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158

1 Nov

Nov 67
Tuesday?
MAEV Pleiku
RVN

Hi Kay,

Don't know what time it is — and strange as it may sound — don't even know what day it is — Think it is either Tuesday or Wednesday but could even be, ^{or} ~~at~~ ^{clock} Thursday AM! Am not really losing my mind. The days are running together rather rapidly here now. Sleep in my own bed only occasionally. Was up till 3 AM-4 AM this morning with John Hodgson (came here for a meeting of minds, clearing the air, etc — find he has a great amount of real pressure from above — was sent here to put the dispensary on an orderly basis instead of seat-of-your-pants basis. Is very much aware of the trouble he is making and is sorry for it. Feels he has a job to do and is going to do it. After talking with him can understand & sympathize with his problem. He has promised not to interfere with our work in Civic Actions and I've promised to work with him in his problems. Had a long talk with "my men" (Worthington, Ignatowicz, Steven Charles and others today — helped clear the air.)

Haven't had a chance to check the mail today - went right from the dispensary to Plei Brel → Plei Phung → Plei Sor on a wild drinking spree. However, was able to vomit most of that stuff before it got to me. Have a very "careful" stomach lately since that flu. Am drinking coffee now - reading a wonderful manuscript of a book Jim Morris has put together. Jim is on his (3rd) tour here Special Forces - Irregular warfare expert - wrote this book after his first tour while getting his masters degree before coming back. As yet he hasn't had it published - but it's very good. Charley Brown has read it (last nite) and I'm 2/3 of the way through it myself. Hope to finish it before going to bed. Also want to write John Watson and Jack Rudy before turning in. Maybe I won't make it. That bed looks very inviting - first time I've been near it since Sunday nite (still can't figure out what day this is - everyone's asleep, don't have the guts to wake them up and ask.)

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Took Ton's motor scooter (Honda) out to him yesterday. He paid for the whole thing in cash — \$150.00 (17,700 pesetas) — it's a used one but he fixed it up very nicely. Also had his first accident on it today with Dave Berrio on the back of it. No one was hurt. Dave stayed out there at Ton's house. I was invited but need a mate in my own bed for a change.

Will get this in the mail now before 1⁰⁰ PM — hope to write in the AM. Tomorrow at 7³⁰ PM have to be at Ton's to eat the American pig that died from malnutrition (couldn't make it on the rice diet, I guess). Explained to Ton "pene lu beat me" — to cash it very much. He got the message apparently — we'll see.

Love you very much — how many days left?

P.S The house sounds exciting — you've probably moved back in by now.

Love, Dan — P.S →

P.S I hate writing letters!!

Saturday
4 Nov 67

159
4 Nov

9³⁰ AM
USAF Dispensary
PRU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Got two good letters today from you
and again notice 2 days have gone by
since I've written you. Have been getting
as much sleep as possible these last 2
nites - this cough I have is beginning
to wear me out so have started taking
some cough medicine like the average
hypochondriac. If I had any sense I'd
quit smoking, get smashed and spend
the next two days in bed.

However, have an obligation to go to Ken's
house today so will go and get smashed as
usual. Tomorrow is Tun's house. Tun,
by the way, has quit or was asked to quit

the job of chief. New elections coming up soon - will be either Lil, Hlin or Flo. I'm hoping it'll be Hlin - he's the strongest man there. As far as our efforts are concerned it won't make any difference because all the candidates are friends and "brothers" of mine.

Took Jim Morris and Steve Robinson to dinner last nite - they are both Special Forces - both good men - will try to set up an ambush for the V.C in my villages at rice hot time. We start harvesting 10 Nov 67 - 20 Nov 67. Expect the V.C (or "Charles" as Jim Morris calls him) to come in soon after we start to collect their one kilo per man hot. Jim Morris is putting together a reactionary Mike Force team

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159 4 Nov

Pat will sit in ambush all nite to
turn the tables on Charles.

I don't know about you, but the
days are moving right along for me. Many
adventures and bull sessions. If I could
only lick this damned cold I'd feel
better.

The house sounds wild! Tell Megan
I think she is a very good girl, and I'm
anxious to see her. Tell her to help as much
as she can by being a good girl and out of
trouble while the house is getting in order.
And sorry I can't be with you to help with
all the decisions and baby sitting chores.
Can't wait to see the house.

Congratulations to Faith & Al. Big baby

for the first one — but then
all is no little boy, ~~either~~ either.

Haven't written anyone but you
since getting back — owe a million letters
to almost everyone. It was one month
ago that we were together in Hawaii
— can't remember when a month went by
that fast. I won't count the days
until I'm positive I'm under 30 days
— sometime around Christmas time.

How did Halloween go amidst all
the chaos? No body was even aware
of the day until a couple of days later.
We've sort of lost track of all that stuff.
Think we'll all know when Thanksgiving
and Christmas comes. Ought to have a
swingin' New Year's nite also because

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159 4 Nov

Will be ushering in 1968 — and that's
the year of my DEPOS.

The rat race in the villages goes
on & on. Find that the more people
I know out there, the more I'm invited
to houses and the more rice wine I'm
forced to drink. Sat down with Bill
Fulton the other nite and listed and
described about 75 men Montagnards — was
surprised I knew so many.

Have been reading Mao Tse-tung's book
on guerrilla warfare — find we are doing
already the things he recommends with the
exception of actually shooting anyone. Can
see why Mao's book is a classic in

guerrilla warfare - his precise, well
worded rules and recommendations are
easily memorized and quite obvious once
put down on paper. It's amazing to me
why so few Americans have ever read his
book. Should be required reading for
everyone in Viet Nam.

Have to go look at some X-rays and
see a few more patients - will get back to
this shortly.

Got side tracked by many patients, a
phone call from Saigon (Don Goodman wanting
bows, etc - one of Lynn Bechlin's roommates)
- then Jim Morris and Steve Robinson stopped
in - they just left here.
Will close now before any more time goes by.

Love you,
Dan

5 Nov, 67
MAEV
9¹⁵
am
Sunday

160

Hi Kay,

Went to bed around 6³⁰ pm last nite and slept through till 8³⁰ am this morning. Still have the cough and stuffed up head but the ache all over, nausea and general rotten feeling is pretty much gone. Will do a repeat performance tonite I hope and be in good shape by tomorrow. May quit cigarettes until this cough goes away.

Am sending another bunch of pictures your way before they get covered with mud and dirt. These were taken by photographers during that big feast about 3 wks ago - the Montagnards asked for photographers.

Have to go out to Plii Sar, Plii Boel again today. Hope I do better today. Yesterday fell asleep whenever I went - only got up long enough to have another bowl of rice wine and a little food. Was really a party pooper. Will try to buy a bunch of bows, depending on whether or not can get the money together

~~at rest.~~

Am in the process of writing John Watson
sort of a summary of our activities.
Very hard to sit down and write any-
body lately. Suspect when I get home
will call a halt to all letter
writing and do it by phone from
then on.

The rain is nearly gone now - when it
does rain, comes down in sheets like July
rains in Minnesota. The days are warm-cool
~ 70° and beautiful and the nite are
chilly 50° like. A beautiful country if
it weren't for this damn war.

Have very little to say, sweetie. Enjoy
your letters very much so I guess the
least I can do is write back boring
as it must be.

Hope the rat race is slowing down
a bit for you. Try to get as much
rest as you can - find that my &
your resistance goes down when we
don't get it. Let's go on a health kick

160 5 Nov

when we get together again. Suspect the paper hangers, the carpenters, etc are out of the house by now. That \$400.00 bed set sounds very nice - well trust your judgment. Can we get a Queen size bed into that little room?

Get another "day off" tomorrow from the village - plan to sleep as much as possible. - am on call at the dispensary.

My roommate - "womb" mate we call it - Bob Shultz just made Lt. Colonel, as did Milt Hays (a good friend, works Base Ops, a Negro) and 2 others. Had a wild party here which I couldn't keep up with so went to bed. Bob Schultz, Lt Col Londeree and Col Hullar are on their first R & R to Penang, Malaysia since Friday. Hope they have a good time. - all three of them were long overdue to get out of here.

Plan to leave for Saigon next Saturday unless something comes up in the

meantime. Will conflict with rice
harvest time so may cancel out and
go in December.

Have to apply for R+R somewhere
in the next few days. Think I'll
ask for the Philippines again and
try to find those pieces we need.
Can't afford Hong Kong or Bangkok or
any ~~of~~ of those capital cities. If
I go to Clark at least can live on
base for nothing.

