



Collection Information:

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2 Dec 67

3⁰⁰ PM, Sat

"F Troupe"

Saigon RVN

181

2 Dec

Hi Ray,

Just a short note before we
take our plane back to Pleiku
and work. Am anxious to get
my mail. Will write a good
letter tonight when I get in.

Went down town to unload some
more boxes. This time to the
Saigon USO - a Mr & Mrs. Batolden
from Mpls - go to Drs Wall &
Thorsen as family physicians. Have
a son in Med school and another
one at Augsburg. Live on Riverside
Avenue near St. Mary's Hosp. Sell
Montagnard products. Think we've

found an outlet that will work
for us.

Got 30 sewing machines and
real promise of those rooms for
our efforts yesterday. Made a
new record. Went through all the
Mickey Mouse at the VSAID warehouse,
loaded on the machine on a $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton
truck, got them out to the airstrip
and found a Cessna airplane that
agreed to take them back - all in
one day! - that's usually a one
week project.

Am sitting here watching a
slightly old VSC + UCLA game
- it's a treat even though I
know VSC won 21-20.

My adrenalin ^{is} 181 ^{2nd} is coming back
again - am ready to come back
to Pleiku and get busy again.

Love you, doll.

Dan

182

4 Dec

4 Dec 67
7⁰⁰ PM
Pleiku Disp
Monday.

Hi Kay,

Am emotionally exhausted by all the beautiful letters you've sent me, the tapes from Dan Duery that were beautifully done - he is a very thoughtful person. Will get a note off to him tonight also.

Received a very good letter from Mom & Dad, one from Mr Richard Jones that was very surprising (one of the people I admire greatly like St Gallatin, St. Bertrand, St Ryan and Woodley, etc). Have waded through your letters for the 2nd time. Have been on the verge of tears like a sap many times reading your letters and hearing the tape.

May have to write this letter in stages. Have many emotions, thoughts, opinions, etc all jumbled up in my mind and need to write them down to have them make sense. Mostly I want to come home. Got my orders today to report to The Lord AB Seattle Wash for DISCHARGE on or about 12 Jan 67. No port call as yet. Won't have that till about Christmas time. Until then it's pointless to count the days.

Was interested to hear the candid conversation at Ivory's on Thanksgiving day. Apparently I will be an authority on Vietnam because I'm here. The only trouble is that there is no authority on Vietnam. I have my opinions and have certainly talked the subject to death here with everyone. One thing I am an authority on — and that's the Montagnard problem. I take my hat off to very few people on that subject. You will hear me mouth off many times until you're sick of it — plan to tell a few war stories in the bargain.

Went to 2 new villages with Lich yesterday. Got a wonderful reception (mostly because I was with Lich and the school teacher from Plei Blang 2) Also got very drunk as usual. Was tempted to write another drunken letter to you last nite but have learned from experience that's not the most wonderful thing I can do. Danger? — no sweat. Lich is the most careful, knowledgeable man in the world up here in his country. Let me tell you a little about Lich Rablan.

He's 31, has 2 wives and 6 children. I've mentioned before all the languages he speaks. He was and still is chief of 32

(2)

187 4 sec

Montagnard villages near Pleikhy - Plei Me.
He can't live there because the Vietnamese
fear his influence and forbid him to
live in a Montagnard village ever. I
have witnessed very often his power among
his people. Just a gesture or a short
3 syllable quiet command sends Montagnards
scurrying in all directions. His word
is absolute - no one questions it - even
Tun who is a chief in his own right.
I have not seen anyone speak roughly
or argue with him - even the Vietnamese
around Pleikhy treat him with respect
although we both know they would
stab him in the back given a chance.
~~A~~ Any Vietnamese who hurt Lich around
here and was identified would have to
contend with a number of black-paganaid
Montagnards as leave the area.

And yet this man is an infant
in Saigon. Looks around like Alice in
Wonderland. Hangs on to me like
Kaela - never takes the initiative. In
fact he won't even walk by my side
but walks behind me! wherever we
go. After one week of this I was
beginning to wonder if I wasn't

overestimating him — until yesterday. Somewhere between the Air Base and a Montagnard village our roles reverse. From an obedient, ignorant native who speaks poor English and says "yes, sir" and speaks when spoken to on the base — he grows 5 feet and takes on all the airs of an all wise, decisive, kindly but strict Montagnard Jesus. Our roles are reversed. I don't make a move without checking Lich's eyes. These roles are well understood by both of us but we've never discussed it this openly. He knows & understands me — laughs at my stupidity and ^{my} attempts to speak, think, act and eat like a Montagnard. He's given up on me ever learning to speak Jrai very well — laughs at my pantomime language and says "you want to vomit now?" after 3 or 4 levels of rice wine. We are good friends. After I get home will explain fully what that means here in this ugly little war we have. Reminds me of the Last of the Mohican story I read a long time ago. The chewing out you gave me after the Plee Koting episode was mild in comparison to the criticism he differentially gave me when he found out I went without him. He was very upset to say the least.

(3)

182 4 Dec

Picked up 7 more bracelets yesterday from Lich's house. He has about 100 people living on his property - they've pitched a big tent in his back yard. Maybe I'll write Nelson and see if we can get him a hotel. Seems the bigger we build his house the more people come to see him and ask his advice. That was a good R&R for Lich also in Saigon.

Tomorrow I pick up 3 more Montagnards from our villages and take them to Special Forces to begin their training as medics. At least we'll leave that as something permanent. While in Saigon, Lich and I discussed in detail the Montagnard dilemma - a shadow government called the Fulro with every man in it an outlaw in his own country - hiding out in Cambodia. And no peace in the highlands (roughly $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2}$ of the area of this little country) until and unless Thieu & Ky ~~will~~^{have} come to terms with Y-~~Bam~~^{Bham} and his men. (Bham is president of Fulro - a Rhade) Until Thieu & Ky can demonstrate some honesty and strength, the Montagnards will not come into active cooperation

loud noise. Glad you liked the stuff. Am accumulating all kinds of Montagnard junk lately - my room here is getting smaller & smaller. So Jimmy wants a purse!

Don't worry about that letter you wrote, sweetie. Think the whole thing was a blessing in disguise. Gave us both a chance to see ourselves & each other in a different light. We're being challenged very deeply and both of us are having to dig deep inside ourselves for strength. It hurts real bad, I know but we'll both be better for it when we're through. When I say we - I'm always including Weez & Ed in my own mind. I hope we haven't hurt them with our constant reliance on them. Their response has been magnificent and has made all the difference in my peace of mind.

About the crossbows. Dick Norland should receive one without a doubt - we'll present it to him privately some day when I get back. How many do we have? This friend of Lindberg's I don't know about. Could get expensive, sweetie and I'm hard to mouth here. I've been given a lot of gift crossbows here but don't know how many. Usually just put them up for sale along with the others. If you think we should start

(4)

(7)

18²

4 Dec

This vicious thing, let me know and I'll keep better track of the gift.

I have 2 ivory bracelets left for you. And mad as hell. Bought a nice jade ring for you which was stolen out of my locker at M.S.E.V along with my tape recorder and a surprise ~~solution~~ pearl ring for you. Don't know who it was or how he or she (mammasan?) got in. Have started moving all my things down here at the Dispensary for safe keeping. The smartest thing to do is send these things the same day I get them, I guess.

These requests are great, Sweetie but I'M BROKE. My nude is not alive but I think I'm in love with her. Sorry about that. Would also like to get a large Buddha still but looks slim now.

Lou Bracey called and told me about a letter from Mike - he also delivered 8 ham & eggs sandwiches. A good friend. He's my man on nite shift every other nite. Think I've mentioned him before. I'll just scribble away here till I finish all your

letters for the 3rd time, then get to work answering the other good letters have received.

My mind must be weak or something but most of the things Chardin says sound obscure to me. He needs translating a little better. Sounds like a man from another planet to me. Will sit down and work with his stuff when I get home. Much too scatter brained and hopped up on adrenalin here. This is an ~~serious~~ place, a conversation-in-4-letter-words place, not too deep on the philosophy bit.

Your descriptions of the kids have me smiling and longing to see them. This has to be the toughest part of the tour, for sure.

Mike & Mary Ann say the Catholic school on their base is very poor. When will the Church wake up about this? Pride is great but it's not worth making 2nd class citizens out of our children. Hope you have good success with Jack's problem. That was a bright boy that spoke right up on the tape recorder last Thanksgiving. Seems to me a fellow by the name of Pat Murray had a lot of trouble early also....

Am worried about Colleen's urinary problem - maybe an X-ray of those kidneys & bladder is in order one of these times. May be a simple stricture. Or may be a masturbation problem - sorry sweetie - even

Beautiful little girls do it when they're upset. What ever you do, don't make an issue of it. Let it go. My coming home should ease a lot of our little problems.

