this.

Think all the activity is good, Sweetie — as long as you eat & sleep enough. I'm not too nuts about time to my self lately either. On the other hand, enjoy my time at nite talking to you when I've had some rest. It's 2⁰⁰ AM now so will be going to bed soon and follow some of my own advice. May also sit outside and watch the flare show (it's July 4th every day around here — just keeping the perimeter lit up) and chat with myself and the good Lord — have been running so fast and long haven't really reviewed my reasons for doing what I do. Find myself being impatient and irritable with people again. That psyche day I had today sort of wore my nerves thin.

Glad to hear your good words about Dan & Eileen. Sounds like the whole family is growing closer together this year — hope I don't disrupt this. You don't mention Tom & Theresa very much — assume you don't see them very often.

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Congratulations to Colleen on her good showing and hard work at the Edina swimming class.

Am getting tired - seems like I either write a page or two or go rambling on & on. One thing did disturb me about yours and Weezers last letter - well comment briefly - hope I don't offend either one of you: It's as impossible to make ~~to~~ a statement about "the Negro" as it is to make a statement about "the Irish American" and make it stick.

Have had a tremendous privilege here to know and talk to maybe 100 - 200 Negroes - many of them for hours at a time. Most don't like the riots any better than you do because it appeals to the hoodlums among them. They see some value in them, tho, as attention-getters. Whites cannot ever possibly ~~understand~~ understand what it means to be black all the time and to be labeled a Negro instead of Bill Brown, Lou Bracey, etc. All these men

want is for them to be treated as a man — not a Negro man, or a Afro american, etc. If someone liked or disliked you because you were Irish Catholic American ~~was~~ in spite of the fact you were a horse-ass — then you'd say this person is NOT open minded, but blinded in a way. They don't want to be liked or disliked because they are Negro — they only want to be treated as this man — as the Yards do, by the way. The rioting is not organized on any rational level, but an expression only of the continuing frustration the colored people feel at being treated different than the ~~the~~ WASP or whitey because of his color & only. They also feel this is a war that has been forced on them — and one they will win eventually — it's too late for the Negro to turn back now. They've tasted a little bit of freedom and equality and now they want it ALL. This thing will go on one way or another until full equality is obtained. But the equality of jobs, pay, opportunity, living conditions, etc is just a set of symbols — they want to be treated as a man, ignoring their color. It's a good question if any of us will

⑥

129 rang

ever be able to do this — I can only do this when I watch the Montagnard do this. — I'm too prejudiced to do it by myself.

I think you experienced a little of what I'm saying when John Kennedy became president and a good one — all of a sudden it became academic whether I was an Irish Catholic — no longer did I have to stand and defend ~~to~~ my religious beliefs vs my loyalty to America — no longer did I even worry about the unspoken thoughts WAFPS may have about me because I was Irish, Catholic and yet a loyal American. I knew they knew I could be a good, full fledged, loyal American man and be Irish Catholic, too. All of a sudden I could joke about the drunken Irishman, criticize my church openly, etc.

All ~~sorts~~ analogies limp a little but if you can see our small problem, may be you see the Negro problem a little bit. I see it vividly when I chat with these good people and find a universal intensity and

unswerving purpose ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ their conversations
They know why they're here in Vietnam —
same as the Japanese-Hawaiian-American
knew why it was important for them to
fight with such courage in Italy.

Sure there's hoodlums among the Negroes
but there are a lot of white hoodlums, too
— do we condemn the whole Negro white
population for the crimes committed in
Bloomington-Take Clinic area by the white
hoodlums, or the dope addicts. Do
we say all white girls are perverted because
we know 500-600 lesbians (mostly white)
are living a communal life near the
Clinic. We don't even condemn a
nationality of whites for this. We become
interested instead in reforming the area,
more specifically we become interested in
the particular person. But if one is a Negro
we immediately generalize him or her into
"one of those Negroes". Does some of my
wild talk make sense? Enough.

By the way — there are no colored
leaders — as was amply described in
Newsweek a few weeks ago — just some
get more publicity than others — If anything
has been shown by all the rioting this
Summer — it's that there is no effective
leadership.

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With this long epilogue in mind
will send you your letter and
circle the places where you've done
what we all do — take a specific
problem to a specific person or maybe
5 or 10 persons and then generalize for
the whole race. Don't mean to
cram my ideas down your throat
or shame you, sweetie — would just
like to point out how deeply prejudiced
we really are — me, you, all white
people of our generation — and maybe
show you what the Negro gets by
innuendo and unspoken prejudice
every minute of his existence to date.

We, in the North, are going to
find out in the next year or so
just how deep our prejudice goes.
The Negroes here don't go North
because ~~they~~ there is less prejudice
— just more money and more power
for him. He laughs at the ignorant,
well meaning but just as deeply
prejudiced ~~North~~ Northerner who comes
down ^{South} to help the Negro as if he, the
~~same~~ Northerner, were free of prejudice.
The Negro knows that most of these

do goodness would be uncomfortable as
well living permanently next to a Negro.
He'd either end up being kind to
him or hating him — but rarely
would he treat him as a man, rather
than a Negro man and, therefore, not
as an equal. Have the vague feeling
I'm only repeating myself and not saying
what I mean.

Will shut up. Also don't see
any point in sending your letter back
corrected like a school essay.

Bet that was fun seeing Tom + Peane
again. If I wasn't so anxious to
get home, would be tempted to stop
by & see Tom + Peanne on the
way home in Jan.

There's that money bet again. Hope
by now my salary is clear to you.
Could see my way clear to send \$50-60
of my pay check by money order for
November — December and January but it
would be tight. Maybe Dr. Bernard
would agree to delay payments till
after we get back together or until
we start practice again in April-May.
If not would be willing to contribute
part of my pay check to the loan — it's

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129 7 Aug

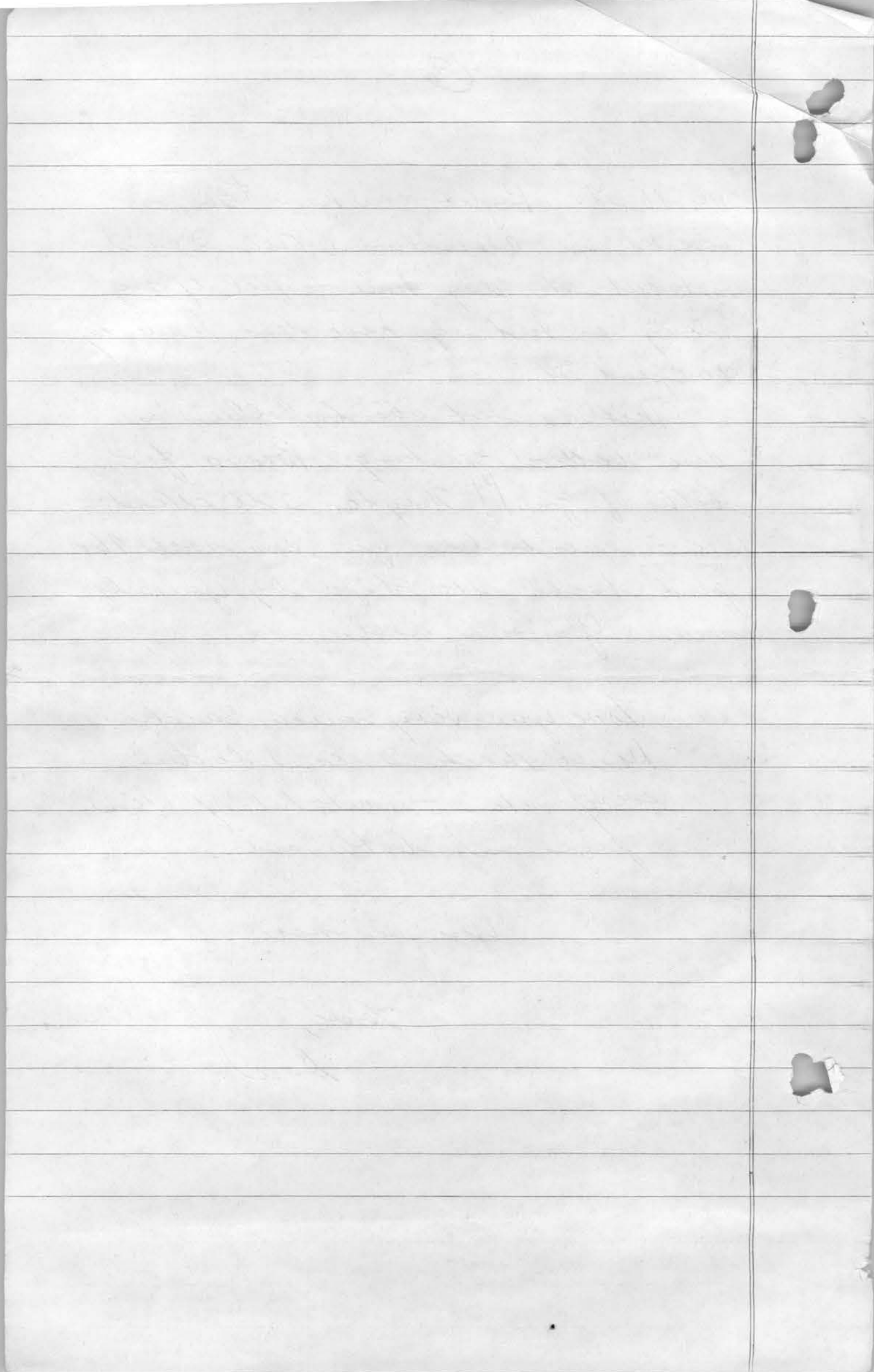
Worth it. Right now have \$500.00
invested in crossbows which I can
get out at any time - feel if my
money is tied up have less tendency
to spend it.