Will close now. Hope to be better
about letters. Yours are coming in
2's + 3's but regular like clockwork
now. Thank you

Love you like I can't say,

Dan

161

6:50

6 Nov 67

10³⁰ PMUSAF Dispensary
PKW, RVN

Hi sweetie,

Another day almost gone. Call days used to be the easiest days around here but all that is changed now that I'm not allowed to go to MACV and relax. This sitting around the dispensary with everyone coming around to have a bull session is for the birds. Have a constant stream of visitors coming by to say hello. The only way I can get some solitude was take a walk with my hand radio around the base. As it was ran into a group of guys at bulleting who wanted to talk civic action. Andy Comeau just extended for 6 mos - makes his DEROS a year from now. Wouldn't do that on a bet! Most of these kids extending are experiencing a challenge for the first time and

have nothing to go back to the states for.
They are not married generally and have
more time in the service to spend anyway.
They don't want to get stuck on some base
like Sheppard AB pulling details and wasting
their time so they're extending.

Jack Rudy is coming back at some
undetermined time - he wrote Lich Rahlman
that. Will probably go to Kontum as his
base. Would guess he'll be working for the
CIA in some capacity. This should help
the Montagnard a lot. If I can get him
hooked up with Jim Morris, they would
make a good team.

Halloween sounded like fun - it came
& went here so fast didn't realize that it
was that time till 2 Nov 67. Needless to say
we didn't have a "trick or treat" nite here.
Had a suckling pig sacrificed for us at

Lick's house yesterday ⁽²⁾ (16/1) Still have my
cough (same-same Sophomore year Med school
— remember) — coughed so much Lick ordered
me to bed. Am beginning to really
dislike the taste and smell of rice wine.
Can't seem to find my appetite. Bill
Hilton ordered 2 poached eggs on toast for
me at MACV — tasted just great! Think
I'll live on soft foods for awhile when
I get back. My stomach is either too
small or too raw from rice wine — but
can't take any thing greasy or heavy without
getting nauseated. Also am smoking too
much. I'll be a mess by the time I
get back — you'll have the job of pampering
me back to health — okay?

Hope the storms got put on, the shades
are in place, the painters, carpenters and

Cleaners are all out by now. — and things are back to normal. This is a rest of a year for every one involved with our little tribe. Hope our lack of reverence doesn't detract from the "merits" we've all been picking up. And to think — we once used to ask when our test would come because every thing had been going so smoothly for us. I guess everyone gets their turn in the barrel sooner or later. I just wonder when Ed & Weez are going to get out of the barrel for a change. Will never be able to thank them enough for this year and all the other times.

Sorry about that pumpkin bit. — also about the books — Haven't had a chance to mail out those books yet. Looks like a late X-mas for you guys from me. Sorry.

Heard about the little moron ^{who} drowned?...

— he sang Trees at ^{6 now} the dog show.

How many days left. ⁵ I don't know either. Pretty soon though, we'll be down to sixty and then I'll start counting in earnest. Think 22 Jan 68 until we hear different, okay.

Love you very much.
Hope things are settling down a bit by now.

Love you,

Dan

Dear Mr. [illegible]

I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear from you. I am well and hope this finds you the same. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are happy and successful in all your undertakings.

I have been very busy lately with my work, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are happy and successful in all your undertakings.

I have been very busy lately with my work, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are happy and successful in all your undertakings.

I am, dear Mr. [illegible], very truly yours,
[illegible]

10th Nov

7 Nov 69
11³⁰ PM
MAREL, RUM

Hi Ray,

Just a short note home, Sweetie. Want to write the Clinic and then Jack Rudy. Have taken a real day off today. Worked the dispensary this morning, caught hell after sleeping there on call last night.

1³⁰ PM 8 Nov 69

Have been chatting with Charley Brown till now about the Monty movie. You know what Sweetie? — I'm so sick and tired of talking about the Monty movie and the war here, I couldn't care less if the whole thing just dried up & blew away. Am getting sick, but more than that — there is always someone who wants to talk about the war — every full session is full of it — there's no way to get away from it. Need an RTR to Jagan soon to get away from this whole thing.

I think you and I made a serious mistake not taking our RTR to Hawaii in November. 100+ days is easier to last out than 90+ days. When it counted

them yet but am acutely aware
that we still have more than 2 mos
to go.

Am torn between going to bed now
and saving those letters till some other
day or starting them tonight and staying
up all night.

Have decided this cough of mine is
purely a nervous cough and will work
on it like that from now on.

My one great sorrow here is that
most of the things I wanted to accomplish
did not get done. No looms as yet,
nor does it look like they'll be here by
the end of my tour. The villages are still
being taxed by the V.C. 10% of their
rice crops - and right under our noses.
They still don't know how to read or
write except a select 2 or 3. The medics
are very slow to respond to the sick
in the villages - haven't injected a sense
of dedication into them like I hoped I
would.

They still are not willing to stand

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164 7 Nov

up and fight for themselves but look to me and others to right their wrongs for them. In many ways they are like children. Even Lich calls me his father and he has more native intelligence than I will ever have.

Tried to get them to make chairs and tables for the new Montagnard store. Jim Morris & I have almost got built at the Mike force camp. All I got was a negative response. So I, of all people, have to show them how to make a chair & a table! Talk about the blind leading the blind.

Am ready to go home, sweetie. Or at least get out of this frustrating atmosphere for a few days. Need a wife to come home to ~~a~~ bitch at once in a while.

Enough of this morbid talk. Sorry to blast off at you. You have enough problems of your own without listening to mine.

No letter today but can understand that - my letter writing hasn't been very good either.

Got all the packages mailed today - boat mail - came to \$26.75 total - all except my beautiful nude which I'll have to have a special box made for. - besides it helps my morale just having her around. Hope they get there by X-mas.

Think I'll go to Taipei in December instead of the Philippines. They say my Buddha is there also and much cheaper. May send one to the clinic for the waiting room if I have enough money. Am down to \$50.00 again so will be short rations for the rest of the month. May ask for money for my Christmas present so I can go on one more shopping spree before this tour is over.

Will start on a letter to the clinic

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164 7 Nov

before going to bed. Hope things have
settled down a little for you by now.
Get your rest. For the last 2 days
have taken 2 hrs nap for every 3-4 hrs
I've been up. Am feeling pretty good
except for this lousy nervous cough.
(Charley Brown just came in with about
2 fingers of Black Label Scotch for
my cough - says it works better than
any thing else.) Talk to you tomorrow

Love you, sweetie,

Dan

3:00 PM Friday
10 Nov 67

USAF Dispens

PKU, RVN

166
10 Nov

Hi Kay,

Have been sort of waiting for a letter from you before writing - it's been 4 or 5 days - usually when I complain the next day has 2-3 letters in the mail box.

Hope things are settling down a little for you. The last I heard was about Halloween. Have completely forgotten about the folks anniversary - this is the first time in many years I've done that.

Went out to the village Wednesday and drank some rice wine - vomited until I thought I'd turn inside out. Really hate that junk. now but have to go through with a little each time. Spent Wednesday nite in bed from 6^{PM} on - appeared briefly for sick call ~~thru~~ Thursday AM - then went to bed at noon - 4^{PM}

Came to dispensary for a few hrs at 4 PM -
then went to bed from 6 PM - 10³⁰ PM. Soaked
the blankets + mattress & sweat. Woke up when
Bob & Schultz (new Lt. Col) came in from
R&R. Ate some scrambled eggs at midnite
chow & then hit the sack again. Have
felt pretty good today but still not top
notch. Have been a hypochondriac for a
total of 18 days now - a new record for
me - must have picked up some thing strange
for my antibodies to handle. Feel I'm on
the road to recovery now finally - at least
I hope so. Have kept lunch down for my
2nd meal in 3 days.

So that's my story. How are you?
Sorry to give you this sorry story and call
it a letter. Just don't want you jumping
all over me for not writing. Also could
use a letter or two my self. It's been
a month since our R&R. Only 2 mos

②

so to go. The days drag a little now,
an' they. 164 10 Nov

Have been interrupted by a few people
as usual - Sgt Drons from Plei Op who
wants one of his Montagnards trained as a
medic - think we can get him into the
next class in Dec! if I talk real sweet to
Dr. Paul ~~the~~ Ferguson at Special Forces.

Think Gix will be going to work and to
learn from Jim Morris next week - he's
that 13-14 yr old boy who's smarter than
hell I've been mentioning off & on. Told Jim
about him and he's interested. Gix is
anxious to go also. Have set up a meeting
with Jim & Gix and a few others at Plei
Biel Sunday. We'll also talk about making
tables, chairs and baskets at the same time.
Jim has a "store" built - looks like a
Montagnard house built on stilts, etc - will

have Montagnard ex-GD's running it
— should be a real good thing if we can
get it off the ground.