"Hummy-dumny" is it! My imaginary friend is Charlie Brown and he's a pick-up truck.

Sounds like a good party at the Byce's - expect a few parties will be in order during January & early February. Dan Baker would be a real catch for us. He's a brilliant man and, I suspect, a careful surgeon. Maybe we could catch Bob Hagreness one of these times as he goes from small town to bigger small town, etc. He'd be good to work with.

My ugly letter just stared at me again - hell I wrote that on the 13th and you answered it on the 16th. The P.O. is really swinging lately. That letter is beautiful! Think we should frame it and hang it on the wall next to your rebuttal and then throw mud at both of them once a month.

(8) 15

187 4 pc

This is my "I understand and I love you" letter. Long winded, aren't I?

If I were my wife (wouldn't that be a mess come time to deliver a baby? Well, maybe I'm pregnant - haven't had a period in over 9 mos.) and got a letter like that one of mine, I'd interpret it is being a letter from a drunken loud mouth who was playing God. Think I'd send an acid letter something like yours with a P.S saying, "Don't write any more letters when you're drunk, fat head!" Funny thing - that's exactly what happened.

Will be interested in what Mrs. Smith has to say about Kaela. She may turn out to be a loud mouth after all. Seems teachers see a side to people's children parents never see.

Hurray for you & Erin!

One thing about that ring - it's gawdy as hell just like you ordered. Glad you like it. Could use about \$10,000 and could really load up with junk over here.

Well, "Rock" Conlon has plowed through your letters and has run out of gas. If you can't make it through all the words without a nap in between, I won't mind.

Love you, doll.

Dan

184

6 Dec

Wednesday
6 December
67
MAEV, RON
11⁰⁰ PM

Hi Kay,

No letter since Sunday. Hope nothing is wrong. Got a X-mas package from Pat & Dick yesterday full of cookie and some tuna fish. Very tasty and welcome. Can think of very little else lately except going home. Makes the days & hours drag. Gave up this afternoon and took a nap. Have been drinking too much lately, getting quarrelsome and argumentative. 18 days till Christmas and roughly 47-48 days till DELOS. The time is dragging by but at least we're not in the 3-digit anymore. They call it the 2-digit

figets here and it's real.

And slowly but surely running
out of gas. And less & less interested
in the Mortagnards, the dispensary,
even meeting the new fliers and other
men coming on base. All the men
I've known very well here are leaving
one by one. Dick Miller left today.
Lee Johnson left 2 days ago. Bob
Shultz is packing his hold baggage
and I'm thinking about doing the
same. The old fire is gone now.

Have good men to replace me. Was
invited to a sacrifice today and
didn't even show up. Started loading
our sewing machines into my truck
this afternoon to take them down to

5 or 6 times every day (184) worry about
how you're taking the strain of these
last few days. It's pretty hard to
take them one at a time, isn't it
sweetie? Must do that though or
it'll get's unbearable.

We have a Christmas tree in the
dispensary - a fake one, but it looks
real. Christmas lights and every thing.
One of the medics' girl friends sent
it in a case package. Good for
morale but brings the Kars, too, a little.
We had a show last nite and the
closing song was God Bless America
- a lot of men were choked up on
that one. We can look forward to
a lot of emotionalism around here

(2)

Leech's house and let that go.
Got some of them loaded, then just
and went in and started reading a
book Carpet baggers instead. Had a
steak dinner tonight and really
splurged. My friends in the kitchen
here fixed me up a porter house
steak - same - same Doc Conlon's (Sr.)
with all the trimmings. Tasted great.
also had a salad with Italian dressing,
some cake & a Stinger for an
after dinner drink. Hope I didn't
let down the Montagnards too much.
Guess they had quite a party planned
for me. Am just tired I guess.
also could use a letter from you.
Am getting tired of seeing an empty
mail box - must check that thing

③ 184 bsc

for the next $2\frac{1}{2}$ who I guess.
I'll probably be the worst one
— am always a sap around Christmas
time anyway.

Will close now. Hope you were
able to wade through my book
the other nite okay. Haven't got
a lot of conversation for you now
— will perk up when I get a ~~little~~
letter from you, I'm sure.

Hang on sweetie — will make it
yet.

Love,

Dan

Thursday

7 Dec 67

11:00 AM

this morning.

Dan, no letter again
Hope that doesn't

mean any thing is wrong
back home - hope it just means
you're busy. If it's problems,
sweetie - spill it. My morale
can take another chewing out
if that's your problem.

Love,

Dan

7 Dec 67

Thursday mite

6 ³⁵ PM

USAF Dispensary
PKU, RVN

185

7 Dec

Hi Kay,

Am angry, concerned and disappointed. Got a letter from Ken Bryce today dated 1 December. The last one I got from you was dated 28 November. What's going on. It isn't bad enough I'm worried about you already — you don't even communicate. Am tempted to make a MARS call tonight to find out what's going on.

Am taking call today & tonight to have tomorrow afternoon off. Will help King pickup his rice tomorrow afternoon.

Not much to talk about.

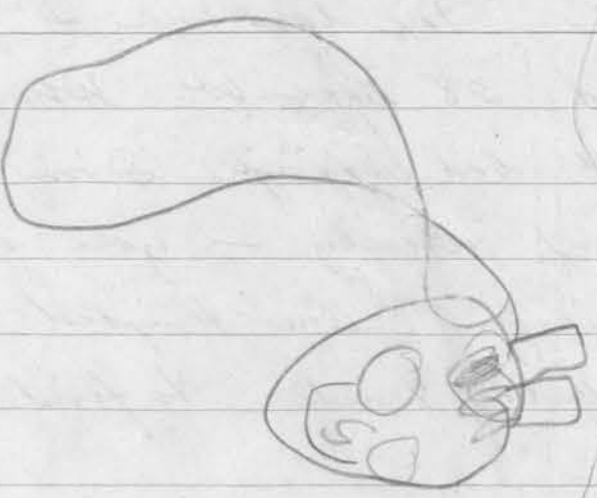
Thought I'd include a copy of the Overseas Observer. A few good articles in it. One about our reaction to the "peace" marches & demonstrations. Another one comparing Saigon with the rest of Vietnam.

Will sign off now. WRITE A LETTER, PLEASE.

Love,

Dan

1111012
SUNUSIC



729 Kern 7th or 8th \$9.95
339-2793

Hayton

8 Dec 67

3⁰⁰ AM

USAID Anniversary
Friday

Hi Kay,

Continue to check the mailbox for hoping
for some mail. Will write a guest note
again now - may be continue it in the
morning. Have had a guest note so
far - very few patients to see.

Have had a good old fashioned bull
session with Lou Bracey tonight. Negro
problem, kids, education, relatives,
Montgomery (only a little - find Lou and
I talk more & more about home and
how & how about West man (totally). He's
going to Shepard from here.

8³⁰ AM No mail again this morning.
That's five days in a row now. Finding
it hard to be underhanding. What's
wrong?

Lou & I continued chatting until
5³⁰ this morning. Got 2 hrs of sleep
- was up at 7³⁰ AM. There's a hell in
each cell for a minute, so thought
I'd try to write a note to keep the
lines of communication open from my
side at least. Am jugged by the
lack of mail from your side. Also
this means you're having some more

trouble with your emotions, etc? Hope not.
Sweetie, in spite of what you may think
there are over 500,000 couples going
through the same thing we are. That's
a lot of problems if each one is handled
like a personal tragedy. Serving one's
country is not a personal tragedy no
matter how inconvenient it may be - it's
merely one's duty. Unfortunately very few
people around you are ~~not~~ going through
this so you feel like the Lone Ranger.
You're not, and I'm not. What's more
there are 15,000 families that won't
get their soldiers back ever, and Ford
knows how many wounded.

Sorry for the big sermon - don't
even know if that's what's bothering you.
Am thoroughly puzzled ~~for~~ by the lack
of communication. Have been writing
nearly every day lately and every other day
otherwise.

Hope to get a note soon. My
morbid attempts to write ~~at~~ will improve
then, I'm sure.

Love,

Dan

106-2-(1)

midnite?
12 Dec 67
Monday mite
MACV PKU
RVN

Hi Kay,

Haven't written in a long time and am sorry. Just received 2 letters today and two yesterday. They were the first in over a week. Thank you. They were gay and carefree and like I want you to be. Have had a bad case of feeling sorry for Coulson so just quit writing. Think the last letter I sent was last Friday if I'm not mistaken.