That's a riot about Colleen's
bare bottom spanking. Bravo for
both of you!! Maybe I'll extend
here - sounds like you can rock the
joint back into shape by yourself
now. You're a doll.

Love you very much sweetie.
Don't think I can do this
every nite - a total of ten
pages on both sides.

You're nice.

Love,
Dan



wed 9 Aug 67

130

Hi Kay,

Sorry to write you on the run like this - hope all my long epistles have made it there by now. If I don't write short notes you have to wait 2-3 days for me to get a chance to write a decent letter.

The pace quickens here. More & more alcoholics, dope addicts, more neurotics than ever before.

Things also picking up in the villages - am constantly being interrupted and my fuse is getting shorter & shorter. - have become sharp with people (for instance I've been interrupted 6 separate times since I started this letter (there's another one) and am getting sick & tired of it.

From your letters the last two - I gather you have pneumonia - probably why no mail in the last 3 days. Please take care of yourself, sweetie. If that fever & pain in your chest isn't gone by the time you get this letter - then do something about it. I'll write the clinic myself.

Also check with Will when & if you go down to see if he can't get

This medicare thing figured out for you.

Don't have your letter handy —
hope to answer it tonight when I get
~~back~~ back from the village. I

Sorry for this lousy rushed letter.
Am irritable as hell — same — same
I was before I went to Saigon last
time. More damned cracks & babies
here than in my practice. Feel sometimes
like we're literally holding half the
base population together psychologically
so they can do their jobs.

The only thing that brings me
back to reality is the weekly physicals
on Friday when I see all the men
leaving the service — they have blank
medical charts — never have been seen
for any thing. Actually we're seeing
the same problem people over & over
again. Saw over 100 today — and
the base population is only 3,000 people.
And only 4-5 really sick people among
them!

Love you very much, sweetie. Sorry
for my lousy letters of late. Will
be better tonight. That R+R looks better
and better to me.

Love,
Darin.

Murs 10 Aug 67

11⁰⁰ AM

Disp. Plihu Rn

(131)

Hi Kay,

Am afraid this will be another short one. Sick call is over early today for a change. Very few interruptions so far so will attempt writing now.

No letters for last 4 days again - hope this doesn't mean you are in the hospital with that chest of yours. Times like this is when this letter writing seems futile - would like to be able to call you and hear from you directly how you are.

Went out to Plain Brel yesterday after writing you that short note and relaxed for the first time in 3-4 days. Gnan (one of my good bow makers) invited Lick, John and I to supper & some rice wine. Had sweet corn on the cob (what a treat!) bamboo shoots (almost like asparagus shoots but more crisp - very good) and a chicken which he shot with a crossbow. He presented me with the crossbow & arrow which I'll be sending home. Drank a great quantity of weak rice wine and some beer (from Lick who invited me to his house next week - the social whirl

goes on & on. Am enclosing Jack's invitation to come to his house next Saturday to celebrate his new house - sort of a house warming. Do not destroy - will be part of my memories someday. Also must go to Ton's house for rice wine Sunday. Have a meeting with Special Forces on strategy and policy in villages Friday nite - and so the days go by same-same Kay Conlon. Worry about you, sweetie - will be happy to hear from you at Bonin's to know ~~how~~ how that chest pain & fever turned out. Not knowing is worse than anything you can tell me.

Slept soundly for about 2 hrs before, eating at Inau's. The adrenalin drained out and relaxed myself and sacked out on the family bed. Inau woke me up for supper - very solicitous for me - am very touched. They say I must take good care of myself because I am giang ma lu (very good friend). I find I am a soft touch for signs of friendship like this. This monkish existence most of us live (there are many of us here, believe it or not - that have managed a virginal or monkish course here.) here leaves you wide open to blubbery and Koro when true friendship and concern is shown by

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10 Aug

these people and my friends here. Ask Ed to explain - he's been through this himself, I'm sure. Also Tom K.

Went to bed at 1⁰⁰ AM like I should more often - woke up refreshed and have had a good morning. Have the afternoon off until 4³⁰ - may take a nap, wander around the base a little and, in general, relax.

68 bows went down to Saigon again - hope they sell well. Will take my own P&R to Saigon at the end of the month. Dulaney just came in - his eyes are beginning to look a little like this paper - not enough to call it jaundice but we'll watch him a few days to be sure. He's got less than 30 days to his tour - if he comes down with jaundice we'll air evac him out to the States. His replacement is due in this Saturday 12 Aug so it'll be no sweat.

See by the paper today (1st one in 4 days also) that the Twins have bounced

back to $2\frac{1}{2}$ games out - they report the standings and every now & then they'll do a play-by-play of a few games. Will be glad to get back to Mpls to get my daily dose of info from the Sports Section.

Got a notice that we've overdrawn Wichita Falls State Bank \$25.00 - must pay this or be up for disciplinary action by 7th Air Force. Sweetie - you can't fight 'em all. Will pay it and shut up, so don't sweat it.

11th Commandment: Don't sweat the small shit.

Colleen is really branching out and taking her world by storm - I like that. Have ~~always~~ been pleased with her motor as you know. Please tell her how proud I am of her.

Dreamt about Jimmy last nite - how we'd get along later on. Was a good dream. We were buddies. Hope I haven't lost too much in this year. Feel greater responsibility for him somehow than for the girls. Hope I don't push him too much, etc, etc. Will just play it by ear when I get back. May have to pick Ed's brains many times. I like what you say

(3)

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10 Aug

about his whim of iron. That picture of him is something else.

Have just spent the last 15 minutes posting all the pictures on my wall here in my "office". Looks very nice if I do say so myself. About time I started bragging about you guys openly.

Now have that go-to-hell picture of Jimmy looking at me all the time.

The name of that medicine for the eyes is anything that has ophthalmic drops or salve written on it. Neodecadron, poly sporicin, neosporicin, tetracycline, etc.

Yes, there are many mistakes made here in this war - unfortunately all the news men seem to be interested in are the mistakes. If an honest mistake is made in any other line of work, no one normally gets hurt.

However, this is a war, people get killed and maimed every day - when mistakes are made here, they can be pretty disastrous. However, sometimes you don't have weeks to check and

double check - sometimes only seconds
or you are dead instead. Sorry
about those sensational stories - distort
the whole picture here. (as they do when
writing up sensational medical things
as you know). Have less & less time
for these new paper ~~paper~~ men & women
- self-made experts in 3-4 hours.