Sent two of my aides — Chell & Jui
to Plei Betel by Lambretta with
"orders" cut official-like — to head off the
plague epidemic going on there. They have
enough vaccine for 500-600 Montagnards. If
the Vietnamese and/or V.C. will let them
through, it should be something worthwhile.
Think they can handle it okay. They're
Lich's blood brothers and my "brothers" as
well.

We are in the midst of the remnants
of a typhoon that came in from the Philippines.
(if you can figure that out) Winds & rain — 45 mph
and like buckets respectively — like July-Aug-Sept
all over again. Mud up to our ears & colder
than hell for here (about 40-50°F).

(3)

166 10 Nov

The expected attack on the base on 5 Nov 67 never materialized probably because of the constant pounding our artillery and airplanes have been giving them. There is one hell of a battle going on at Dak ~~But~~ To however. 3-4 plane loads of KIA & wounded coming out every nite. Our statistics lie but so do the V.C.'s ("Charles" as Jim Morris calls him) so who cares.

The Newsweek & Times we've been getting sound universally pessimistic - wish all the loud mouths would put their mind in gear before they talk instead of staying in neutral all the time. We need this war and we need it for a long time to come - whether we like it or not. There is no easy solution and we might just as well forget about an easy solution. We are attending the

^{+ development}
birth of a very difficult baby - possibly
a retarded baby - but it's ours and we're
stuck with it. Either that or we'll have
to face giving them Laos, Cambodia & Burma
& Thailand. That's the choice. A truce
would be a farce at this point. I'll
be a month off when I get back - sorry.

Will sign off for now.

Love you very much, sweetie.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Love,

Dan

14 Nov 67

Tuesday mite

12⁰⁰ midnite

MAV, PKV, RVN

167

14 Nov

Hi Kay,

I'll try again tonight - this time I'm sober for a change. And conscious of writing last mite but haven't the vaguest idea of what I wrote or even if I sent the letter. Was very smashed on rice wine after my trip to Pli Koteng. Have been carefully avoiding any thing but coffee today except for a bit of watery rice wine at Lich's today.

Chel & Ju (Lich's brothers) returned from Pli Betel along with Mlem. They gave out 345 plague shots. Are they ever proud - and so am I. The 38th Air Rescue took them down by helicopter and they worked very hard for 2 days.

Imagine: Mlem was a medicine man complete with incantations, etc 10 mo ago - now he arrives with stethoscope, plague vaccine, etc and by helicopter yet! as a modern doctor. Chel and Ju left Pli Betel 6 mo ago as green kids and came back as conquering heroes to vaccinate these

uncles, aunts, etc. Makes a very good story and it's also true. Think we can all be proud. Haven't had time to look in my mail box since Sunday - have been on the go and hung over. Need another little R+R soon. Think Lich and I will slip out in a few days and go to Saigon for some rest, good food.

A man fitting Jack Rudy's description but without glasses (contacts?) and a different name arrived in Kontum about a week ago. If he's back in country, expect either Lich or I will be seeing him soon.

Am sending some of the printed matter we get here for your interest. Would appreciate it if you'd keep it among my things. You'll notice yours truly got a mention on page 7 of his Force Times.

Am happy to hear Ronald Reagan speak out. Also am delighted to see LBJ finally getting tough and showing every body he's not the sweet old farmer from Texas but the son of a bitch we all knew he was.

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167 14 Nov

all along. Think maybe if he
keep that up — may vote for
him myself next year.

How many days left? November
is cut in half already. Time
goes by — isn't that nice?

Am getting "going home fever" — must
control my thoughts and keep
busy or the time will drag.

Am dying to see the kids. Catch
myself staring at that bunch
of pictures on my wall more &
more. Especially Jimmy. Hope we
to hit it off okay. I'll try
to be patient. The first time
I make a pass at you, he'll
probably take a bite out of my
leg.

Sorry about the pencil —
can't find a pen any where
around here.

I love you, you doll! Am
proud as hell about keeping my
virginity in spite of what Ft
Gallatin said. What helps is
the crowd of men I associate

with. As far as I know they've all played it straight also. We just tell dirty stories, read Playboy, drool over sexy pictures and just wish. Don't envy Mike. The second time around would be hell, I'm afraid.

Went to Pleiku Rho (the montagnard village - was the refugee village where Lich lives which we call Pleiku Rho also). Met some very good men. Talked crossbows, swords, etc. Think we can make a go of it. There are about 400 - 500 people there. Two school teachers. A good strong chief by the name of Kel. Bob Muller & Dick Carle are working there in tandem. Looks promising. Lich came on this new motor scooter complete with helmet. I call him a Saigon cowboy. (an "in" joke I'll explain sometime later). Think Lich and I are finally, really friends. My admiration, respect and love for that guy know few limits at this point. He is a real patriot and can be trusted as few can in this very mixed up country.

Sweetie, I'm going to call it a

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169 14 Nov

nite. Sorry for my lousy letter writing. The days go by so fast now that I have no idea when my last letter writing was (if I'm wrong about writing last nite). The antique jade Spanish Mediterranean queen size baby makes sounds like a riot. Have fun on your buying trips - sounds like a one in a million opportunity.

Doesn't look like I'll get any thing resembling X-mas presents or cards out. How about a little X-mas when I get back? The mail the way it is - probably wouldn't get any thing there on time any way. If that woodwork comes in time and the other things - lets call that X-mas, okay?

Love you - you beautiful, beautiful people.

Dan



147.00
96
46
240
100
81
46
72
25
853

168

12¹⁵ PM
Friday nite
MAEV, RVN
Pleiku

Hi Kay,

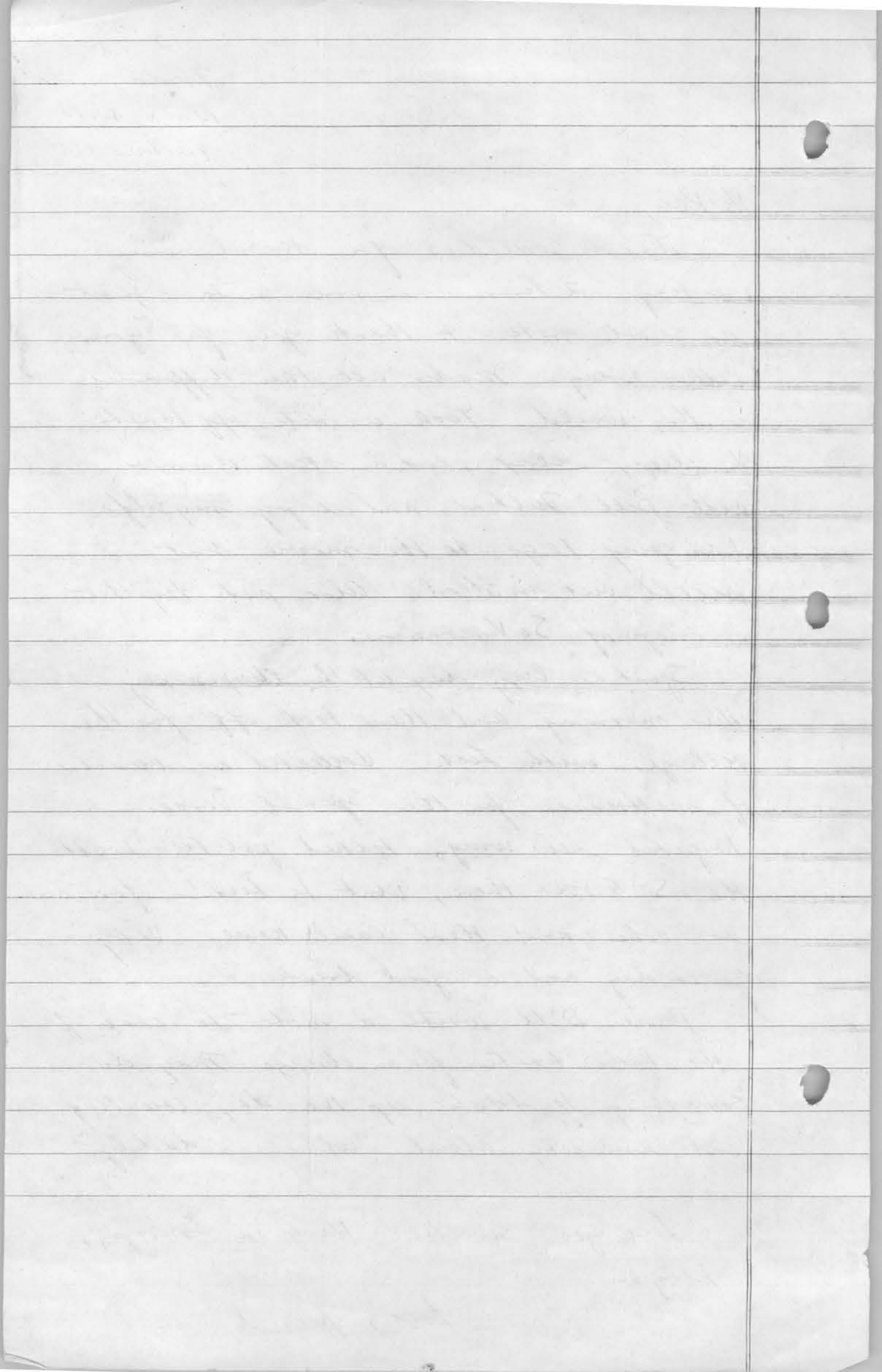
This is somewhat of a record - my writing 2 times in one nite. Just a short note to thank you for your letter today. Made all the difference in the world. Took a nite off tonite to sleep, relax, eat a steak dinner with Bill Dulton and enjoy myself. Was going to go to the movie but sacked out instead. Also put together a map of So Vietnam.