Just finished the Carpet baggers - a story based on Howard Hughes's life I'm sure. Very touching and horny book. But am easily touched lately. And having one hell of a time with my emotions now that

Christmas is getting near and we've
reached the 40 day figure maximum.
13 shopping days till Christmas. You've
have to be the Santa Claus this time,
Sweetie. Won't be getting any more
presents or Christmas cards off. Have
sort of let it all up to you.

Was really worried about you
when I didn't hear anything for so
long. Find it was all in my mind.
Damn near called on the phone but
couldn't find your phone number.
Am relieved and happy now after
these four beautiful letters you've
sent. Checked the mail box 4-5
times every day and sometimes 9.
15 minutes Friday & Saturday. Trusts

(2)
out it was the ¹⁸⁶⁻²P.O. and not
you that was running amuck.
Should have realized the Christmas
mail would be fouled up.

It's Monday nite. Have been
to the Connie Francis (in person) show.
She was good as always. Sang
God Bless America and a few others
White Christmas
that choked us all up. Funny how
these corny songs we learned in
grade school really break us all
up.

Now its 7 ⁴⁵/_{am} - fell asleep
last nite writing this and day
dreaming about home. Will
write a decent letter today while on

call. Thanks for your letter

Take care.

Love,

Dan

COILED
CONLOH
CONION
COILED

12 midnite

12-13 Dec 67.

USAT Dispensary
PKU, RVN

187

12-13 Dec

Ki Kay,

Am afraid this is going to be a short note also. Have gotten absolutely nothing done today except sick call. Now it's midnite and I'm tired. Have one more malaria slide to get back then will go to bed. Meant to arrange for sending my hold baggage today but didn't have time.

Have a guy with 104 keep back in the ward and not the slightest idea what's wrong with him. (Turns out he has malaria, have too) been getting crash calls all nite with this new jet A37 coming in with hung rockets.

No mail up this way again. Hope you're mail reception is better than ours. They said they put extra men on the problem at the P.O for Christmas but guess they're doing the best they can.

Have eaten a big dinner at 5⁰⁰ PM and just finished spaghetti (sp?), 2 eggs, bacon, toast & orange juice. Maybe I'm pregnant. Probably will gain some weight at this rate before coming home.

12 more shopping days till Christmas.

Nothing much going on here. A potential build up of NVA was foiled today thanks to the B52's. May have had something to do with that. Don't want to know for sure. Let the OSI + Jim Morris (S.F.) know what the Montagnards had told me about a build up of "Viet Minh" in Plei Op and Plei Dang Boia north of here. Told them that Sunday. Damned if the B52's + Artillery hell weren't blasting away early this morning and today at that exact spot. Maybe I'm the 007 type after all.... More like Get Smart type, I think.

Don't think I'll be going to Japan after all. Will take my ROR to Saigon instead. Think Bill Fulton, myself, Lich, Tun, Hlin + Hmyar will see if we can't do a tour of Saigon instead. We'll see. Maybe it would be a good idea to leave country and see Japan. Am undecided. Understand it takes about \$200.00 to see anything & live for 5-6 days. Expensive, but may be a chance in a lifetime. I'll wait a while and see.

(2)

187 12-13 Dec

I'll bet the kids are antsy about Christmas by now. Suspect my letters are coming very irregularly with long gaps between - the same as yours. Sent some large envelopes in the mail which they may return because I wrote "Free" on them. That dirty book full of jokes thought you'd enjoy. Also the cardboard piece with the handshake and "May be Sold in Vietnam" would appreciate if you'd save. Too long to explain now - will explain when I get home.

Was told today Connie Francis collapsed last nite from nervous exhaustion after the show. Cried for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour uncontrollably seeing the wounded, hearing the artillery and the jets and large planes, noises in the nite and also from just plain strain & overworking. She does a very good show - puts every thing she's got into it.

- Yup - he's got malaria - falciparum at that - may be a free ride to the states - probably not - only to Cam Ranh Bay or the Philippines. He's only been

in country 2 wks!

It's 3 ^{PM} now, sweetie. Got in a
bull session with Ray Worthington &
Lee Ignatowicz about old age homes, gen'l
practice, etc. Find I've forgotten much
of the gen'l practice I once knew. Will
have to review one hell of a lot before I
start full blast again. Will use Nelson
for pedo, Olsen for OB, Woodley for
internal medicine and Howland for routine
emergency care. May have to go around with
them on rounds during part of my
vacation before starting back to work.
Hope it doesn't take too long to get back
into the groove again. The psych,
V-D, malaria, plague, worms, etc can do
myself.

Will close now, sweetie and get some
sleep.

Love you,

Ben.

P.S. I love you.

15 Dec 67

188

15 Dec

1⁰⁰
PM
USAF Dispensary
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Just got two very good letters from you. Thought it was much earlier than it is. Have gotten involved in the Comedians by S. Green and have almost finished it. Will answer your letter in this and may be send a note to the clinic.

Got your Christmas tree and cash ~~scene~~ & have them behind me on the examining table. Must describe my room for you while the mood moves me. It's 6 ft by 10 feet in size. I have the following items making it almost impossible to move in: one large $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ feet desk lettered with books, charts, old letters, a large book case, your Ritz crackers, ashtray, your almost eaten fruit cake and a name plaque labeled MICKEY MOOSE instead of my name. On the wall behind this is my "campaign map" of the Pleiku area with pins in the various villages we work (gold) and silver pins in the various villages and places I've hoped to go to. Also my scroll inviting me into the Pleiku Irregulars, a Santa Claus and another large map of the ethno linguistic

groups of Indo China.

On the wall to my right are all your & the kids' pictures lined up & covered with acetate to protect them from the dirt.

Also the serenity prayer Dad sent. Above that hangs a crossbow from Plee Pho.

Next to that (behind me slightly but on same wall) is the Nat'l Geographic Map of Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia & Thailand. On the

floor next to my desk on the right and

below the above are three Montagnard wicker chairs and 4 crossbows plus my emergency medical kit (which I've never used), some wooden candle holders from Pat Smith at Kontum and a box I've packed full of odds & ends.

Immediately behind me is my bed & examining table. By "immediately" I mean if I lean back with my chair; I hit it in spite of the fact the chair is snug up against the desk when it's up right. On the examining table I have your tree & creek scenes, a large clothes box from the Magic Mountain Women, some other boxes for the Montagnards & some plastic. Under the table is my suitcase I pack when on call so I'll have a fresh change of clothes in the AM. Also under the table is my field medicine bag for my trips to the villages. Parallel to this table with only 5 inches to spare is a locker I squeezed in full of all kinds of junk that

(2)

188 15 plc

Lee Ignatowicz, Ray Worthington, Lou Bracey and I store in common. Against the "fat" wall is a chair for patients and above the chair my X-ray box. The door completes the scene and dominates $\frac{1}{4}$ of the room. Even the waste basket fills a significant ~~area~~ area of the room and is constantly in the way.

Don't know why I got carried away with that explanation. Maybe just getting literary with all the books have been reading lately.

Big news! Got my part call today! Am leaving Cam Ranh Bay, RVN at 2130 hrs 21 JAN 68 on Flight N254 for Mc Cord AFB Seattle. Should arrive sometime 21 Jan 68 (Sunday nite) in the evening or early morning 22 Jan 68. From what I can gather, will take me 36 hrs to 48 hrs to process out so should arrive in Mpls on the 24th Jan if all goes right. Would sure like to meet you in Seattle but think that's asking for too much. Plan to kiss the ground like a beg

sap. when I get back to good old USA.
Our adventure is coming to a close
finally sweetie. 38 days left to do
here in good old RVN and then fini.
Will get my hold baggage arranged soon
and sent out if I can find the time.
~~It~~

It's cold here - down to 50° and no
heating any where to be had. At least we
aren't in the trenches and soaking wet, too.
Berrio came down with malaria yesterday
so had to hustle him back from Plei
Brel and stick him in bed. Today he's
bouncing around the place full of vim &
vigor - hard to keep a good man down.
I knew he had it when we went out and
so did he but he wanted a look around
at the villages just in case he was to
be med-evaced out. As it turns out it's
probably vivax malaria and can be
treated locally.

Jim Jones just came in with chicken
and egg & bacon sandwiches for me.
He's a good friend - one of the many Negro
friends have made here. Takes good care
of me when I'm on call. Works in the
mess hall making bread & pastries.
Will wake up Berrio and get some
food into him. Talk to you later.