Baloney - we have Special Forces men
here into their 3rd years and they
don't claim to be authorities - how can
a newspaper man be an authority in
3-4 hours. Most of the reporting they
do is inaccurate even for simple details
and names - let alone general statements
about an incident. Haven't seen one
story reported as it actually happened
so far in our area. Have given up on
these people entirely.

Will repeat - this is a war -
Sweetie - we are all in a war zone,
constant shooting going on of one
kind or another. Like a dream land a
place where shooting & fighting does
not go on. ^(VSA) We live with it and
adjust to it or we get to be neurotic
like the men I've been seeing lately.
As I've mentioned and as Leo, Ed &
Tom have mentioned - my ass is as
protected as an ass can be - simply

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(131) 10 Aug

because I am a doctor. Know the rules of conduct in a war zone and no longer abuse them as I once did long ago. Get briefed on the local scene almost daily by the OSI, Montagnards, Special Forces — and brief these people on my information almost daily. Am in no immediate danger — less than most of the men in this area. This is a war here and to ignore it would be stupid. Hope I'm not confusing you. Am safe — possibly safer than Kaula & Colleen are crossing Xetpes ave — but we let them cross anyway, don't we?

I love you sweetie, hope my last paragraph didn't upset you. Please listen to Ed & Wey and me — there are a whole bunch of people who seem to relish the idea that a man may be shot, wounded, etc. We have them here. Lt. Mezavos from Dak Pek was reported dead or captured 5 times by separate people, separate stories — when lo & behold I see Ed

over in Special Forces the other day
without a scratch - on his way home.

Chewed the hell out of the people
who had reported the KIA to me - they
all played dumb and said they'd heard
it from someone else. A funny type
of people who seem to gloat on the
possibility of another person being shot, etc.

"A coward dies many times before his
death; a brave man dies but once."

Enough said.

Love you, Sweetie - will get
lunch now.

Talk to you later,

Don

13-14 Aug 67

MAEV

Pleiku RVN

12³⁰ minute

Sunday

132

Hi Kay,

Will ~~dash~~ this thing off to you quickly and then start another one so you'll get some mail from today.

Had a long, pleasant day in the dispensary cleaning up much of my paperwork - seeing an occasional patient that my corps men would let me see (tell you about that later) - going to Mass and chatting with many people I couldn't or haven't chatted with before. The new chief of the dispensary is due in tomorrow at 6³⁰ AM so will go down to meet him early in AM - red carpet, the whole bit. Will be interesting to see what he is like.

Good thing I've been busy because got only 2 letters from you this week and both have talked about how lousy you feel. Am worried about you, sweetie. Hope you have enough sense to see a doctor or at least call one for the pneumonia I think you have. Expect the next letter will have you in the hospital. Am half tempted to send a letter by Red Cross -

"Twix" it's called here. — to see if
what I fear is true.

Had a good — but sober — party at the
club tonite with very good Korean entertainers
— a great trumpet player and some beautiful
dancers and singers (our idea of beauty
has changed a little here — next to you
they wouldn't look so hot I'm afraid)
Have been sober as a judge (not Judge Rudy
— will have to modify that phrase a little) for
the last 48 — 60 — 72 hrs except for
my episode with the Green Beret boys.
Have missed many good parties at many
places — just turned down the 4th ACS
party because am on call constantly now.
Not bad call, understand. My corpsmen
are down there knocking themselves out for
me — seeing things and doing things they
haven't been allowed to do for a long
time. Most of them are perfectly capable
of doing all these things — many have
upwards of 16 — 25 years of experience
as medics — all they needed was a
reason to work. When Dulaney left

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13-4 Aug 67

and I became the only doctor here
they all pitched in and turned out to
be excellent doctors in their own right.
Damned near have to ask them if I
can see a patient just to keep my
hand in. Have magnificent men working
with me as I've maybe said before.

My only concern right now is for
you, sweetie - hope you come out of your
sickness with flying colors. Wish I
could be with you to get breakfast for
you or something. Thank Ed & Weez for
helping so much.

Got a tremendous compliment that I'm
hesitant to pass along to you but will
any way just for the record. A man I
respect very much - Bud Mehan - told me
something today that I'm afraid will give
me a tremendous swelled head unless I
can somehow live up to this or live it down
whatever. He told me I was a leader - now
you know I don't consider myself that
I have always considered myself a damned
good lieutenant but not a leader. Well,

he insisted I was - that I have a
charismatic (spell^s) about me that attracts
people and makes them want to follow.
Amazing! He went on to say that I
was so oblivious of things around me
that people took upon themselves to
protect me and watch out for me.

If this is true, am very pleased but
also vaguely uncomfortable with this
new thing about me. Please comment.
Don't know quite how to cope with this
new revelation, if true, about me.

Guess the answer is to just go on doing
what I do, and, if what he's says is
true, things will work out okay.

Again, I'm faced with the same thing
as when Jim Herd said he loved us -
don't know whether to shit or go blind.

Guess the answer is just be yourself and
forget the rest.

Enough of the psycho analysis. Love
you, sweetie, take care of yourself. Hope
there's a letter tomorrow.

Love you,
Dan

(The following was found on a pad of paper on a vacated desk of Lt. Col Frank Doyal, my predecessor as Information Officer at Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. I suspect, from internal evidence, that it was written by John Value, a correspondent for a group of New England newspapers, who came here for three days and stayed for three months.)

Charley Brown Capt
USAF.

"... And thus we become a victim of over-
empathy, of outraged morals, who trembles at a
sudden noise, not from any specific fear but
from the awful strain that results from being
open, from not cauterizing one's nerve ends, from
not hiding. So I have come to learn terror,
and horror and love and it is more important
than the trembling and anguish that accompany
such learning. The latter will heal. The former
results in a much more moral being, my
hardest lesson ever, and most worthwhile.

"Part of it is learning to be honest. I came
here to run away, to be killed, and I lost
my nerve, with the result that the intolerable
I left has become tolerable; that I no longer
fear God, nor life, nor any thing, including
myself.

"The anticipation of coming home fills me with
joy. When I left, I took my loneliness with
me and my lack of confidence.

"I have dropped them along the way. In the
hand clasp of a child. In a smile from a

Montagnard stocker who had lost all his limbs. In kind conversations with some French nuns who run an orphanage and a missionary lady who treats lepers. In the death of friends. In the sure knowledge that most people like me and that I like all people.

"I have become full of love, truly a happy man. I know nothing of bitterness.

"I have found out what I have always suspected; that I am a happy man.

"So the only things to overcome are shyness and laziness and physical carelessness and that job is begun.

"It is not so much a matter of growing up. It's just that I think that I have to grow up faster than other people, if not as perfectly."

"War seems to be a natural condition of man. I don't think we can call it good or bad. Unhappily, people are most imperfect and war seems to be one of the ways we demonstrate our imperfections.

"But, some of the finest men I know are warriors. It is puzzling.

"But, that's the way we seem to be. So, let's not call war good or bad — or worse than that: just or unjust. War just seems to

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18 Aug

describe itself, and in this description,
good and bad don't seem to make
much sense. "

or at about Feb-March 1967
John Burnside Value.

2 ^{AM} Friday AM
MBCU, PKU, RVN

Ray,

18 Aug 67

I've just had a wonderful conversation
with a good man - Lt Col Frank Doyal
- he goes home tomorrow after a long tour.
He's worn out, has been drinking much
too much, his resistance is gone - he's
tired - lonesome for his wife - his year
is through. Gave me the supreme
compliment tonight - inducted me into
the Pleiku Irregulars - an uncommon
award given to only a few here
- Col Wm Boxman, Jack Rudy, Frank
Doyal, John Value, Rich Smith (Lt Col)
and a few others (not more than 5 or 6).
Had to walk the bar - same-same pay
for a round of drinks for everyone.
Did it with determination and qualified as
the best bar walker in many a month.