Spent a lazy day at the dispensary this morning and then took off for the villages with Lick. Collected a bunch of mattresses for the Special Forces hospital new wing, talked politics with the S-5 over there, went to Lick's for a coke and then came home. Very quiet day and a good break.

Think I'll write a note to each of the kids tonite for a change. May do something to break up the day-counting and anxiety about "where is daddy?"

Love you sweetie. Hang on Snoopy,
hang on.

Love, Dan



16 Nov 67
USAF Dispensary
Pleiku, RVN
1¹⁵ pm, Thursday

169

16 Nov

Hi Kay,

Just read your letter of 11 Nov - will try the frustrating business of writing you while I'm on call. It will mean the usual nonsense of being interrupted constantly but will give it a try anyway. — That fellow had drops

— the next one will either have (a) the clap,

(b) dust in his eyes (c) a cold

(d) low back ache (e) nerves (f) a cough

(g) jock strap itch (h) athlete's foot

(i) diarrhea + vomiting (j) a boil

(k) and now + then something serious.

Hi again, it's now 5³⁰ pm and we've been seeing all the above things. Also set a dislocated finger that was lots of fun - like the orthopedic stuff still.

Your letters are beautiful, sweetie. Have no complaints. Know how fun it is to have a day off from writing every now and then.

Every time I think about home can hardly contain my self. Am getting short timers disease. Just sit & stare at the pictures on my wall. Still haven't stopped to count the

day. Am short as hell of money now. Am down to about \$5.00 again. Found a little trunket for you for Christmas that I'll try to get in the mail. I like it, so if I don't say anything bad about your bedset, then don't you say any thing bad about what I'm sending you. It cost too much, but I like you.

Plan to leave for Saigon 25 November with Lich and whoever else wants to go for a few days. Lich suggested it and I agree. It'll do us good to get out of here and will take the attention off our activity as far as "Charles" is concerned.

You mentioned about the rice harvest - we were asked by Tun, Lich and others to not help. They felt that it would publicize the thing too much and be an invitation for trouble. They've been harvesting for 2000 yrs up here and know how to do it okay. That's okay by me.

Went out to Tun's house yesterday with a case of beer, some cigars and tobacco. and Bill Sultan brought out a motorcycle helmet for Tun. We had a good old social visit for a change. Tun's neighbor came over with a chicken which was pretty good, we cracked a jug of rice wine which wasn't bad. Mostly we talked politics -

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Plei Kep has been shooting tracers at the dust off helicopters for the last 4 miles. The gunships almost leveled the village 2 days ago but was called off by someone who knew they are friends of ours. Some V.C got in there and used Plei Kep as cover to shoot down the dust off coming from Dak To. We let Ten know that something has to be done about that kind of gunship. He went over there ~~for~~ today to try to iron out the problem. I think the answer is to get rid of Minx somehow — he's the alcoholic chief they have over there. Ten is Chief over that village, too and he's upset about what he heard. Think we'll get some results.

It wasn't all politics, though. We had lots of laughs. I got drunk and hammy and started telling jokes in Jarai and we all had belly laughs all around. Think I do better talking without Lich to lean on. It takes lots of pantomime and gestures but everyone has a good time.

striving to find the word I'm trying
to say — and the joke is great. By
the end of the sentence. Translated
back into English today it doesn't
sound very funny — was telling them how
hung over I was from Pili Koking and
had two lung (stomachache), two 20
(headache), portuck (cough) and the
shakes + Ber comes in to wake me
up with "Hello At Conlon, good morning,
time to get up" with a cheery voice. Hands
me a flower and so all smile. And I'm
dying. From there I go to sick all
where everyone comes in with the cough,
upset stomach, headache and nerves and
wants me to feel sorry for them. Take I
say — it doesn't sound very funny now
but when it takes about an hour of
Pegern Jarai, pantomime and facial gestures
— we ~~the~~ were all belly laughing & coughing,
etc. It was fun and good to see them
laugh so hard. No longer doubt their
friendship.

Have just been in a dull session with
Roy Worthington, Larry Diamond and others
about general practice, Negroes, Montaguaise,
and most of the problems of life. Am getting
so start have even started to do some sitting
again. Have to get back in practice. Have
a guy waiting with fever, chills, nausea, diarrhea

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and vomiting + also chest pain. Temp 100. Maybe have a sick one for a change. Sorry for the disappointed letter. As usual when I'm here all day on call, people come + go to chat, be seen for this + that, talk Civic Action politics, etc - will talk to you now + then in between.

John Watson is walking now! They told that son of a gun he'd be in bed for at least a year. He's so stubborn, is trying out walking and it's only a little more than 2 mos since the accident. He's a winner, for sure. He says he has a monster for a doctor who won't give him any pain medicine - think his doctor figured out that if he got John mad enough he'd try to show him how tough he was. Anyway he's way ahead of schedule. Wants to come back to Pleiku but think he's dreaming.

Maybe the newspapers are talking about the huge battle going on at Dak To by now. It's the largest battle since we got involved here in Vietnam. At least one division (3 regiments of North Vietnamese) against

The 4th Division, 173 Airborne, the Korean ROKS, 1st Cav & 101 Airborne and some Vietnamese Rangers from Saigon. — at least 5-7 full airplanes of wounded going out of here a day. Load 60-80 wounded on an airplane. The battle has been going on for the last 8 days. Dak To is about 40 miles from here to the North West. Can see the B52 strikes, goony bird & A1E's all night long from the porch at MACV — no actual planes but the flashes of light. Looks like the 4th of July or Fourth of July. Also many smaller battles south of there all the way down to about 10 miles from here. Don't know why there's no publicity. Every major newspaper & magazine has a representative at 5 up there.

After leaving Tuan's house last night spent the night until 12³⁰ — 1^{AM} helping load patients on C-130's. Loaded 81 patients on one plane. No complaints from any of the wounded. They were all just glad to be alive and out of Dak To ~~one~~ ^{alive} piece. ~~The~~ Don't know who is winning. Know that we're lying like hell about the casualties but suspect the V.C are too. The wounded said that little kids — North Vietnamese — were charging in waves, all hopped upon dope & booze

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16 Nov

and fighting like tigers - hard to hand. Hard to get air strikes in because it's so close quarters - afraid to hit our own men at the same time. Many stories floating around, but the latest says we have them trapped from the North, West & South and are trying to push them into the mountains to the East and finish them off. Would be nice if true. Have become very cynical of late.

Well, Sweetie - think I'll "hop in the tub, read a book, watch TV...." - anyway, think I'll close for now. Get a letter off to the folks for the pounds of sausage they sent, may be write John Watson & even Jack Rudy. Love you - get nervous as hell when I think how close we're getting. Have broken out in hives a couple of times since Hawaii. Will tackle the problem with Erin when I get home.

Love,

Dan



Mediate - 1st Nov
18-19 Nov 67
USAF Resp.
PKU, RVN

171
18-19 Nov

Hi Kay,

Thanks for your almost daily letters. Have your "true confession" one before me now of the 12th Nov. How now you feel about your forebodings. It's normal with people getting short. We all have it here - it's called getting cautious. Glad you could verbalize your problem. Have been acutely aware of it since Hawaii. There is no answer for it. Requires being careful - but not too careful, doing ones job and leaving the rest in the hands of God. There is still very much of a job to do here and I'll keep doing what I can. It's been a good year so far, have done my best and would hate to chicken out now.