(3)

188

15 Dec

8⁰⁰
PM

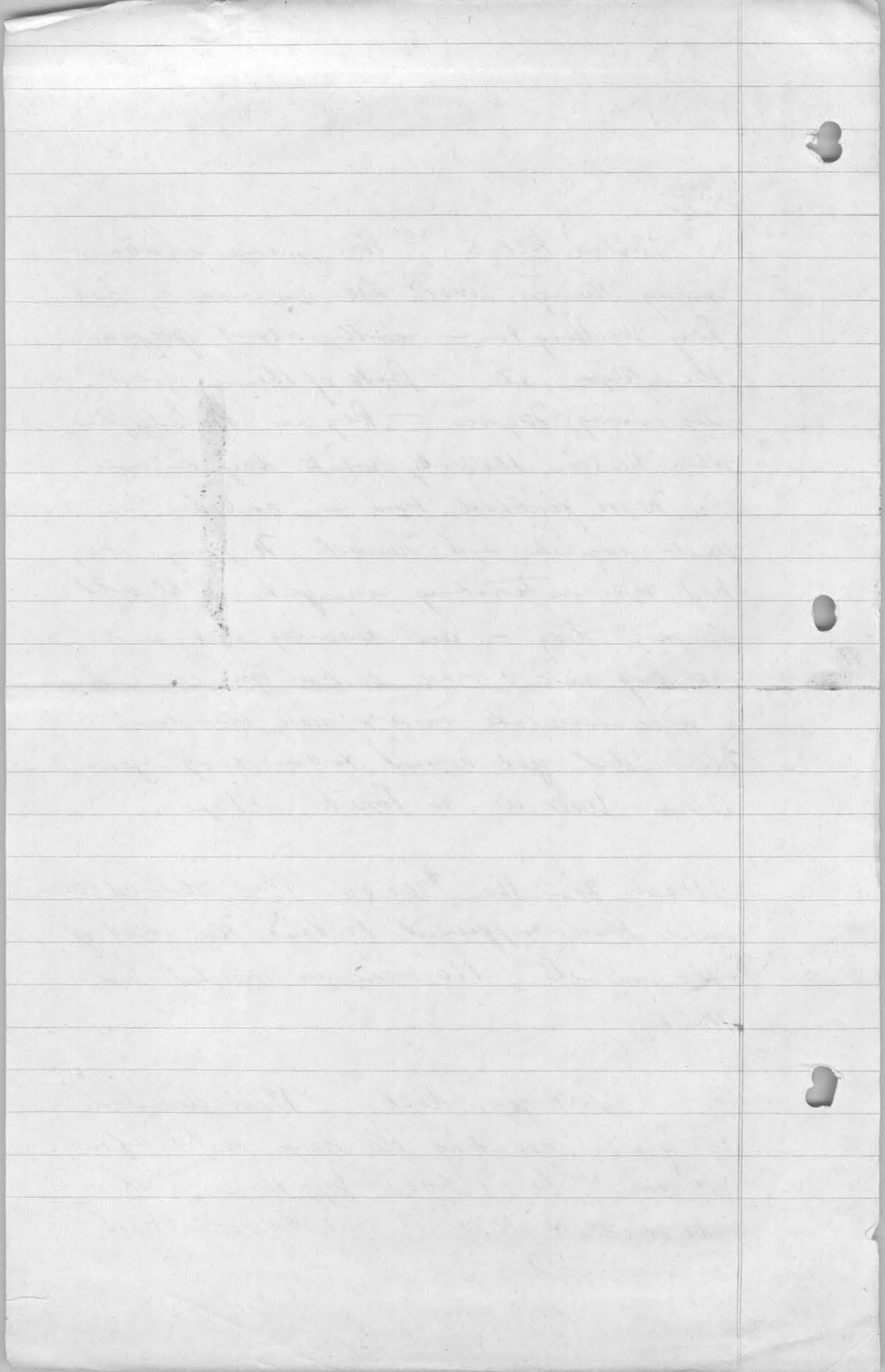
Talked till 5 ³⁰ this morning about many things with Lee Ignatowicz and Roy Worthington - mostly about prejudice, the Negro, etc. Both of them grew up among Negroes - Roy in Philadelphia where he was the only white boy on an all Negro football team - and Lee in West Virginia and Newark, N. Jersey. They had some interesting insights I'll add to my bag - am learning and understanding more & more as time goes on and I accumulate more & more opinions. Never did get around to answering your letters. Will do so tonight, I hope.

Thanks for the \$100.00. That should be more than sufficient to last the rest of the month. No more is needed here. Thanks.

Love you, doll. Have decided to quit counting the days until after Saigon and/or Tokyo - by then I'll be so short that it won't be so hard or seem so long.

Love you,

Dan



2⁰⁰ PM
17 Dec 67
USAF Despatcher
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Just read your beautiful letter for the 3rd time dated 10 Dec 67. Have been up since 9⁰⁰ this morning, went to bed after patching up 6 Airman after a brawl at 4⁰⁰ AM. Have been on call every other day since last Monday including Tuesday, Thursday, yesterday and today. Will get off call tomorrow soon and then get some sleep. After today will only have two more days of call this month. How about that! Am beginning to see the end in sight.

You haven't been complaining about my letter writing - assume you are getting some. Am getting used to the long pause between letters from you. Expect this will be the pattern until I get home. Don't worry about it. Am over the "I feel sorry for Conlan" stage.

Was touched by your comments about Erin. I know exactly what she is talking about. Have been living all my life with this pent-up anger - against women in particular. It's a frustration actually. This little precious girl is just full of unknown desires, needs, etc

that the others don't seem to have. Very hard to explain unless you've experienced the same thing. Mike, for instance, was and is an outgoing person who took life as it came, the challenges that were immediately apparent were always good enough for him.

This is pretty much true of the four of our children including Jimmy from what you describe. And then you have Erin. Always looking for something else, some deeper meaning, some obscure & value that she doesn't even know exists. Makes her seem weird to you "normal" people. Dick Merrill is a little like this also. It sets her apart from the others which further segregates her.

The treatment for this is simple. Sprinkle her liberally with love, avoid setting her apart (she'll do that all by herself) and support her with the security of love and belonging while she finds her way through her private maze. I was always a puzzle to my folks and, I suppose, still am. Mike was always open, outgoing and very easy to know. Took me many many years to finally find my way clear to a philosophy of life, meaning to work, security enough to really love someone instead of cling to her, etc.

The anger she speaks about is also

(2)

very understandable. She's frustrated because she wants so many things without really knowing what she wants. The most comfortable thing for her is the world of her own making - her fantasy world with her dolls, etc. The world of Colleen, Kara, Megan and possibly Jimmy is confusing to her because she doesn't approach life this openly or unquestioningly. She wants to sit back and study this thing carefully from her frame of reference, not theirs or yours or mine. Then she wants to take it on her terms. You might say she's a stubborn child, a spoiled child, etc. This is not really true. She has a mind of her own. I was like this and still am. She will be obedient as you know. But her loyalty, love, and devotion to a project has to come from her after thinking about it, bringing the idea into her private world, her corner - and then when she's comfortable with it - she'll go like hell. Quite simply she's not a follower basically although she's constantly being led. She needs

confidence to follow her own head - but head she's got as you've often remarked. I wish I could tell you all the things I sense about Erin. Can't say she's "exactly like me" - because she's not - she's exactly like Erin only. However, there are many things we have in common.

This sort of child does not make for a very lovable child. She won't have a huge horde of friends, will always be a loner of sorts - at least ~~in~~ until she gets her thoughts together. What she needs from us is a HUGE amount of love, as much understanding as we can give her, & and the patience to give her the time she needs to come to terms on her terms with the problems confronting her. You may never understand Erin as my folks have never understood me - but that's not important. If we love her and let her know we're proud and happy with her, she'll eventually "land on her feet, like a cat...." Sound familiar?

I think you can remember me come out with nearly irrational anger at times over things that you thought were unimportant or merely annoying. That's the residual of what ~~of~~ Erin is remarking about. Am so lonesome to get back with those kids, I hurt. Also like you a little also.

Lots of luck at the X-mas dinner — just get up & talk, sweetie. Can't remember any of those people ever biting any one. Delores will be a help to you.

Got an X-mas card from Mike and Mary Ann — a beautiful thing. — The little drummer boy with a beautiful message. Also a mimeographed Xmas card from Hap Corbett & family.

Went out and bought a \$99 piece of Japanese China set today — 12 piece setting — very nice. Also bought a six piece tea set. The China came to \$36.50 and the tea set to \$12.50. It's "Autumn gold" for the China — think you'll like it. ^(Not that should be an experience!) Fugagawa for the tea set — also very nice with silver trim. Hope you like it. — if not would make a nice gift to someone. Have checked — this is good stuff — not cheap junk in spite of the price. Almost got a \$ Nortake Demitasse set for Mom but got there too late. I'll either be sending these things in the mail separately or in my

hold baggage. Have most of my stuff packed now. Plan to live hand-to-mouth until my port call. May pick up a few odds & ends in Saigon when I go down. Don't want to be loaded down with all kinds of baggage on the way home like I was on the way over. Even have packed my beautiful nude! Am really getting short when I start doing things like that. Figure they'll get 18-20 more working days out of me and that's it for the Air Force. Have quit counting the days. Plan to leave Pleiku about the 17-18 Jan and go to Saigon to ~~make my farewell~~ then. Then hop a plane to Cam Ranh Bay by the 20th and leave the 21st on the Bird of Paradise.