Have talked philosophy for the last three hours with Frank. All centered around Psalm 91, John Valeri's essay which I include and a general description of what happens to a man after a year of this wonderful - ugly - lonely - inspirational place. After the initial wonderment passes in the first 2-3 wks, you become an expert about every thing here - this lasts for 2-3 mos at which time you begin to doubt your judgement, lose your black & white ideas about all Vietnamese being bad guys and all Montagnards being good guys. See good V.N & bad Yards. After more time your depression leaves you and a lethargy sets in where you want to sleep, hate rice wine, the dirty yards, the ugly confusing war, the lousy VN and everyone & everything connected with the assignment (about the time I blasted away at you, sweetie). You either get hold of yourself and force yourself to work at this point or you just continue with your bitterness and day-counting routine. If you're fortunate enough to get ahold of yourself and work, you drive yourself even harder - a day by day work schedule that, in retrospect, is quite unbelievable (same same what you just went through and ended up with pneumonia) - finally you get to my stage now where I'm short with people -

impatient with them that they can't
kick themselves in the ass & get with
it, quick to get to the point, short
with patients, unwilling to painstakingly
go through the long-winded explanation
of the Montagnard vs. VN (also because
it can't be explained in black and white
as it once could ^{so} eloquently by me).
Have found a strength quite unknown
to me before (I think because of you,
Weez & Ed and others) and have become
intolerant of people who cannot find
this strength. We discussed Jack
Rudy - how he went from a timid young
man to a virtual lion by the time he
left here. How Fr. Ray Sullivan started
falling apart the last month he was here.
How Frank himself is coming apart at
the seams now that he has only a few
days left. He will be calling you
when he gets to the states - a very
good friend to me - can honestly
say I love the man - same same Jack
Rudy.

We have also been invited by
Bob Schultz to go to Hann, Germany
sometime in the next 3 years after we

get back from here. He insists we'd better start planning now. The only expense will be travel fare to & from — we'll live at his house in Hann and get a royal tour all over Europe with he & his wife as our guides. Sounds inviting, doesn't it? About \$500-\$600 all told. Says the best time to come is in the fall — during the wine & beer festivals.

Have been told by many I should take a standby RTR somewhere OUT OF COUNTRY. Explain we don't have any dough — have been offered loans to get away. May do so but think October isn't far away at this point.

Sweetie, I have to get some sleep. Took Hodgson & Charles over to Special Forces to show them around. Am back to me 3-4 hrs sleep again — must start getting 8 hrs one of these nites.

Thanks for the care package. Also the one from the folks whom I'll write to soon.

Love you very, very much. Let's shack up soon, okay?

Love

Don

(136)

19 Aug

19 Aug 67
MAEV RVN
Pleiku
Saturday mke
Time?

Hi Kay,

Monday

Your letters are delightful - Thank you very much - will answer them thoroughly when I expect to be very sober. Have been out to Plei Prol with Lich, John Watson - bought 30,000 piastre worth of bows - got drunk at Hinh's + Lillie's while Lich got drunk elsewhere and John Watson roved the village with the young men and learned very much. He is thoroughly loved out in the village - can't be jealous of him because I unabashedly love him myself. A powerful, dynamic, joyful person - we work well in tandem - he learns from the young people and I hold my own with the "older" set. Between the two of us we cover the 3 village and add people to our side that come in from outlying villages. John got an invitation to go to Plei Koteng tonight. Add this to my invitation and we're set to go in October. Bought some bows from Plei Breng also tonight myself. Haven't been there since March - will get on the stick when the monsoon quits in September - October.

Got the third degree for sure Friday when was called to testify at a court martial for Bob Boruchy - M/sgt - alcoholic. Had to explain what an alcohol is - very difficult for an alcoholic - impossible for a simple drunk like myself. Took two of the lawyers out tonight with me - they did very well - were accepted - not just tourists - they also had a good time - bought some bows at a cut rate (same price I buy them at from the Yards) - drank 9-10 levels of rice wine at Hinh's + a beer la Beau at Lillie's. Maybe will go out with us in the AM.

Am invited to ① Plo's ~~harvest~~ maturation of the rice sacrifice at 8⁰⁰ PM ② Lillie's same at 12⁰⁰ noon ③ Party for the new boss of dispensary at 2-3 PM ④ 4th AES "real" party in the evening. (they've had three or four "practice parties" for the warmup which were doughies. Should be a long day. Will get to sleep now so I'll be up to it. Got two rice wine jugs for the 4th AES as per request - must get them back to Hinh & Lillie Monday AM or as soon as possible.

Sweetie, believe it or not - I love you very much - am glad to hear you are back home & feeling somewhat better. Plan to take another "R+R" to Saigon with

(2) 19 Aug
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Lech next Friday - may take a whole week at that time. - plan to sleep & relax as much as possible. - and write a decent letter to you.

Hello to the kids for me.

John Watson just had an 8# 15oz baby girl - is happier than hell.

Cut off any ties he had with Bler if any (doubt if he did) - again - that's his business, not mine - have never asked him one way or the other - and he's never offered any information.

Have to go to bed, sweetie.

Love you very much - sorry my letters are so lousy. Maybe things will slow up a little in Saigon.

The days go by one by one - won't count them till after the R+R.

Good night -

Dan

P.S. you never commented on the tapes, slides or my letters. - Would appreciate hearing your reactions.

Love, Dan

P. 5 10³⁰ AM Sunday

Wrote the above letter under the influence of alcohol at about 2^{PM} -
re-read it and don't see where I have
to revise a thing.

Talk to you later - am late for
the village.

Dan

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2^{PM}
21 Aug 67
MACV, PKV, RVN
Monday, early AM

Hi Ray,

Have just read your letter from 12 Aug again - beautiful thing. Got through my 4 parties okay and am relatively sober. Drank some powerful rice wine at Plo's house - fell asleep on the whole show at about 1³⁰ PM - woke up at 3⁰⁰ PM ~~at~~ in time to go to Lill's house where they had a pig & goat sacrificed - drank there and then left for Ton's house - fell asleep again there and Blex put me to bed, took off my boots & jacket and put a blanket on me. Woke up fully rested - first time in a long time - at 8⁰⁰ PM and came back to a party at 4th ACS. This is all full of "2's" Went out with John Watson, Dick, Lee Ignatowicz and another Montagnard from the MACV village. They went their separate ways and eventually ended up at Ton's to wake me up & get me on my way. Was particularly touched by Blex's attentions to me. She is much like Megan - saucy, full of the devil, never shows any emotions at all like softness or womanliness, etc.

- goes to great lengths to be as strong
and outspoken as possible. But when
I was obviously beat tired today, couldn't
do enough for me to make me comfortable.
- like a good grand child should. Too bad
you'll never meet her. - think you would
enjoy her, too.

Will cut this letter short also,
sweetie - want to get to bed and sleep.
Have the "lows" again. Will get a good
letter off to you tomorrow I hope.

Love you,

Dan

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23 Aug 67
 1:30 AM ~~Thursday~~ ~~Friday~~ ~~Saturday~~ ~~Sunday~~
 MACV Pleekun RVN

Hi Kay

you wonderful, beautiful girl. Thank you for all the mail - the card, the care packages, the birthday ~~and~~ greetings, the pictures, and every thing. Started a letter last nite which I found in my pocket this evening, went over the time for mailing this Monday afternoon - went to sleep at 10 PM Monday nite from sheer exhaustion - have been on the run all day today (my birthday) and now find I'm past the 1st PM deadline for writing you for today. Have received cards, letters, care packages from many people - two from the clinic, 2 from you, clothes & soap from Westminster Church, a beautiful care package from the Ivory's with a cake of all things and even a note from Jack Rudy.

Will stay up as long as I can to write to write people thank you notes - have finally gotten over my sleeping constantly and feel good again.

Ah - there it is - finally found this letter I've been carrying around

since Sunday nite - Monday AM. Have been
in another rat race.