Lick, myself, Dave Bessio and probably Ray Worthington are planning to go to Saigon 25 Nov - 1 Dec for a little cheap R&R. Will be good for all of us. Ray's good friend an army dust off got shot up near Dak 70 and will be air evacuated out tomorrow - Ray is pretty shook as I was with

John Watson. Sgt Martinez - a good friend from Special Forces - was killed yesterday at Dak To - the war is getting very personal for all of us here. Sort of grin around this dispensary lately.

A cheerful note - we got those lousy roads at Plei Brel and Plei Son bulldozed level for a change. Another project finally done. Talk about Mickey Mouse! Have been trying to get that done for a year. Thought one of us would have to do it ourselves but finally made the right connections with the Army Engineers. Cost a crossbow and two bracelets but got it done.

Have been on call & sober all day. Will be again tomorrow. Will even make Mass for a change. Think Father Bastro has given me up - thinks I've gone pagan. Maybe I have....

Have your trinket before me - haven't sent it yet because I'm broke. - down to 30k No cash me till Dec 1. Will have to borrow a bit. Would appreciate some financial help if you can spare it in December. Am in rock for a sizable part of my December check already.

Plan an RTR to Tokyo 30 Dec if I can get some money together. And told that's the only really important

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17/1
18-19 Nov

place to go in the whole orient. The rest is like Disneyland. The Japanese people have fascinated me all my life - especially since Sayonara - will try to make it a cheap trip.

Tom Hart wrote again - must answer that sometime if I can keep awake long enough.

Sweetie - hang on please - have many of the same fears and uncertainties you have. Will do my job as I see it - you wouldn't want me to do any differently. But will not be a fool either. Have too much at stake and I know it. On the other hand, much to do and little time to do it in. When an opportunity to help this war comes my way - cannot let it pass by.

Went out to Lick's house yesterday. Took Jim Morris (Capt, S-5 - Spec Forces) with me. Much politics. Lick is gathering 100 men for Duc Co to fight with. Another 13 for Jim's "reactionary" (ambush) force. Jim is out at Plic Kop waiting in ambush for the V.C. tax collectors right now.

That's not my business - he's the soldier - but we work together. I'll get him the intelligence - he acts on it. And no one is the wiser. Finally all our work out in the villages is paying off. The Montagnards are a little hesitant now but when the pressure comes off them and they can be in peace for a change - their enthusiasm will follow. The 10-15 men I can trust out there with my life are all for it. Things are definitely looking up around here.

You're beautiful, doll. Like it when you blow off steam. Also know what you mean about other horizons besides wife & mother - think they are legitimate. When we get some money coming in - think we should talk about a house keeper and a few other things that will free up some time for you. Think your bitches are legitimate. I didn't marry you because you are stupid or lack initiative. Want you to be wife, mother and lover but the more you develop, the more there is to love. Said that poorly but think you know what I mean.

Have a thought or two of my own you might like to kick around: Have

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many second thoughts about returning to our stable way of life in Mysle. Feel in many ways the Air Force has opened many new and wonderful doors for me - and I think you also. Dread getting back to the old routine and growing old again. Feel the pace we were going before we were drafted was leading to set opinions, dullness, and old age. Feel younger, more open and more alive at age 33 than I did in practice age 31. May be am a little hesitant to get back into the hectic routine of the clinic. Have been working hard here but in a different way. Much politics, many new ideas, a chance to lead men, maybe a little of the pioneer and the wild west. New and strange places - maybe a chance to play the hero. I don't know, would appreciate your comments.

Also have lost much of my medical sharpness except for the routine things here. Can't even do the medicine out in the villages any more - sort of act as the consultant. Enjoy the big

frog in the little puddle bit.

Another thing that bothers - know that I go back to the same indifference about things war mpls; not even So mpls. - eg.

the war here, our place in the world, international politics, philosophy, etc that we ran into to CCD, & many people around us with glaring exception of Ed & Weez, Bill & Gritchen & a few others. This is our constant preoccupation here. No indifference among my men. We are constantly keyed up, morale is high, there is a great sense of purpose and accomplishment here. Every now & then we need a break - like Saigon on R & R's. When we relax ^{temporarily} all we have to do is listen to the mortar & artillery sounds, watch the AIE's going off the runway loaded with bombs, helicopters bringing in wounded, the long convoys on the way to Dak To with supplies, the constant air show all around us, etc. As I mentioned - Clark ^{NB} made me nauseated & depressed - they didn't give a damn and considered me and the rest of us some sort of wild eyed visionaries even caring what happened here, let alone doing something about it.

These are some of my thoughts. My

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18-19 Nov

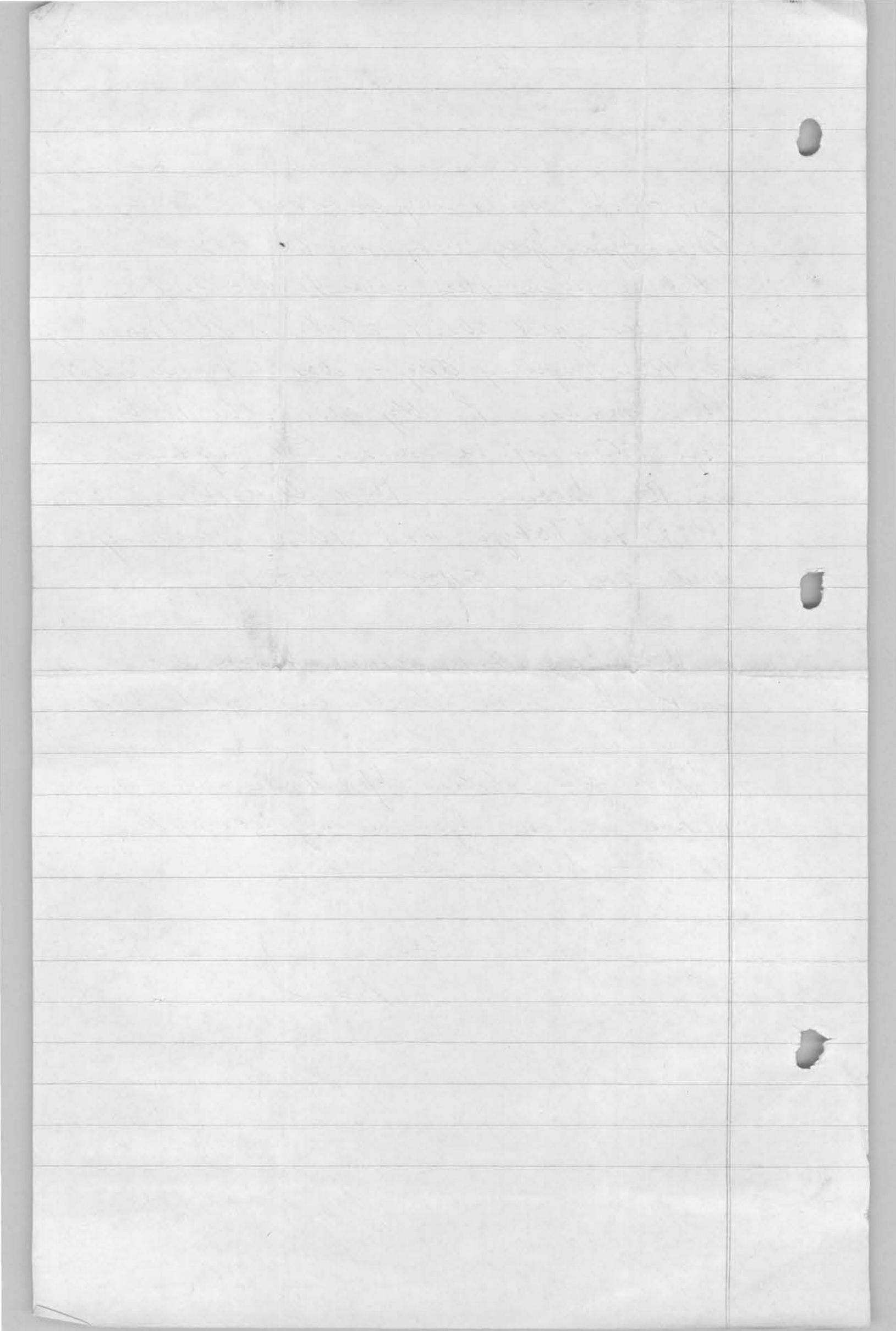
Turn to spill my guts out. Sorry.
Miss you guys very much. Can't
believe I'm this close to the end.
November just about shot. Next Thursday
is Thanksgiving day - don't know what
that means. Pretty soon the Bob
Hope Show if he makes it up here
in the noons. Then Christmas,
R&R to Tokyo and then January
and SHORT, SHORT, SHORT.