Sorry to be so lousy on the letter-writing. Merry Christmas, all you guys. Will be with you in spirit, anyway. Will probably be out in the village X-mas day drinking ~~red~~ wine. Find going through the motions of these feast days on the base is one of the deadliest things you can do for morale. Maybe Bob Hope and his gang will make it up here sometime in the next 2 wks. This is about as far out in the boonies they'll let him go, I think. Will close now
Talk to you later
Love, Dan

2nd
19 Dec 67
Tuesday
USAF Dispensary
PKU, RVN

190 19 Dec

Hi Kay,

Like most mis understandings we've had - it takes at least 2-3 who to get it worked out. As you already know, have been receiving mail quite regularly again (2 today). Have started reading that hilarious article from Reader's Digest that came today. Liked that line about shoveling the driveway along side the neighbor's boy. Beautiful.

Spent last nite in Plei Brel so ~~don~~ didn't write. Was safe, drunk and happy, thanks. Ughh, Hlee and Hnuch took very good care of me. Sent me on my way at 7 o'clock this morning. Lich and I had a private little party at his house - his rice wine gets to me every time.

Will be leaving for Plei Sax in a few minutes for a sacrifice that I've been avoiding up till now. It's going to be a wild one and afraid.

Got a very nice card and letter from Tom Hart with a picture of Lisa. She is a beautiful child - but then Tom & Maime are nice looking themselves.

Those pictures you sent of the kids

are a riot. Jimmy has changed considerably - the others have gotten older but haven't changed that much.

Will call it quits for now. Will write a good letter tomorrow when I'm on call. Am coming around to the decision to go to Tokyo after all. Need a break from the Montagnard routine.

Love you doll.

Talk to you later.

Love

Dan

2:pm Wed.

20 Dec 67

USAF Dispensary

PKU, RVN

191

20 Dec

Ki Kay

5 shopping days till Christmas.
I expect this will get to you after
Christmas. Hope you had a good
time, got some pictures, etc.

Just finished that story by
the father of 4 girls - very good
- got a little choked up towards the
end. Makes me want to get home
and start working with my private
the parents.

Had a good time at Kline's house
yesterday. All the people involved
were out there - Bill Fulton, Bob
Miller (who leaves in about 8 days)
T.I. Harris, Paul Hawkins, Dave Berris
(who's over his bout of malaria now)
Dick Rahlan, Kline, Hmyar, Hux,

Tun, Ih, Kyl, Hjun, Lee Ignatowicz,
John Batey, and 3 or 4 more
that came to look on. Also Hla
Plei So's chief. We had a
drunken good time - a going-away
party for Bob Miller.

Have decided to go to Tokyo
after all - when I come back
will go down to Saigon with
Nien, Tun, Nmyar and Lich along
with Bill Fulton and Paul Hawthorn.
Have been invited by Col Mullar to
explain Civic Action to the new
general coming in. That ought
to be something. Have never talked
to a general before.

Went to bed at 8⁰⁰ PM and slept
till 7⁰⁰ AM this morning to give this
rack of shen & bones of mine a chance
to catch up. Feel good today.
Am on call until tomorrow at

(3) 191 20 Dec
noon. Will make this a
running commentary for you of
the day. Will leave this open and
pop in & make comments as the
day goes by.

Have a sacrifice to go to tomorrow
afternoon at Anao's house. He's
the original little ol' bow maker that
Jack Rudy started with. He and
Hence, Hauch and Plo have a
pig & rice wine sacrifice scheduled
for me & Lee Ignatawicz. Suspect
a few others will be present as
well. Can see it now. Will be
one party after another till I
leave.

Have two patients to see - will
talk to you later.

3³⁰ PM Ended up seeing about 10 patients
- throwing practice I have. Last one

was a very special private patient
of mine - Col. Nullar - my father
figure over here. Can add another
name to those I admire very
much along c Fr. Adelard, Dr. Stone,
Fr. Gallatin, Fr. Ryan, Don Woodley,
etc. Honored me with an invitation
to have a beer with him in his
quarters tonight. Another all night
bull session, no doubt. Will
try to keep my opinions on a
conversational level - but will
probably end up mouthing off again
- he usually eggs me on with
his eternal questions.

Still having a great deal of
trouble liking the Vietnamese in
spite of the fact things are improving
between them and the Montagnards.
Their evident dislike for us, their
basic philosophy of stealing & lying

191 20 Dec

③
as long as they steal and lie
outside of their family, their cruelty
ward each other — directly
contrary to the Montagnard people
— all these make me furious. They
are also next to impossible to examine
or treat. The Vietnamese monnmasans
come in with their stomach aches,
etc and want treatment yet won't
even let you see their bellies without
a huge amount of struggling, grabbing
at my hands, pulling up their clothing
etc. And yet they'll turn right around
and sell their bottoms at the drop
of a piastre. As far as I'm
concerned wouldn't miss never laying
eyes again on one of these conniving,
stealing, lying hypocritical people
for all of their sad stories. Sorry
to blast off but haven't changed
my mind about these people one

bit since I got here. And, by the way, am still as much in favor of the Montagnards as I ever was. We got 44 yards on the base now and they work circles around the Vietnamese — who are eternally picking their nose or their ass, standing around, sleeping or doing any thing but work. The Yards won't even take their allotted 1 hour for lunch — just eat their sandwich or rice and head right back to work. All I get are rave reviews from the men ^(22 1/2) working with them — eventually should get rid of all the Vietnamese and replace them with half the number of Montagnards and we'll get twice or 3 times the work done.

8⁰⁰PM Just got up from a nap — Heard that John Rogers (one of

191 20 Dec

medics - wife is falling apart,
child has aplastic anemia. - got a
compassionate reassignment. Right
behind him came Gerry Register
who just got back from compassionate
leave - his wife is divorcing him.
Let's count our blessings, sweetie.
At least our team is intact.

Got your excellent letter of the
15th! - mail delivery is improving.
Hope you're over your flu by now.
Am sort of nostalgic half the time
about going home myself. Have
me to realize that 30 days is
a long time though, so have put
my nose to the grindstone again
and won't really look up till after
the Tokyo R & R.

Got a card from Mc Ginty's
and Kears's - they are both full of
praise for you - will have to find

a medal for you. I will be getting one - it's going to be a new one - called the Purple Lever. It's for those who have been shot down in the village on rice wine.

By the time you get this will be closer to New Year's than Christmas. Should be leaving next Thursday or Friday for Tokyo - will pick up some stamps and some odds & ends there I'm sure. Figure the Air Force will get about 8-10 more days of medical work out of me. Have to go talk to Col Nullar about some looms, and other things.

Love you,

Dan

1972

23 Dec

10⁰⁰ PM
23 Dec 67PKU, RVA
USAF Dispensary

Hi Kay,

I'll never see another 23rd of the month in Vietnam. We're into the 20's, sweetie. Now isn't that nice?

No letter for the last 3 days. Suspect the P.O. again. Have been busy with celebrations here & there so have been answering your letters as they come. Don't want too many days to go by, tho so thought I'd write now.

Am in the middle of such call - it's tight so can squeeze this in.

We got the looms! - Finally they broke them free down in Saigon. Don't actually have them here yet, but they've been signed out to us. 80 tons of stuff.

We got them all. 50 have been specifically assigned to us and the rest will be spread out throughout the Highlands. Told Col Muller yesterday that as far as I'm concerned, my tour is over now. Asked him if I could go home now and he just laughed.

We had our Christmas party last

nite. Got liberally soaked with gin & tonics last nite - am having an American hangover today and don't like it much.

Haven't had one of these in a long time. Rice wine doesn't give you this monstrous headache at least - just the shakes.

Have a sacrifice to go to today, out at Plei Soc. Am in the midst of a continuing series of these things. To you will go the job of drying me out, sweetie.

Have the following plans:

Sacrifices daily (except Christmas Day when am on call) until 28 Dec when I go to Cam Ranh Bay for my flight out to Tokyo. Get back here on the 6th of ~~January~~ January in time to leave on the 8th for Saigon on a TDY Civic Action bit - get back here on the 12th in time to pack my things, get drunk some more at sacrifices and then get the hell out of Pleiku on the 19th to Cam Ranh Bay to take the Bird of Paradise home. Sounds like I'll be busy and the days should go ~~fast~~ fairly fast.