Took call Monday after the usual
Monday AM sick call that lasted till
12³⁰ noon (can't find time to dash off a
letter to you in the morning any more)
- caught a quick sandwich - and felt
drugged all day Monday afternoon & evening
- haven't even gotten to the cross bows
yet to catalogue them and bought them
Saturday! Slept most of Monday afternoon
except during a short 3 PM sick call. Came
up to MACV about 7³⁰ - ate a big
spaghetti dinner, chatted with the usual
crowd of visitors Bob and I got every
nite and then went to bed at 10³⁰ PM
of all times. Slept till 6⁴⁵ AM this
morning - got to sick call 10 min early!
- and have been on the go ever since.
Laid out our plans for September when
we travel the villages with our medics
- both Montagnard and American - inoculating,
training, etc with Special Forces and
a man in the 71st Evac Hospital - looks

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(138)

23 Aug

like a good plan - went from there to pick up Bob Shultz for a conference with Col Hullar about a visiting gen'l Nicholas, who's coming through → to Pleiku with Bob Shultz and then to pick up a plaque for the gen'l and 3 rice wine jugs for Hinh → dispensary to pick up John Watson, Dr. Charles (his first try at going out to the villages) Lou Bracey and Ron Smith → Plei Brel to get some big bows, triggers & quivers, chat with Ton about the upcoming medical visits → ate supper there at Ton's → got back here at 10 PM → have been talking to Ken Roberts, Hevon & Hawkins some some Civic Action till now. How's that for a birthday? Must apologize for your 1-2-3 day without letters - have done it again.

My adrenalin is up again so should be able to write a decent letter tonight.

You must be as tired of these short notes as I am of writing them. Like to really sit down and talk to you, comment on your letters, philosophize a

but and just shoot the breeze. Will be happy when you have more energy and can sit down and comment on my comments, tapes, etc.

Got your picture of Colleen - Kevin's "wedding" - a classic. Also the picture of Kaela in her beautiful dress. and the one of nature girl in the pool. - her hair is still as red as it was when I left. (By the way the old tomato patch looks pretty much like weeds back there - you said you weren't going to do anything about it and you didn't, did you?)

Am way back to 10 Aug in the letter answering dept (do you enjoy my going through your letters and commenting?) You comment about aching all over with loneliness for the kids while you were at your mother's house. Caught my self day dreaming today when I passed by some Vietnamese kids playing in the field here - was trying to picture ~~children~~ our kids just laughing and playing and then

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seeing me come home like they used to do and running up to see me. Seems like a thousand years ago. Miss hugging them and you like I used to - can't do that here (except during an occasional rice wine party when I hug Ton's or Henk's wife and scare hell out of them) - they aren't used to that - sort of put up with this wild Irishman because I'm having a good time and know I'm just being friendly.

Found some kids writing in the hard-packed clay while waiting for Ton's wife to fix the rice wine and supper - they were drawing pictures - so I sat down on my haunches and started drawing too - had a ball - ended up drawing Ton's long house. Felt like I was playing with my kids for a change, giggling, comparing pictures - finally had Ton and 4 or 5 others out there watching - many good memories of just plain friends having a good time. After that we had a cross bow contest which I lost. - Blex won - even beat John Watson.

Am delighted with your recovery - will gladly get a letter off to Dick Howland to thank ~~us~~ him for all he's done for you and the kids.

Blex's getting along just fine at the officer's club - embarrasses me by coming in my room without warning - one of these days she's going to catch me getting dressed. Damned near have to check before changing clothes. Bob Shultz thinks it's a riot. - "Here comes your grand daughter," he'll say and laugh like hell. She feels I'm just one of the family and can come & go into my room any time she feels like it. No sweat - guess I am one of the family - I certainly feel at home at their house.

Am planning on going to Saigon this Friday or Saturday and spend a few days - may be mentioned that before - am looking forward to it - need a break from the rat race here every once in a

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while. Got a call from Don Goodman
~~the~~
today from Saigon wanting to know when I'd
be coming down — and would I be bringing
any cross bows, etc.

Those neighbors of ours are really something
— had to go to Vietnam so you'd find
out how nice they are. We'll have to
have a block party when we get back.

Just finished your lonely letter from the 8th
August without the kids or house or me
— maybe you know something about the loneliness
Ed and I have experienced in our experiences
away from home — why it's very hard to
just sit around — why I have to be busy
to keep my mind off the whole thing. Not
entirely unselfish and noble doing the things
I'm doing here — how'd he?

You're going to be so well read I'll
never catch up. Have picked up Venetian
Affair 4-5 times and still haven't
gotten through the 3rd chapter — in

fact may just start sending home the pocket books I'm collecting here for free. Never will get to them at this rate — only have time to skim through Time, Stars & Stripes (when I can get them) — letter writing & reading is my only intellectual stimulus here so far.

Glad you liked the statues. Yes, that's Buddha and it's made from Ivory. Hope to get an Ivory chess set before I get out of here. Am saddened to have to report my \$50 Sony radio was stolen + my camera plus 2 beautiful bows — from my room — probably not by Vietnamese either — our mammasan is honest as the day is long and protects our stuff to a fault — was very upset when she found out they were gone and gave the other mammasan's the 3rd degree. Some ID — stole Charlie Brown's rain coat, too.

Sweetie, get a cross bow gift damned

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near every time I go to the village — many fond memories — have 3 more I must keep and am sure will get many more — But room is literally covered and hung with cross bows — Bob and I have almost demolished one ply wood wall shooting into it — the warrant officer next door is starting to get a little nervous about the whole thing. Luckily there is another layer on his side with about 5 inches of dead space in between the two walls.

Thanks a lot, Ed — a fat Dan! — Say Kay — please get busy on the loan for Hawaii — maybe take it out of our savings if you have to. Dr. Bernard is over in Robbinsdale along Highway 100 I think. Look him up in the telephone book if you have to. Don't want you to miss the trip because you didn't plan it. Will apply in the next few days for October — exciting isn't it — damned near pee in my pants when I think of it. Yes, I took out (2) \$375.00 loans &

a \$750.00 loan from U of M + the \$600.00 loan from Nat'l Defense. Sure was easy taking out and sure is tough paying back, isn't it?

About Betty Shannon — don't have too much ready advice to give her from this far away. Just be aware of the fact that most real alcoholics drink all the time — more or less a constant companion — a matter of vibrating the stuff so they can keep high, perform their job as best they can during working hours and getting drunk actually fairly seldom unless they're in the last stages. There's an occasional last weekend, sometimes more than an occasional one. But a man can be alcoholic and not be drunk all the time. Has no direct relationship to the volume of booze drunk although a large volume drunk pretty consistently would be a good warning sign. Ask your ready made, handy-dandy expert — Dad — about some of these things — he'll be able to

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answer many of your questions about Lafe. Sweetie, it takes two to tango — if Lafe doesn't want to open up or sober up — no one in God's green earth is going to make him except him — again ask Dad. He's got the world's record, I'm sure — waiting for Dan Dunton to come around.

That schedule of Lafe's off hand doesn't sound like anything an alcoholic could tolerate for very long. Are you sure he's just not escaping a situation at home that you and I know nothing about? There may be a reason why he avoids home, the kids, Betty — goes hunting on his time off, etc, etc. Again the problem of silent tension, no fights means same-same no communications. No communications often means same-same no love. No you can't tell by a urine specimen if a man is an alcoholic — no easy diagnosis like that. You almost have to be an alcoholic yourself to spot the symptoms and signs with any consistency — a tough club to belong to — as my alcoholics say here, the

imitation (D.T's, cold turkey, shakes,
"hell week") is really rough.

We all have alcoholic tendencies if we
let alcohol become a substitute for
facing facts, problem solving, person-to-
person confrontations when sober, etc.

"Facing responsibility" is the ~~top~~ phrase
that AA likes to use - responsibility in
all departments not just in the dept of
earning the Almighty dollar.

Okay - end of sermon - does that
give you an insight? - hope so.

Am up to Aug 14th - you've been writing
beautiful letters lately - they still come
in 2's & 3's but know it isn't
your fault.