Will close for now. Write a
note to Tom Hart and go to bed.

Love you, doll. You'll never know
how much. You're my strength,
kid - believe it.

Love,

Dan



172
20 Nov 67

20 Nov 67
Mon AM
USAF Base
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Just finished a book to
Tom + Deanne. Guess they never
got my last letter. Yours have
been coming daily lately. It's
4³⁰_{AM} now and I'm beat. Wrote
6 or 7 pages of this stuff - philosophized
a little as you can imagine.

We're getting short, sweetie.
Ain't that nice. Am really horny
but I'll get over that.

Did I tell you am planning
an RTR 30 Dec - 5 Jan to
Tokyo? May or may not
go but we'll see.

Also read my X-ray (dry) today
and found out all that coughing
was from pneumonia I had. Can
diagnose your pneumonia half
way round the world, but missed
mine. Am glad I didn't know
though, feel great now and that's
what counts. Plan to keep warm
from now on, lots of rest, etc.

Hope you don't mind the
short note. Went to Mass today
— a good experience for me lately.

Thanks for the articles you sent.
Am saving the one on maturity.
The one on Eugene McCarthy is
interesting but so far think his
judgement is very shallow. No one
paid any attention to Hitler's Mein
Kamp until he had most of the
world at his heel - and then we had a
real war. No one paid any attention
to Lenin, Stalin et al until half
the world was gobbled up. Everyone
thought Mao Tse Tung was just a
guerrilla soldier until now.
Well Mao, Lenin & Ho Chi Minh
have all written books and they all
mean to take over the world eventually.
So Vietnam is just a start - there are
no Vietnamese soldiers in Laos, Cambodia
and North east Thailand, too. According
to McCarthy & all we should wait for
Pearl Harbor to be bombed before we
get excited about the whole thing.
Nonsense.

Love you, sweetie - but am beat
fred. Have been on call 44 hrs now.
Only about 8 more and can get some
sleep, then go see Tich and dump off
the acetate, plywood & mattresses & soap I've
collected.
Love,
Dan

21 Nov 67
USAF Dispensary
11⁰⁰ AM
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Have just read your reply to my drunken letter from last week - don't know exactly what I said in that letter so don't know exactly how I have hurt you. Was filled with much rice wine and much adrenalin at that time.

Do not know exactly how to word a reply. Am not hurt by what you say - am acutely conscious of what this year has done to you and Colleen, Michaela, Erin, Megan and Jimmy. Feel as I did at the start that a man with 5 children should not be sent to fight a war when there are other men available. Am not as big a hero as my drunken letter may have sounded. Am scared purple many times even sitting at my desk as I am now. Have adjusted to this fear but we are all hyper here - over-react by over drinking, smoking too much, swearing too much, etc.

Did not have in mind the idea of hurting you - I have never deliberately

hurt you except for one letter last
May that we both remember in stress.

I may give the impression that I'm
having one hell of a ball here. If I
do — then that's part of my facade. I
hate this war, this country and even
the Montagnards (at times). If they
said I could go home today, I'd leave
without regrets ~~or~~ would probably
not even take the trouble of saying
good by. Would wash my hands carefully
of the whole thing and return to you
people where I belong.

However, I am here now, and will
be for some 50 odd days. What am I
to do, Ray? — sit in a room, barbed
the door and fiddle my thumbs? Could
you do that? Would you really want
me to do that? I have been going
all our married life ~~that~~ on the
assumption that you love and respect me
for my ideals, my love of life, my
desire to live my life as best as fully
as I can. Oh right, I've thought all
along you loved me & respected me because
you saw that I am trying very hard to
live as a man should. Was a man
hiding in a room, shut out the world
because he is afraid? I have said many

Times that my life started when I met
 you. That was not a bunch of sweet
 talk, Kay. From the moment I
 became convinced that this wonderful,
 strong, beautiful (yes), vibrantly
 alive woman who I admired more
 than any other — when I became
 convinced that she could & did love
 me — then life began for me. All
 my doubts about whether I was strong
 enough to do what I felt I wanted
 to do disappeared in your love. If
 she thinks I can do it, well let's
 give it a whirl. This ugly (yes),
 skinny, reject from a broken home
 became a man because of your
 love. Seems like 100 years ago —
 many things have happened — most of
 them good — since then. We've managed
 to do many things together. We've
 been a good team. And I'll always
 be grateful and love you for your
 help. My admiration and love for
 you knows almost no limits. Have
 met many women since and have yet
 to find one that matches what I
 see in you. This is not a love

letter, sweetie. This is a free association
reply to your profoundly stirring letter
of 16 Nov 67. What I'm trying to say is
— I'm not giving you a snow job. What
I have to say I hope will fall softly
but I want you to know how deeply ~~what~~
you and the kids are involved in my
life.

The children. Am saddened & shook
by what you say about them. Suspected
this all along but it's hard to see
this in print. I WANT TO GO HOME.
That's no secret.

— Sorry — have ~~been~~ kept patients waiting.
Will come back to this shortly —

I am sorry that you feel that I am
deliberately punishing you by working hard
at the job here. Maybe we think differently
after all. I believe very strongly in
Divine Providence. I believe that the Good
Lord puts a man in a situation for a
reason. The reason and the outcome are
often obscure — as they are now. Will I
get home? The odds are fantastic in
my favor. Can I give you 100% assurance
even in a barricaded room? NO. That's
why I get combat pay. I didn't invent
this war. I wrote down very clearly
NON VOLUNTEER if you remember. I did not,

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however, burn my draft card or my citizenship. Nor did I reject my belief in Divine Providence. It's very hard to see how an anxious, worn out wife; a nervous 7 yr old weeping her bed; a kind masculine-love shared 5 yr old; and misinterpreted, troubled 4 yr old needing a special love; a confused 3 yr old wanting to know where her daddy is & when he come home; and a boy who's going on 2 and doesn't know his father — very hard to understand how a loving God can arrange such a situation and call it good. Add to this, sending a

33 $\frac{1}{6}$ man with some talents, a wife and 5 children to fight a war traditionally fought by younger men beginning life. I don't understand how this comes up "good." But I believe there is a God who does indeed love me and us and has great plans for us. If this is faith, then I have faith. Wonders of wonders! I also believe he has a gift for you and I to do during this year. Because the outcome is in

doubt and because it's a very hard job to do, does not mean it should not be done. And it should be done with gusto as you and I have done every-thing else so far. Do we quit because the going is tough? You don't quit because you're afraid - that's cowardice. Is the work & effort worth the sacrifice? I don't know, sweetie. The job is there to be done. Should I let someone else do it? Perhaps. Maybe I should ask for a transfer to Saigon or Cam Rhan Bay or maybe a castailment because I'm getting yellow. And I am, better believe it. My writing is poor because I'm shaking - and it ain't no hangover this time. Would you be happy then? Would you be proud of me or you if I could swing it (which I doubt)? I personally would not be able to look people straight in the eye from that moment on. And, in spite of what you wrote, feel you would not be able to love or respect me after that. You want me to be a man, I feel - you are proud that I am. You have shouldered the huge, tremendous burden of being this doctor's wife. You have accepted things that few women would even consider accepting. Maybe I have

not made it worth while — maybe I have failed to be the husband and lover and father you want and have the right to have. But you have accepted the challenge thus far and run with the ball, for all your doubts, frustrations, etc. And now I've (with Uncle Sam's ~~the~~ help) taken on a new challenge and have asked you to pick this one up with the same gusto. So far we've done very well with this one, but now — just before the end is in sight — you say "fine — I've had enough — any more and I'll crash — the kids will fall to pieces." And I am profoundly shook by this — and considering dropping the whole thing. Without your support I am a very little man indeed.

Is the war justified? Is my work meaningful? Am I taking chances that don't need taking? Am I playing some game where the stakes are too high? Sweetie, I don't know. The job is there to do and needs doing very badly.

We can find only ~10 men willing to do it - or even capable of doing it. We are very deeply involved in this "game" as you may know. We hope to God that what we do is worthwhile. Many very intelligent men all the way to Gen'l Monyer have written us telling us we are doing something very important. It is an undeniable fact that our base and our airplanes have not been hit during my tour from the villages surrounding us. And this when every other installation around here gets hit 9 weeks or at least monthly.

I have been sent to Vietnam by my government against my will to fight a war as best I can. Should I perform a "sit-in" in protest? Or should I take this as another assignment from my loving God to accept it and work like hell with it? I have chosen to do the latter. It's a decision I think is right. However, it requires a lot of faith that God does exist and is, in fact, a loving God. It's my conviction that He is.