This has to be the slowest month I have ever lived in my life. Suspect you feel the same way about it. Hope your Christmas was as happy as

(2)

192 23 Dec

possible. Took call Christmas day so I'd be sure to make it to church. Haven't been to Mass in over a month. Don't feel guilty because have tried and am late or at a sacrifice or something. Fr. Bertas thinks I'm going to hell but he's got his own problems. Maybe am rationalizing but there's a war going on here and that comes first.

Would really like to meet you in Seattle, sweetie. Will be cooling my heels there for 36 hrs or so.

Maybe I'll spend as much money as a flight will take talking to you on the phone. Check it out, please.

I like you - ache all over & get a little sick when I think how close we are to the end.

Love you,

Dan

First I have been thinking
of the fact that we are
living in a world of
wonder and mystery. It is
a world of beauty and
glory, and it is a world
of peace and love. We
are living in a world of
wonder and mystery, and
it is a world of beauty
and glory. We are living
in a world of peace and
love, and it is a world
of wonder and mystery.

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and glory. We are living
in a world of peace and
love, and it is a world
of wonder and mystery.

24 Dec 67

11 ³⁰ PM

USMT Dispensary

PRU, RVN

Sunday

193

Hi Ray,

Happy Christmas Eve. No letter

since Wednesday. Suspect it's due to the P.O. - no one else has been getting any either. We'll really be upset around here if that damned mail doesn't come in pretty soon. Don't know what the priority for mail to Pleiku is but it must be way down the list.

Just got a BD in who called his wife by MRS — worried her a Merry Christmas and she told him to get lost. He came up here in a state of shock. — couldn't even get his name out. That makes three like this in the last week. With help like this we don't need any enemies to fight.

Just went down and got your letter. Have been trying to write you for the last 2 hours. — but have had a steady stream of people coming in to chat. Very nice, but I don't want people right now.

Think I've offended some of them — told them all to get the hell out of here until I got this thing written.

Sounds like you're having all the excitement and activity you can stand. Glad you had no trouble with the Clinic dinner. They are nice people. Very good to work with and some - like Don Woodley and Dick Howland - good friends socially as well.

Well, Christmas will be behind you when you get this. Hope it was a busy, exciting time as always. Christmas here will be just another day of work - and that's good. We don't need all the nostalgia and sentimentality here - there's no outlet for it here except in booze.

Will be going out to Plei Brel with a bunch of bows to repair later on today. Have to get hold of about \$300.00 worth of piastre somehow today. Should be able to scrounge that much somewhere. This will be one of the last of my buying trips. Can see the end in sight now - at least of the dispensary work. Still a long time to go before we get through with 2/3 of January.

Two requests: ① your phone number (I've lost it) ③ please consider strongly meeting me in Seattle - that would be a beautiful Christmas

(2)

193

24 Dec

present. Will be going nuts stranded in Seattle, am afraid. - 2-3 days - will probably run up a large telephone ~~bill~~ bill if you don't.

Got a beautiful Christmas card with your letter from the Folks. Think when I get back we'll have a different and better relationship with them. More understanding, patience and love on both sides. No matter how black the situation looks - as this year looked to me and you to begin with - many good things have come from it.

Bob Hope is scheduled to come up to Pleiku - 4th Division about 15 miles from here. There won't be many of us going there. Besides, the exact date is wrapped in secrecy. His troupe is staying in Thailand every nite - flies in in the afternoon, makes it's appearances and gets whisked off right after it back to Thailand. The V.C. would really like to get that guy.

Sounds like Dad bought out the Delicatessen part of Lund's. Very

Thoughtful of him. But that's typical

Also sounds to me like the Morrills are pretty wonderful people, also. You talk about them doing this & that for you and the kids as if it were common place. And yet before I left last January (100 yrs ago!) don't think I'd even seen them more than 4-5 times.

Can you imagine what Dad went through with 3 or 4 years of this madness in Europe? No wonder he drank a lot. My nerves are getting more and more shot. And we're just counting out 365 days!

The ache and the nerves are a constant companion now - need constant diversion so I don't just mark time. Trouble is I'm not really interested in any thing any more. - except getting home. Japan should be a good break and make time go by faster.

Will close for now, sweetie. Love you. Merry Christmas - Happy New Year '68 will be a different year for sure!

Love, Dan

194

26 Dec

26 Dec 67
noon
USAF Dispensary
PKW, RVN

Hi Kay,

Well, that day is over and today is a new day. Had you guys in mind all day yesterday but couldn't bring my self to write. Hope you had a busy day of it.

Got 4 letters today after a 2 day lack of them. Am told there were 7 C-130's came in over the last few days but we didn't see any of it ^(mail) until now. Maybe the flow will pick up now.

Was depressed last nite and didn't think you needed that kind of letter. Am much better now. Took call so I'd be sober for Christmas. Have a sacrifice at Kyle's house to go to today at Plei Sar. Everyone will be there. Should be a big occasion. Tomorrow is at Ton's house for Bob Miller. The next day will be Huei's house and then I go to Tokyo and sober up. Hope the days start to fly by now. That R&R should help.

Your letter of the 18th was beautiful sweetie. Your doing fine

and the kids sound wonderful. Thanks
God for Christmas and the holidays
to keep you & the kids busy and happy.
Can just see that tree now. Maybe
I'll get some sympathy in my yearly
gift with that thing. No matter,
won't have an artificial one at least
until the kids are grown.

That sounds like fun - taking in
the museum, etc. There's a lot of stuff
at the USDP that's interesting for
the kids to see - need to wander all
over the US by my self when I was
a kid - suspect all that stuff is
still there but never saw it when
I was going there to find school.
26 days to go and only 5 shopping
days to New Year's.

Got beautiful letters from Tom,
Bob, Jack & Thomas today with
Weeger's somewhat depicted letter. Very
sorry to hear Ed is having trouble with
his girl. Hope it works out for him.
How many months pregnant is Weeger?
Sorry to miss my open month picnic
but on New Year's eve. It's so long
since I heard any body will maybe
need some practice again. Where do the
meals go? 3

(2)

194

26 Dec

Also a card from Lindbergh's. Please thank them and tell them - yes, received their package and no, noone thought the balloons were rubbers because the Montagnard kids attached those balloons immediately and were delighted with them. Thank them also for me. Also a Card from Hales. - Thank them also.

It's been one sacrifice after another and will continue so I hope like. Am glad for my R & F to Tokyo if only to sober up. Don't worry, sweetie. Insist on someone with me at all times to drive me home. Am too short for any accidents, etc.

We had a very sumptuous dinner yesterday at the mess hall - the best of everything including shrimp cocktail. Those guys down there worked like mad for two days without a break to make it as nice as possible. We all knew it but were a bit depressed and silent as we ~~fell~~ filed through the line. Mostly we

just ate and then went back to work.
The truce was over at 1800 hrs last
nite and immediately the big guns
started blasting away again & the
airplanes took off one after the other.
Last nite was business as usual.

We didn't give the Viet Minh much
time to regroup and get ready like
we did last February at Tet. Am
glad as is everyone else. It's about
time we stopped playing around with this
war and fought the damned thing like
a war has to be fought. Enough of that.

Got my hold baggage packed and
will deliver it to Cushman Transportation
before going to the village this
afternoon. Am SHORT, SHORT,
SHORT.

Love you, you doll.

Dan.

195

28 Dec

28 Dec 67

Last day of
active duty1:30 PM
USAF Dispensary
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay,

Am on my way out to the village for my last sacrifice before going on RTR to Tokyo. Your letter from 21 Dec came today - very cheerful and full of good humor. Don't think we'll have much to fight about from here on. I like you.

By the time you get this at the present exchange it will be Jan 1968 and very close to home. 24 more days by my rough count. Isn't that nice?

Have been relieved of duty as of now - have lost my room and everything. Will pack my bag when I get home and from the village and take off for Cam Ranh Bay tomorrow morning. Am anxious as hell to get out of here, if only temporarily.

The kids sound like a riot with that Tree and those decorations. Won't be too sad to see me home and relieve you from some of the 2 & 3 year olds, will you? Am more &

more anxious to butt heads with Jimmy.

Have no idea what to see or do in Japan but guess they sort of lay out the tour for you. Time came in today with the article about Bob Hope. Also with it ~~was~~^{were} pictures of RTR centers. Hope there's more to do in Japan than go to bed with Gisha girls — suspect there is. Have kept my chastity belt on so far except for ~~an~~ a wild episode in Hawaii and wouldn't want to mess up at this late date.

Didn't get to see Bob Hope — he was here 26 Dec I guess but over at 4th Division — don't know anyone here who went to see him. Maybe I'll be home in time to see it on TV.