— Hey - you know what? - opened
your letter of the 14th and found out
somehow I hadn't read it! How the
hell that ever happened I'll never know
— usually read your letters 2 or 3 times
a piece — a beautiful letter at that.

Monday 9³⁰ PM Aug 14 - written on my
note book paper - answers all kinds

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of questions. Glad the records arrived — both packages? Glad to hear your comments about the tapes. Know you didn't get much out of 4 of them — sorry — but will be good memories for me someday — will explain them when I get back. Sorry to be critical, sweetie. Am slowly coming out of my snapping at people, etc. — hope to be sunny and cheery soon again — must be another stage a person goes through, here

Did I tell you I paid the Wichita State Bank by money order? — well, I did — so that's out of the way.

Won't that home coming be fun? — find myself day dreaming about it more & more — must stop that. DELOS 22 Jan NOT 22 August — still 5 mo to go. Will just relax and wait for October to roll around, then will start thinking about the days left — otherwise may just start wishing the year away like so many of the people here.

— a beautiful, beautiful letter — Thank you.

No, I won't explain pneumonia in a letter to you. If you want to really know, ~~of~~ dig out my pathology book and read it in there — a Medical dictionary doesn't do you any real good except give you a false sense of knowledge — a little ~~of~~ knowledge is a dangerous thing.

I have been making damned sure I don't get any strange drafts here though — don't need your experience.

Dick Howland is nothing if not thorough — and delighted to hear he's discovered Paula's hearing problem — hope her ears clear up — have also suspected that's been her problem all along — but like most Dr's didn't want to diagnose it myself or buy another Dr about my kids. The shoe maker's kids always have the louisiest shoes.

So you don't want to get pregnant on our "honey moon" after all! You better protect yourself for sure, then, lady. Over here we talk about "white outs" instead of black outs — (sperm piling up so high, all we see is white),

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Am happy to hear about your friendship with Dick Howland & Tom & Barb McGinty blossoming. Will you take me around to all these good friends you're developing and sort of introducing me slowly? Almost feel like I'll have to work into society gradually again after this strange situation I'm in here. "Fuck you, John Watson" is the nicest thing I can say to John in this society. That's all I have to do is get high and start using that language back where you are.

Your letters are full of joy and optimism (Aug¹⁴ 16 & 17) and is it ever nice to hear. You must be getting better.

The party at Murphy's is the kind of thing I'm really looking forward to again. What happened to ~~your~~^{your} planned vacation? Did it just sort of dissolve when you got pneumonia?

Gota letter from Ruth Nord today which mentioned it was very hot & muggy there. Here it continues to rain almost constantly, is cool (about 45° now) and

The sun pokes through for about 15 min
once or twice a week.

Have just read this strange letter of ~~my~~
mine - sorry it's so disjointed - have
been working a long time on it - 3 hours
to be exact - it's now 4⁰⁰ AM and am
still raring to go - will try to get
some thank you notes off to various
people while the adrenalin is still
there. Will hate myself in a few hours
when sick call starts - have stepped
sleeping again like a fool.

The last part of your letter dated
17 Aug was like a poem, a sermon, and
an examination of conscience + a love letter
all wrapped up in one. Thank you. You
know me pretty well, don't you? You've
never explained me to me before if I
remember correctly. Have never questioned
why you love me - have just always
known your love is there when I need
it since a long time ago when I
put it to such a test - remember?

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23 Aug

this "antenna" you speak about that I have — well, it's not as sharp as it once was. Possibly a lack of closeness to God that needs working on. Possibly just a little bit of the big head from all the attention I'm getting lately — seems the new people actually know all about me when I meet them — very flattering and very destructive at the same time. The genuine interest in the next guy you mentioned is less real than it used to be — am beginning to like my notoriety too much — and caught up, I'm afraid, in preserving my "image" — quite possibly need a kick in the ass to straighten me out. Indirectly you may have done that by describing me as I used to be and the contrast of what I've become lately hurts like hell. I've lost my "innocence," you might say. — have gone Hollywood a little bit. Phoney is a better ~~word~~ word. Thank you.

Think I may have the solution to the dilemma. People still have not lost their fascination for me — find them as interesting

as I always have. Maybe a little less
attention by myself on #1 and a
lot more attention to God and my
fellow men will help to straighten my halo
and hone down the horns a bit. Have
saved in my mind a little saying
that Dick Van Dyke has on his desk.
— YOU ARE NUMBER THREE — I like
that.

I love you more than you will ever
know. It's been fun ~~was~~ talking with
you — hope you can make some sense out
of this letter. Thanks very much for yours
— especially the last one — I needed that.

Love,

4³⁰
PM

Dan

P.S. Read your last letter for the 6th or 7th time
just now — am filled with love for you that I can
never tell you about — how I ever lucked out with you
is more than I'll ever know. God bless you.

Dan

139 24 Aug

24 Aug 67
9¹⁵ AM
USAF Dep
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Will dash off a quick note while I have a break between patients — was up till 4³⁰ AM again this morning — it was 4³⁰ AM with your letter the nite before — Can it seem to get straightened out in the sleeping department. Am very reluctant to go to bed at nite because this is usually the only time I can have any privacy — get interrupted as I've mentioned all day as long as another soul is awake, it seems.

Was on call all day & nite yesterday. We got in another pt — can't remember his name — yesterday. Bring our number up to four. We've gone stateside since John Hadgson arrived — as per order of PACAF I guess. We're back to writing prescriptions, filling out forms, etc, etc. It's necessary I guess but sure enjoyed the free & easy days.

Stayed up late last nite discussing the Negro problem at great length with

Low Bracey - learned a lot. Brought
my clothes over, slept on the examining
table and had a good shower with
real hot water this AM. Felt good.
Also got about 100 pages of Venetian
Affair read - a very interesting story -
good diversion for me.

10¹⁰ AM Got a very good letter from Mike
yesterday and a birthday card from
Nita Dunton. 10¹⁵ PM Still haven't gotten
off any letters of thanks to all those
nice people. Will try again today.
- have been interrupted almost continually
since starting this thing. 10³⁰ PM But since that
little exam of conscience, etc, you helped
me with the other side have managed
to put it in perspective - there's another
interruption - phone call this time.

Shit! Will write you later
- impossible to write from the
dispensary, it seems. - there's another one

Love you, Sweetie,
Dan

26 Aug

3⁰⁰ PM

Sgt. "Froupe"

Saigon, RVN

140

Hi Kay,

As you see, am in Saigon again at the villa. Drank beer and had a cross bow contest with Art Atther and Lynn Becklin and Jack Luce till 6³⁰ AM - helped the sun come up. Our aim got worse and worse as the day and morning wore on - but our spirits improved. There's a Play Bay fold out that's full of holes now. Also all the beer is gone. Went to bed at 7³⁰ PM and finally got up at 1¹⁰ PM this afternoon. My R&R is going well again. Am relaxing for sure - can feel the adrenalin draining out. Plan to do nothing at

all I don't want to do - Lick
is no problem at all - watches
TV, disappears for long stretches of
time, chats with the Vietnamese, etc.
- same-same Tonto and Lone Ranger.

Have missed the first part of the
Civic Action meeting - same Lions Club
- every body gets together and brags
about what a hell of a job he's doing
in Civic Action. The one that lies
the best gets the Civic Action award.

We're all sitting here trying to
decide whether to go ahead and
die or wait it out and see if
living can be worth while. Lynn
and I have had a good time - and
getting to know him better each time

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and have to agree ^{14p} with Mike that
he's quite a guy. Very quiet
spoken but with good ideas, enjoys
a party and has a very good strong
philosophy of life. Loves his wife and
kids - probably the source of his
strength.

Am going to write the folks now,
Sweetie. Will talk to you later.
Really enjoy ^{this} ~~with~~ leisure life.
Recommend it for jangled nerves.

Love you very much. Accept your
chewing out in your last letter.
Your big shot of a husband was
feeling sorry for himself again.
Far sure don't need a Lorraine

Glomstad, so bitch away lady!