That does not mean I should be foolish. Going to Plei Koteng was not an act of foolishness in spite of what

it may have sounded like in my drunken letter. It was a very necessary thing and the time was right. — and I was the one with the invitation. The next time we go will be in strength and there will be all sorts of precautions made. The time I went it was necessary that secrecy and surprise was used. The invitation was specific for this one man. Now we are all invited — to give shots, to buy crossbows, to train medics, to install our "program." To come with an armed escort that time would be to ask for trouble and offend the people. There was 2 hrs of very sober staring back and forth as it was. Thanks to my friends Henth, Tunn, Nlin & Honyan we carried it off quite well. Actually the surprise and secrecy of my visit were my greatest protection. Was it necessary? Suffice it to say that the V.C have rockets whose maximum range is 10 miles. Plei Kotay is 12 miles away. Would you rather

I and the Air base get blasted
off the map by rockets? That's the
choice.

Am exhausted, sweetie. If I have
offended you, I beg your pardon. You
are my strength. I do not want to
punish, weaken or defeat you as you
say I have. Please hang on for a
little while longer - and then I'll
be back and you can throw rocks
at me all you want. I am sorry
for my drunken letter - guess I just
wanted you to share in my small
triumph and I blew it.

Will close now.

Love you with no buts about
it.

Love,

Dan

⁰⁰
1 PM Okay, now I've cooled down a
bit. What I said above was my
immediate response to your letter. Broke
up sick call to write it. Went looking
for my "father" Col Hullar to see what
he thought of my sending it. Can't find

22 Nov

9⁰⁰ PM

USAF Chap

PCV, RVN

173 22 Nov

Hi Kay,

Antony's waited for a letter from you today - got one - but it was dated 15 Nov 67 - a day earlier than that I don't I got yesterday. No divorce papers so far so assume you haven't filed yet.

By now you have read through that book I sent yesterday. I meant every word of it - hope that doesn't make things worse. I would be happy if

I said that list of yours ~~didn't~~ didn't affect me. Like a kick in the stomach.

The only trouble with fighting through the mud is that it takes so long to do. You know how I used to call half way through the morning from the Clinic when we were fighting - couldn't write when we were at odds? Well, we can't do that here and it shows. Have been dropping around a bit since that letter of yours. Hope a letter one comes tomorrow. Sort of picked the shit out of me sweetie.

Don and I call today and write. Good chance to rest and relax. Hope to go to Saigon Friday and really relax. As Charles and the Synatovics are in South Park, so

will have to wait for ~~the~~ them to get back first. Roy Worthington got passed over for Tech Sergeant - he's so mad is ready to get out of the service. Also turned his ankle pulling wounded into dust-off helicopter so has to cool it now. Will take him down with me. Also Rich will go again. Will take some cross bows with me also.

Went out to Plei Sor - Nlin's house with Lich, John A Smith and Major Dick Miller. Dick is leaving in 20 days. That was his last trip. Had a good time. Nlin made 3 beautiful book ends - paper weights for me. Carved DAN CONLON on them. Heavy as hell MONTAGNARD and beautiful I think. PLEI * KU

Today Ken Miller drove down from Kanton for some medicine for Pat Smith (remember who she is? - the doctor who takes care of Montagnards up there) Pat sent 4 Montagnard chairs for me and 2 very beautiful wooden goblets? - candle holders? - flower vases? Still have never met her but feel I know her anyway and vice versa. She is of the Sister Kenny ilk - meaner than hell, talks straight and to the point, allows no interference in her job but has a heart of melted butter. Will go up and meet her

(2)

17³ 22^{now}

Sometime before I leave I hope. Will wait for the Dak To thing to settle down first. It's still going on. Many feel this will end the major fighting up here. We're winning but at a fearful toll in killed + wounded. Ken went away with a truck load of medicine - about \$700.00 worth. Apparently the Army or Catholic Welfare can't or won't supply these people with medicine. You'd think I'd just given him the Brooklyn bridge. When he comes down next time should be able to load him up with more stuff - we were a little short handed this time.

Sixty days maximum now Sweetie. Could be less but lets not count on it. Some of the guys leaving in December will go a few days after their DEPOS due to lack of planes, etc. I will be careful, I promise - but will not barricade myself in any room as I discussed yesterday.

Got a chest X-ray today because the pain in my chest was getting worse - discovered it's completely

Clear - in spite of the fact I forgot to take the medicine I prescribed for myself. Got to poking around and found out it's a sore rib that's causing all the pain. How about that, sweetie - we're twins. - both had pneumonia. But my house didn't burn down.

My appetite is back and feel good. Haven't vomited in over a week, no chills, have gained some weight and my cough is back to an ordinary cigarette cough. Now if my wife & kids still love me all's right with the world. Have to assume you have cooled down and don't really hate me or have given up on me or I'd go out of my ever-lovin' mind.

My facade is a pretty good one, sweetie but not that good. Made 4 trips to the mailbox today and will continue to do so until I get a cheerful "I understand and love you" letter. Hope it comes soon. Two days before leaving for Saigon and then no mail for a week. Hope something strong & cheerful appears in #68 before then.

Will close for now.

Love you even though I wonder about your love.

Dan

174
22 Nov

24 Nov 67
Friday
1⁰⁰
PM
MAEV, PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Got your letter of the 18th and all is right with the world again.

Don't mind telling you had a lousy Thanksgiving yesterday. Don't like this going along bit ~~and~~ at all. Sympathize with what you are going through. This is some of what I went through when John Watson was run over and then Lee Hitchcock murdered. Learned for the first time what cowardice - fear - courage is. That was the time I wandered all over Qhi Nhon like a lost soul, Clark AB and back here. Damned near fell apart at that time. Have had a much more sober second half of my tour than the first half. And believe it or not, have been much more careful also. Have no intention of winning this war - in fact to win this war militarily at this time would be a great tragedy for these people. But pulling out would just leave the Montagnards to the mercy of the Vietnamese again before they are ready to cope with the new struggle.

Give them 5-10 more years and we'll have some educated Montagnards who

can read and write; have a broader knowledge of world affairs; have medics, lawyers and teachers; a cottage industry, etc. The reason I am so involved here, sweetie, is that there are damned few people who want or can get involved. We're hit on a Civic Action formula that works but it's damned hard to sell to an IBM machine or to a career diplomat who likes numbers, quantities, etc to use in Washington D.C. I had to list the good men working with me yesterday for Col Fuller and my opening statement was, "Sir, we have a lot of them now." I then found myself hard pressed to squeeze 10 names out of my memory! And that's out of nearly 3,000 men. ~~that~~ Granted it's better than when Jack Rudy was here and he was quite literally the Lone Ranger. But we have Gen'l Monger's official blessing complete with letters of commendation mentioning the crossbow industry, etc specifically. We've got publicity coming out our ears now. Am told I got another spread in the Stars & Stripes the other day (haven't seen it yet.)

Do I know my limitations? - hell yes and it makes me very sad indeed. Also am acutely aware that I'm getting short.

Was going to leave for ~~back~~ ~~the~~ Saigon I was with Dick but Dr. Charles and Lee

(2)

174
22 Nov

Ignatowicz haven't come back yet.
Will probably have to wait till Sunday
now. Am anxious to relax, drink
some beer, have ball sessions till
the wee hours and sleep till noon or
1³⁰ pm. Am hornier than hell but
so is everyone else.

Hope my book 2 or 3 days ago
helped you to understand me better.
You know, Sweetie, have been saying
these same things since you met me.
Each time I repeat them it's under
a new set of circumstances so it
sounds different. But it's not.
Basically, it's ① Love God above all things
with whole heart, etc & your neighbor
as yourself for love of #1. ② Live
every moment as hard & as well as you
can, always with eyes open to opportunities
to do #1. It's situation ethics all
over again - this time in a new
situation with a new set of peripheral
rules and circumstances that must be
coped with. The stakes happen to be
much higher this year, that's all.
Requires a greater amount of faith
and strength - but that's what grace

is all about.

Am praying for you as best I can. Find my ability to pray is not the best. Have great cynicism towards our established Church and our by rote methods. Will never leave our Church because am brain washed but will belly ache like hell about it the rest of my life. Want my children spared all the nonsense we went through and learn the above formula before they're 20 years old - not after. There is a Christian moral code and it's contained in the Catholic Church - but ~~that~~ there is so much Mickey-Mouse and solemnity and nonsense surrounding it very few people ever get a chance to see it.