Not much news except have been on the rice wine tube almost constantly for the last 2 wks except for call. Today is the last of it. Am glad. Will have another session with those things from the 13 — 19 Jan and then good bye Vietnam — hello USA.

Love you,

Dan

196

30 Dec

Rel Horse Dispensary
Cam Phan Bay
RVN
8³⁰_{AM} Sat 30 Dec 67

Hi Kay,

Well, made it this far without trouble. Got in yesterday at about 1⁰⁰_{PM} and ran into John Brady from Sheppard. He's the other IEP from Sheppard who was sent to Viet Nam. He's going home in Feb 68. Strange to see him. He got his orders for Viet Nam in Aug and didn't leave till the following February. — and here we got our orders in Dec and I was over here in January. Anyway, have been given a very good time — good welcome, a bed in their dispensary and a nite on the town. My flight time is 1300 hrs today for Japan and yet another adventure. Survived all the rice wine ceremonies last week. — got home Thursday nite at 10⁰⁰_{PM} and glad to be through with the ceremonies and the Montagnards if only briefly. Will be back at it again on the 7th — 19th and then through got good.

Of course wore some bracelets down here and immediately got involved in a discussion about the Montagnards.

Either the people here were being very polite or were genuinely interested - at any rate kept me talking from 3^{PM} till 1³⁰ PM this morning. Poured all kinds of questions at me and, of course, local mouth Conlon talked on & on. Drank a great quantity of San Miguel beer and smoked 3 packs of cigarettes and felt pretty dragged out this morning. Am waking up slowly now.

Just finished the Northwest Passage for the 2nd or 3rd time. My kind of book - historical fiction with lots of blood and guts, horses, etc. Don't think that's your piece of cake. It is a story about Robert Rogers - the man who started Roger's Rangers - it's after this outfit that the Commandos, Rangers and Special Forces ~~is~~ have been modeled. Anyway, I liked the book.

Was relieved from duty Thursday afternoon. Literally have no room at the dispensary now. Dr. Charles took my room over. Also have moved out of MRCV ~~base~~ except for my bed. Will be a vagabond from now on - living out of my suitcases, out in the village, etc. Can always find a bed to sleep in, though. Usually sleep back in the ward at the dispensary.

When I get back, Bob Schultz will be gone as will Bob Muller. Am getting

(3)

196 30 Dec

to feel like the last of the good
guys. More & more the old friends
are leaving and more strange faces
show up every day.

Great news! we should have a
ball in Seattle for a few days
together. Would rather fly back
to Mpls than drive. For one thing
will be afraid to drive at the speed
that you guys drive in the states. Going
40 miles an hour from Seattle to Mpls
may take a month! Am anxious to
see the kids also. Won't really believe
our adventure is over until I set
foot back in Mpls again where
we started this whole thing one day
in late January 1965 with Kaela
bringing us the mail in our bedroom
with the draft notice in it. Remember?
We left for Sam & Margaret's about
one hour later. Will never forget the
sinking feeling we had, being scared and
angry at the US government, etc. And
now it's almost over and we've come
through so far with flying colors.

Will try to describe what I

see and do in Tokyo in detail so
will have some sort of record of it. They
say this is the best place for an
RTR in the Orient. We'll see.
Maybe I'll bring home a Geisha girl
for you. They tell me after I've seen
how the Japanese women treat their men,
I'll hate the American women by
comparison. Doubt it. Can't complain about
the way one woman treats me in spite
of the fact she gets sore as hell every now
& then about this & that. Anyway should
be interesting.

Just took a hot shower, shave and
all those good things. Am in my
1505's - remember those - feel odd as
hell in them. - but have to admit they
are an improvement over fatigues - in
fact, I look dashing as hell. Think I'll
re-enlist for the uniform alone! Don't
hold your breath, sweetie. Not a chance.

Will get my things together now.
It's almost 10 ^{o'clock} _{AM} now. Want to
check the Bx out before I go.

Love you,

Dan

P.S. see you soon.

197

1 Jan

1 Jan 68Camp Zama
outside Tokyo,
11²⁰ PM Japan

Hi Kay,

Have been so busy since arriving in Japan have not stopped to write. Hope to call today, then finish this letter.

Have fallen head over heels for these people. Tokyo is the most beautiful city I have ever seen. The people are gracious, polite, friendly and very poised. All around us we see signs of wealth and prosperity and peace. The women are beautiful as predicted. Don't know how to describe the day yesterday. Met a guy by the name of Jerry Johnson - my roommate at the BOG here at Camp Zama - (\$1.50 a nite) - took off for Tokyo by bus about 1 o'clock (55 min ride) and ended up downtown in the Ginza area. Had a Kobe steak - famed for being the best steak in the world - the beef cattle are fed tranquilizers and fattened up on rice. Tender as hell and literally melts in your mouth. Bought \$10.00 worth of things for you people and myself. Hope you like

them. Came back to Camp Zama
by 9⁴⁰ PM and the two of us had
a "New Year's Party" in the officer's
Club watching colored TV, in Japanese,
of their New Year's celebration. We decided
this was a sorry way to celebrate
New Year's so ordered double rounds of
drinks - Got drunker than stunks from
11⁴⁰ to midnite - a new record. Jerry
woke me up to go home at 2⁰⁰ AM -
didn't wake up this morning until just
now. All the stores are closed until
3 Jan so will just tour for the next
couple of days.

2⁴⁰ PM

Well, that certainly was fun! Waited
for about 40 min to put a call through
to you only to find out you're not
listed in the phone book at all. Not
under K.M. Conlon or Mrs. Daniel C or
Kathleen Mary or any thing. Oh well, suspect
you're at a party somewhere right now
- think it's about 1⁰⁰ PM - 2⁰⁰ PM in Tokyo right now
New Year's morning. It was a good thought,
though. Would have been fun to wish you
a Happy New Year. Happy New Year,
Sweetie. Won't be long now.

Love you,

Dan

198 3 Jan

3 Jan 68
5 ³⁰ PM
Camp Zama
Tokyo, Japan

Hi Ray,

Have finally gotten around to writing again. Picked up about \$200.00 worth of stuff and just finished getting all the things into a box and will send them off tonight. Hope you like the things I've picked out. Mostly gifts for the various people who have helped us. Real worth in them - can be found only here in Japan - but not the ordinary sort of thing. Many wood carvings again - sorry about that. Maybe just leave them until I get back. ~~Had~~ Had certain people in mind when I bought them.

Saw Yokohama yesterday on a free tour. Tours are great and I saw things I wouldn't ordinarily see. But the Japanese people are the greatest attraction. Could just stand on a corner and watch the people go by and that would be enough.

This is the Japanese New Year celebration - the most important celebration of the year. All the women were decked out in their very best Kimonos & Obis - beautiful sight to see. Made me want to rush out

and buy a \$300.00 Kimono and outfit
for you and the kids but passed it.
Can't describe the sheer beauty of this dress.
Not sexy in any way - just pure unadulterated
beauty - graceful, modest, colors that
are warm & sparkling at the same time.
And even ugly girls look beautiful in
them. Walked the streets of the main
drag in Yokohama by myself and took
about 60 pictures in color for you to
see - hope they turn out.

Yes, I bought another camera - am
hanging on to this one for sure. Not
too expensive - \$43.00 - by standards here.
Will sell for about \$90.00 in the States
if I ever get tired of it. Have shot
my private little wad as you can plainly
see.

There is ~~and~~ a Japanese saying: the
"maximum" is an American house,
a Japanese wife and Chinese food.
Now if I can just find me a Japanese
wife

Only 18 days to go sweetie. Less when
you get this. How are your nerves?
Mine are shot. But being away from
Pleiku a while has helped. Will be back
on the 6th Jan and leave again 8 Jan
for Saigon to spend a few more days.
Time is moving a little faster at least

(2)

198 3 Jan

Tomorrow plan to take the 400 yen trip to Mt. Fuji (360 yen make \$1.00) and the mountains. Am getting to be a camera bug like the average American. But so are the Japanese so none seems to mind.

Hope to get some pictures of the sacrifices and people I know in Fukuoka when I get back. Will have to have something to show the people in the states to prove I've not been just on an extended vacation for a year. Also it will be nice to look back on someday. Hope you don't mind my extravagance of another camera, - feel a little guilty about it, if you want to know the truth.

It's still cold here - 30-40° but understand you've been having some cold - real cold - yourself. Read somewhere that International Falls had -28° the other day. Who won the Rose Bowl? Also who won the Super Bowl? Know that Green Bay beat Dallas but that's the last word I've heard.