Your criticism is very justified
— want to know what's going on
— haven't had pneumonia myself
before but your depression sounds
like part of the disease — don't
sweat it, sweetie. You sound
chipper and stranger every day in
your letters.

Will be interested to hear
your comments about Ann Hendrickson
— glad you and I never got into
that religious life — think we'd
both be pretty screwed up by now.
Think we both made a wise choice.
When we were in our quandy

We will be, without a doubt, the
skinniest couple that Hawaii

(3) ¹⁴⁰ 26^{ang}
ever saw. Oh well, by then I
won't care if you hurt me with
your bony elbows, etc or not.
I AM HORNY.

Will call it quits for now.

Love you,
Sweetie.

Dan

5
I am sorry
your money should be so
little of your kind and
even more. (Sincerely, Mary)

With love and faith for you

Yours truly
Mary

(Mary)

28 Aug 67

Monday

10⁰⁰ AM

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28 Aug

Hi Kay,

Will get another short one off to you now - have had a very relaxing R & R and am ready to go back to work again. Lick and I plan to nail down the looms today if we have to put them together ourselves.

Have talked to Lynal 2 nites in a row till 6 ³⁰ AM - 7 ³⁰ AM - very interesting and personable guy with a very good mind. A very fine judge of people also a very good friend of Mike's. Have eaten 5-6 X's a day, slept 8-10 hrs a day, drunk 2-3 cases of beer, seen Saigon fairly well. Although this is election time and

We don't want to spend too much time in Saigon proper after night - Terrorism is the name of the game here as every where in Vietnam. We are in a real bastion here in the villa with guards every where - and the places downtown we go to are also well guarded - but we are not looking for trouble.

Lich is a little tired of sitting around doing nothing so we will get to work now if for no other reason than to keep him busy. Montagnards do a lot of partying but the day time is for working - especially for a guy like Lich - he's got too good

a motor to just ⁽²⁾ sit around and
look out the window ⁽¹⁴¹⁾ I think
he's relaxed a bit himself tho
— he has a lot of people begging
him back in Pleiku — same same
"Doc" Conlon.

Am anxious to hear from you
when I get back. Will apply
for the Hawaii R&R as soon
as I get to Pleiku. Will probably
leave here Wednesday if we get all
our business taken care of.

The Sac boys have sold 18
bows and I have a market for
another 10 of them at the OST
place. Civic Action here has done
no cross bow selling for me — well

pick up those boys when I go
out to the base today or tomorrow
and either sell them myself or
dispose of them in some way.
Am beginning to think these people
talk a good game but can't
deliver when the chips are down.

My anger fixer is way down
now that I'm relaxed again
but am getting a bit of my
adrenalin up again and should
be in full swing again tonight.

Saw a picture of Mike &
Mary Ann that Betty just sent
to Lynn - Mike looks fat &
sassy. Sept is almost here and

I'll be soon ⁽³⁾ counting the days
till everyone else here. Mike
said something in his last letter
about Mary Ann & he going to
Hawaii in Oct - 5th Oct - I think
he said. Do you want to meet
them there? - it may be fun
after all - can go off by ourselves
most of the time but may be
fun every now & then to talk to
people we know. Will leave most
of the details of the flight over,
etc to you. Plan to collect infor-
mation about spots to go to from
the men who have already been there.
There's a spot on the island of
Maui that sounds interesting, off the

beaten track but still definitely
Hawaiian atmosphere, etc. Get
ahold of a travel folder or a travel
guide and chat with him about
the possibilities, costs, etc. Still
think we'll take out a loan -
should have about \$200.00 saved
from the next two checks if I
play it smart - but no more
- that will give me about \$100.00
to live on - will be tight but
think I can make it okay.

Have picked up a few interesting
trinkets for our "den" so far
- hope you like them.

You may be interested to
know that Dick Howland informed

(4) 191 28 Aug
me that a full partner at the
clinic paid taxes on \$33,000.00
lost ~~to~~ year. Maybe someday you
and I will be out of debt after
all. Just maybe - we'll have
a pretty tight nest 10 years if we
buy a new big house - I plan
on starting looking as soon as we
get settled back in Mpls again
- think we should get an
intermediate house like we've
discussed, build equity in it,
save our money and then get
that dream house of ours in
about 10 years when the kids
are teenagers - how is that sound?
See? - I'm so far out of the

rat race in Pleeke can start
thinking like a family man +
state side problems again. Am
beginning to smell the Roses
again i.e. thinking about winding
up this tour - a bad sign. Will
forget that line of thinking when
I get back to work, but it's
nice day dreaming. We'll soon
be into our eighth month - by
golly, we're in it now! - how
about that!

Will close now, write home
if I have any thing to report.

Love you - damn do I
ever - that meeting in Hawaii
should be right out of the movie.
if my daydreaming is accurate.
Dan.

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28 Aug 67
"F Troupe"
Saigon RVN
11³⁰ PM

Hi Kay,

Another quick note before going to bed.

TV is off now - saw Dean Martin's show with Frank Sinatra as his guest. Everyone is getting ready for bed and I'm tired after a wonderful roast beef dinner cooked by Lynn. Have continued to eat like it's going out of style. Only three meals today instead of the usual 5 or 6 since I've been there.

The V.C., I'm just told, are swarming all over the waf where the USAID warehouse is - control large parts of Saigon now during the elections - the white mice, Army MP's and Air Force AP's are out in full force every where with flash vests, automatic weapons, etc. Think we'll wait to put those looms together some other time. Maybe we'll come down in a few weeks after the elections. Lick will be disappointed as am I - also the yards will be sad - but hell it isn't worth sticking our necks out for. Wish to hell there was someone down here who would put those things together for us and get them up to us without ~~the~~ our kicking them in the ass

all the time.

11³⁰ AM

Hi again

Tues. 29 Aug 67

— got involved in another bull session last nite lasting till 4⁰⁰ AM — have had quite a nite life in the villa. Was startled awake by Jim Morris (Capt, Spec Forces) who had some things to discuss — but at 8⁰⁰ AM it was a rude experience. Our base goonie has been canceled so we'll have to scrounge a way back to Pleiku — probably tomorrow. Have definitely decided to not work on the looms till after the elections because of the terrorism around here.

Have just finished 4 poached eggs on toast plus 2 other pieces of toast, butter & jam. Had a roll of Gouda cheese and a bottle of sweet pickles at 2^{PM}, about 10 beers and 4 bananas all during our bull session, after that big dinner of Lynn's last nite. Have been eating, resting, sleeping and in general having one hell of a restful vacation. The company is stimula

(2)

142 28 Aug

The people are very hospitable, and the pressure is zilch. And about to take a leisurely walk out to the base to conduct business -