My Thanksgiving meal consisted of 4 hard boiled ~~eggs~~ eggs, one small crustacean (Crab?), one small shrimp and about 70 minnows from the rice fields not counting 6 levels of rice wine. My appetite is back so it tasted very good. Also the company was excellent - Hien, Hmyar, Hieu, T.I. Harris and ~~the~~ Al Zakarian (a lawyer friend of mine from Saigon). Many laughs - am getting to be quite a pantomime artist speaking without my interpreter Lich. I went to his house

(3)

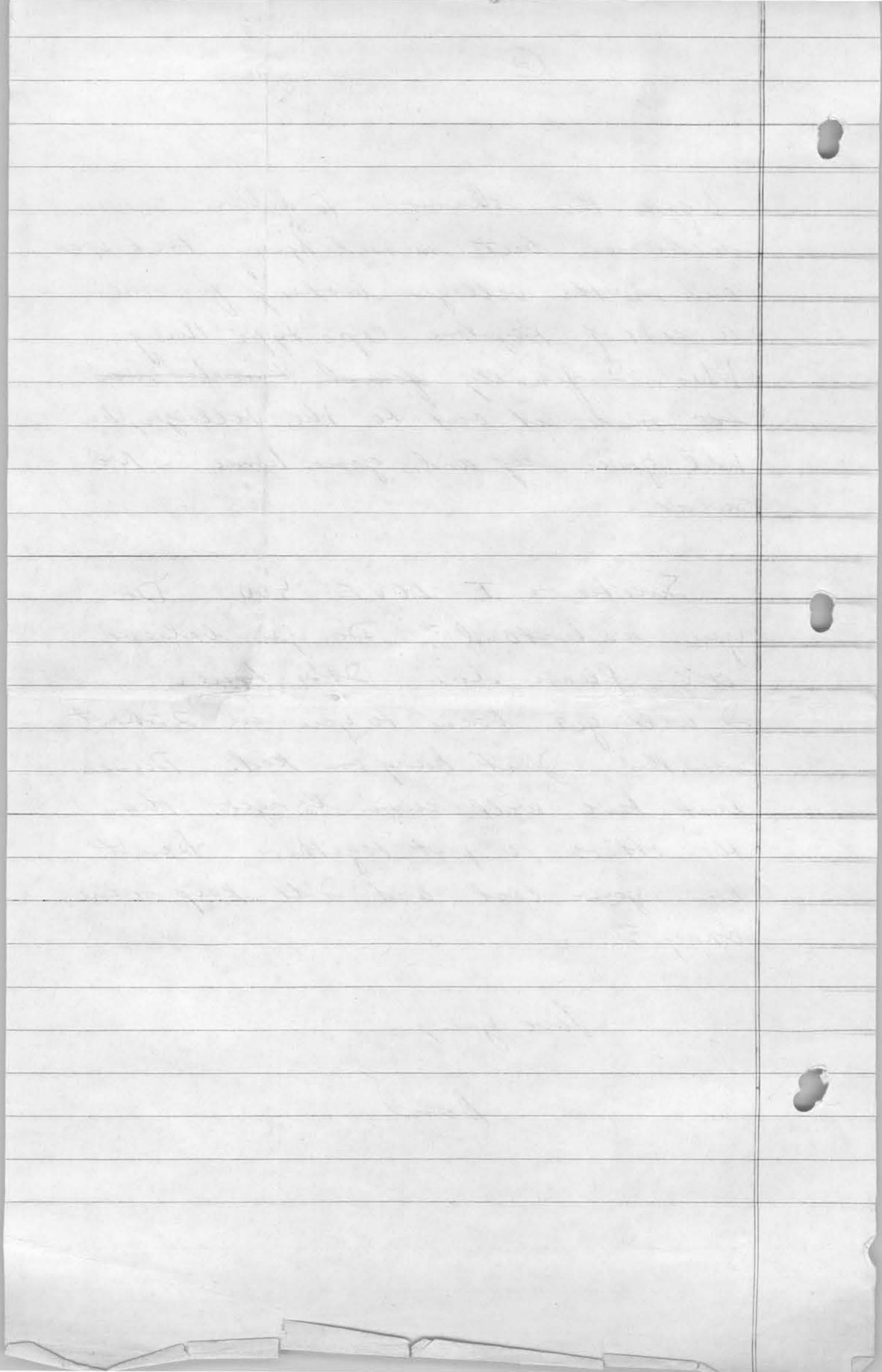
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22 Nov

before the "dinner" to deliver some mattresses but missed him. Rich was out in the villages looking for me. A sort of Keystone Cops type thing. When I finally found ~~him~~ ~~was~~ ~~he~~ made it out to the villages, he had given up and gone home. No sweat.

Sweetie - I LOVE YOU. Do you understand? Do you believe it? Please do. It's true. I will get back to you in 2 short months. Just hang on kid. These last two will seem longer than the other 10 put together. Don't lose your cool and I'll keep mine, okay?

Love you,

Dan



28 Nov 67

Tuesday
noon

F Troupe, Saigon
RVN

179

28 Nov

Hi Kay,

Have been down here since Sunday noon.

Came down on the base goony with Lich. Have eaten and drunk beer almost continually since arriving. Was up till 4³⁰ Saturday nite, got up at 6³⁰ Sunday morning to catch my plane. Stayed up all day Sunday drinking beer, relaxing, having a continuous bull session. Got a short nap Sunday nite, then got up for the next crew and stayed up till 4⁰⁰ AM Monday morning. Have eaten almost continually. Lynn cooked a pork roast that was out of this world. I think I'm in love with him - asked him if he could do washing also but he said we could always hire a maid.

Yesterday Lich and I went to the Saigon

Zoo. All kinds of exotic animals including kangaroo, tigers, lions, macaw (sp?) birds, elephants... — much better than the Como Park Zoo. It rained the whole time so we got soaking wet. Had a Vietnamese lunch at the zoo — omelet, cream puffs, nuoc mam (fish sauce from rook fish — very tasty) french bread and a coke — didn't get sick yet. For supper last nite went to the International House in downtown Saigon with Lich, Lynn and myself — same-same Charley's in Mpls. We had a band, filet mignon, wine, the works. Lich's first time I think. Very good food. Came home & watched TV until the 11^{0'clock} shift came home. Stayed up till 3³⁰ AM this morning talking philosophy with Puff (Lt Col Floyd Pugh) and Art Asthauer and Roy Worthington. Roy came down to yesterday and will have a few dogs on "R."

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30 Nov

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9 ³⁰ AM

"F" T-rouge,
Saigon, RVN
CACH MANG 309/1

Hi Kay,

Just a short note while I wait for breakfast. Lynn's cooking. I "cooked" supper last nite - opened a whole bunch of cans of soup, beans + weenies, etc and made a general mess. Ray Worthington finally bailed out and finished up. Went to bed about 8⁰⁰ PM last nite and slept till 7³⁰ AM this morning. Needed that sleep but my back hurts - same - same Sunday mornings at home when I do that.

Did a lot of politics yesterday. All the way up to Col Underwood - 2nd in Command to Ambassador Comer - Civic Action. Looks like we'll get out soon after all. Maybe

won't see them during my tour - but
Ambassador Comer is interested and that's a
real good start. Also got my foot in
the door to the USAID - Cords - Rev. Dev. -
OCO - warehouse and think may get away
with 30 sewing machines and anything else
I & Luch & Roy W. can get our hands on.
all perfectly legal, too - for a change. Will
do this tomorrow.

Today is goof-off day. Distribute arrowbows,
drink some beer, get a hair cut, etc.
Am having a relaxing time of it. A good
R&R. Picked up some bracelets and some
dolls. No wood carvings to be had. May
have to settle for what we've got already.
Everything down here is priced out of this
world and am broke now. Will have to
barrow through the month of December.

(2)

as I did through the month of November.
Happy end of November. How many days
to go? ~~We~~ know we're around 50 days
but still haven't counted them.

1⁰⁰
PM

Just got back from downtown - picked
up a token for Weez & Ed which I won't
describe - will keep it a secret till it
arrives in U.S. Afraid I haven't done much
in the way of X-mas shopping. Have now
completely wiped out my budget for the
month of December and it hasn't even
started yet!

Am anxious to read your letter when I
get back to Pleiku. Am getting SHORT,
SHORT, SHORT. Thinking about home & you
guys almost all the time. Theme song is

I want to go home.

Will take some crossbows to the base & distribute them this afternoon. The adrenalin is starting to come back again but am going at a leisurely pace anyway. No rush. Will try to hook a goony Saturday morning and deliver all this junk I'm accumulating.

Love you,

Dan

How many days?