1 $\frac{40}{PM}$

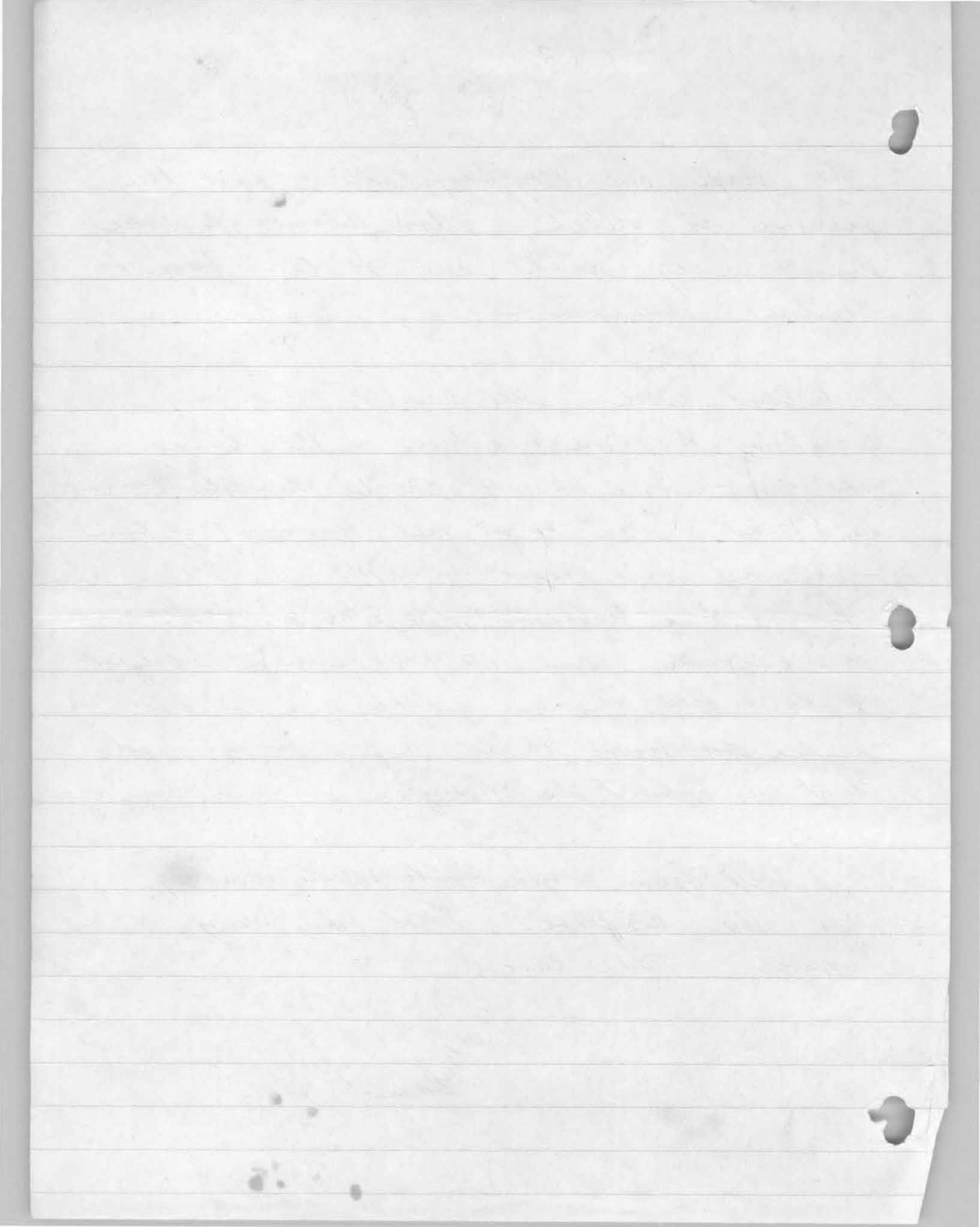
walked back - still haven't found my cross bows that are out here on the base somewhere - will have to check through Heveon in Pleiku. Plan to get out tonight if I can - otherwise will leave in AM.

Bought some t-shirts, size 38-40 short (only ones available, and 12 handkerchiefs - ought to last till Hawaii. Lick and I are headed for town to do a few things and then we should be through.

Will talk to you tonight while waiting for the airplane. Love you very much. Take care.

Love,

Dan



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31 Aug

45
11 PM
31 Aug 67
MACV RVN
Pleiku

Hi Kay,

Am back in Pleiku as you see. Had a fabulous day yesterday on the Warfs of Saigon. Spent the day with Lich and myself puzzling over the looms - how to put them together, etc. Don't know how they work but have figured out how to put them together at least. There are parts for 300 of them - and they are all ours - no one else seems to give a damn about them - all we have to do is assemble them and get them up here. One trouble - we're working in an unfit warehouse with huge boxes of junk we walk around in - nuts, bolts, parts, boards, etc - no time or reason to them - have to light a match to find anything. Each loom is worth close to \$1,000.00 put together so it's a little like sorting out gems found in the bottom of the sea. Lich and I figured out about $\frac{2}{3}$ of one of them and will go back in 2-3 wks to work on it. Once we get one together, it should be a breeze.

We had an adventure in the middle of this. Took a break to look at the

Ships on the Saigon river off loading. They are really huge. Stopped at one huge cargo transport ship called The Seatrain - New York Savannah Ltd. - Lich had never seen a ship before and neither had I close up. Took a chance and ran up the gang plank and asked if we could look around awhile. The 3rd mate (Bob Linklater) said sure - so Lich and I had a conducted tour by Captain White and the 3rd mate - pilot house, boiler room, captain's quarters (served Norwegian beer), hold, served wonderful beef ^{for lunch} - You know - ^{prime ribs} your favorite dish when we go out - got the royal tour for 2-3 hours at lunch time. Left there with our heads full of new impressions and full stomachs and hustled back to F Group - got ~~3~~ 3 bows - took them back as a present for their hospitality. This ship is nothing short of fantastic - the length of 3 foot ball fields - 5 decks as tall as William's arena - 8,700 horsepower steam engine, radar scopes, all these huge, new ideas I've never considered

143 31 Aug

before.

We also took a long tour the day before of the Vietnamese shopping area in Saigon — Everyone thought Rich was a Phillpino — I was the only Caucasian I saw there — interesting places — much silk and odd things — but the best shops had American clothes for sale — didn't pick up a thing for you because didn't see any thing of any quality. Bought Ton a gift — a pair of scissors — he's easy to shop for. Rich bought himself a bracelet — name bracelet — thought it was neat.

We decided to come back last night — hit it lucky — caught a C130 out — road in the cockpit with the crew members — Rich had a ball looking at all the dials & switches, the takeoff & the landing, etc — Got in here at 8³⁰ PM — talked a bit & collapsed promptly in my bed — back to the old rat race again but much refreshed.

Blex woke me up this morning at 7⁴⁵ AM — embarrassed the hell out of me — apparently she's been checking every

morning to see when I got back. The Vietnamese had stolen her new umbrella — found it for her and read out our mamma sans but good for stealing. Told them — with Bler interpreting for me — that they could steal all they wanted in Plichu & but in my house I would crocodile them if they tried that sort of thing. Explained that Bler was part of my family — same same pictures of my children — that she had a right to leave her things in my room and they had better lay off. Think I scared them enough so they won't try it again. I'll throw them out on their asses if they do.

Had a quiet, pleasant day today at the dispensary — find I'm much more relaxed, longer fuse than before going to Saigon. Also applied for an RTR on 5 Oct 67 — please start communicating to me about this — so far you haven't mentioned a word about it. Have you checked into a loan? Do you know prices for your ticket? Have

(3)

143 31 Aug

you made reservations? Do you want another date? Have you checked into places to go? — could use a few answers.

Got all your letters from the vacation in one big bunch yesterday and today — thank you for writing even though very short. Would appreciate a long winded letter sometime — may be use my letters to comment on, etc. Get the feeling we haven't really communicated for a long time. Just a rush letter that I do appreciate but would like some of your thoughts down on paper, too. What I do is just take out your letters one by one, run through them and write what comes to mind. Not every time, including this time, — but every now and then doing a marathon on into the nite until I've answered your letters.

This won't be one of those times. Am tired so will call it a nite. Love you, doll — glad to hear you had fun on your vacation in spite of the cold

and rain. This month ought to be a busy one for you with putting the kids in school again, figuring out their rides, etc. Will be busy here - we'll be taking our "intern" medics out to the village every day - should be a little bit of a rat race again. Will need that RTR in October for sure.

Will call it quits for now.

TOM BIEK (good nite-Vietnamese)

Cao Cap ih lu bia ma, giang ma he
(I love you very much, my good friend)
Montagnard Jarai

Dan

We go now

Fly to Bangkok
and swim at midnight

We walk in wards
and see the dying
Comfort

Come, Frank
we go now
drink all night
and go now

Wander through misery
but go now
we understand

Come, Frank
we go now
no need to sleep, eat
all same - same

Think
we go now

Come, Frank
we go now
and do -
oh, things

John B. Value

Because we only
enjoy life when
we are
doing something about it
we go now
come, Frank

(134)
My Montanaynard
Coulton, is Flatterman, John B. Value
and kind