Jerry Johnson goes back tonight at
2300 hrs. Two days from now I'll be
saying Sayonara also. Have learned
to count so far

ICHI	1	Nyahu	100
NI	2	Sen	1000

Also	SAN	3
------	-----	---

Hello - OHIO	SHI	4	JU ICHI - 11
--------------	-----	---	--------------

Good morning - DOZYMAS	GO	5	etc.
------------------------	----	---	------

Good afternoon	ROKU	6
----------------	------	---

- KONICHIWA	NANA	7
-------------	------	---

Thank you	HACHI	8
-----------	-------	---

- OLIGATO	KU	9
-----------	----	---

Thank you very much	JU	10
---------------------	----	----

- DOMO OLIGATO OZIEMAS

DON'T understand

- WA KA~~LI~~ LI MASEN

DON'T mention it (Same-same Y-O)

- DO ITASHI MASITE

How about that! Will be a linguist if
this keeps up.

Don't know if I mentioned this before -
but Japan is definitely NOT an "emerging
nation". It is a leader or #2 in
almost every department. The only people
the count as equals are (1) Americans
(2) West Germans (3) Swedes (4) Norwegians.

These people work like hell and are
very proud of their nation and heritage.
They are also very friendly to us but on

(3)

198

3 Jan

an equal basis — not subservient in any way. The man who was our guide yesterday explained that years ago ~~there~~ there were the very rich and the very poor. Now, thanks to world trade, factories, etc — there is a large middle class and virtually no unemployment. He mentioned also that there have been three Boom phases in their economy. (1) right after the war when we occupied Japan and McArthur did such a good job of writing their constitution, settling the chaos, etc (2) The Korean war (3) now during the Vietnamese war.

Am beat tired, sweetie. Will drop this for a little while — take a nap — mail the stuff — and then write a little bit more before sending this. Love you, doll.

4 Jan 68

Sort of propped out on you last nite. Went to bed about 10⁰⁰ PM and slept through till this morning at 7⁰⁰. Will be leaving shortly for

The camera tower of Mt Fuji (which
I haven't really seen yet in spite of
the fact it's supposed to be visible
for miles. "

Love you, sweetie. Will talk
to you tonight.

Love,
Donlon

Ha!

Dan

199

5 Jan

4⁰⁰ PM
5 Jan 68
Camp Zama,
Tokyo Japan
Friday

Hi Kay,

In 7 hrs I'll be on my way back to Viet Nam and the last leg of my tour. 16 days to go. Not bad.

This is the strangest week I've had in a long time. Don't know a soul and couldn't really care less. Have had a chance to sit and think day-dreaming thoughts. Wander around a bit. Shop for souvenirs and odds and ends. Also to take a million picture. Find a strange lethargy has gotten to me. Didn't get up till 11³⁰ AM - here it is almost 4³⁰ PM and still haven't shaved or cleaned up. Have been sitting in this room most of the day just reading magazines, drinking a few beers, smoking cigarettes and day-dreaming. Can't say I've come up with any startling discoveries. Have read every magazine I could get my hands on - and 3 novels! Am a little ashamed of my self for not doing any thing constructive but just feel like - what the hell.

Went to Mt. Fuji yesterday and it's really a magnificent sight.

Also took a sky rope up a mountain
and down the other side - a great thrill.
Took a million - well maybe 100
pictures you'll have to suffer through.

Am still fascinated by the Japanese
people so take as many pictures of
them as I can. Have learned much
about social customs, differences between
women here & in USA, marriage & courtship
customs, attitudes toward sex, etc from
our guide "Charles-san." Passed up a
chance to Tokyo today which would have
cost a fortune - including Kobe steak
and a strip show. By the way, have
retained my virginity. Didn't even have
the gumption to get a massage & steam
of bath. The hell with it. Will wait till
I get home. You owe me one thorough
rub down, mamma-san.

Have sent all the stuff I bought
home. A real pile of junk. May be
just open it, then wait for me to
come home to divvy it out. Think I
bought some nice stuff. We'll see
what you think.

Too bad it'll be nite time when I
fly back to Viet Nam tonight. Would
like to get some pictures of those endless
clouds and the ocean. May be I'll get

(2)

1995 Jan

some on the way back to the states.
Getting close, isn't it?

Kind Ed and Weez are almost
as much on my mind as you people.
How bad a shape are they in? And
is there any thing we can do to help?
Am afraid didn't buy any thing
particularly nice for them. Hope they'll
like the few things I did get for
them. Some will be coming in hold
baggage and some in these boxes.

Will be mailing one or two more
boxes from Pleiku. Plan to come
home with only a hand bag if I
can help it. Expect when I get
back from Saigon will get a few
trinkets from the Montagnards as
remembrances - will send those along
by mail as well.

As you can plainly see, this is
not too inspired a letter. Am a
little confused outside my environment
in Pleiku - guess I'm a social
creature after all. Have had a good
time, though, just wandering around
entertaining myself. It's good to
see so many round-eyed girls here -

reminds me that all the world is
not oriental after all.

Was going to look up some of the
people I know in Japan but decided
it would be too much bother so didn't
even attempt it. Bob Zeller (pediatrician
who stayed briefly at Sheppard) — and
Kathy O'Connell (nurse on OB) are
two that I can think of off-hand.

Will close for now. Talk to you
in Com Rhan Bay or Pleiku.

Love you, sweetie. Can't wait
to see you in Seattle soon.

Dan

200

8 Jan

Monday noon
8 Jan 68
VSAF dispensary
PKU, RVN

Hi Kay

Many apologies for not writing. Discovered that 3 days have gone by since I last wrote. Am very sorry. The truth is that I didn't even unpack my bags until this morning. Arrived in Cam Ranh Bay Saturday AM - got a plane out to Pleiku 3⁰⁰ PM - arrived to a whopping big party here at the dispensary. Ended up at 4 or 5 more places until finally found my room at 1⁰⁰ AM. Woke up with a U.S type hangover Sunday morning. Went out to the villages shortly thereafter (after reading your wonderful letters) - to take some pictures of the people there. Got invited to 2 sacrifices for my efforts - finally passed out and they put me to bed. Did my usual ritual vomiting but no blood this time. Dave Berrio drove me home and put me on my bed. Woke up 6³⁰ AM this morning fully clothed hugging my camera. Paul Hawkins has taken away my watch until I leave. Sure if I wear it will give it away out in the villages like the other ones.

They take very good care of me around here. Have 3 large sacrifices planned already for next week. Am glad I'm getting out of here tomorrow so I can sober up. Lick, Dave Perrio, Sidell and myself are leaving in AM for Saigon with cross bows and propaganda. Have a reason to go also. Col Nullar asked me to brief Ben Sighe(? spelling) the new general in charge of Civic Action - about what we do here. - same same bull shit. Guess he picked me because I'm full of same so should be easy.

Just went and got rid of some. The rice wine is working. Cleans out all the pipes. I should have the drunkest worms in Vietnam by now - maybe in the world!

Can't seem to handle alcohol very well any more. One beer and I'm high. Sounds like you're having the same problem. Maybe it's all the adrenalin flowing in us. Will believe it's all over when I see you in Seattle and not before. Have settled down to a day by day routine a little better now but every now & then I get hyper as hell thinking about our meeting. All I know about the flight out is that I leave at ^(9³⁰ PM) 2130 hrs, 21 Jan 68. The U254 out of Da Nang Bay, RVN

(2.)

200

8 Jan

When it arrives is beyond me. Am told will arrive in Seattle (McCord AFBase) on the 21st Jan apparently about the same time I left Cam Ranh if you can feature that! I've given up trying to figure that out. In case I get an earlier plane by scrounging around, you had best give me your phone number and the number and date & hour of your flight. Get nervous just thinking about it so will stop talking about it.

Have to do some politics now Sweetie before leaving for Saigon.

Love you like an ache. Am horny as hell. Virginity is not the life for me.

Love you,

Dan

201

15 Jan

15 Jan 68

MREV, PKU

2 AM

Monday

Hi Kay,

Can't remember if I have written you or not since getting back to Pleiku. Have been on a fairly continuous round of houses and rice wine since getting back.

Got in Friday nite about 9⁰⁰ PM. After taking Lich home went to bed. Saturday I think I wrote you a short note - at least intended to. Went out with Berrio and Brian Riel (a dentist from Qui Nhon who has done wonderful things with the Vietnamese up & down the coast - came up here to see if he can pick up some tips on working with these people. A good man to have along. The Yards love him; another Jack Rudy.) - went to Huch's house for the sacrifice he kept insisting he was going to have for me. As usual, he'd forgotten all about it. Ended up instead at Huch's house in Plei Sor - could only take about 8 levels of rice wine before I quietly fell asleep. By the time they took me home about 8-9 o'clock was fairly sober. Stuck to coffee and water once I got back and felt

pretty good this morning. Went out to
Hing's house today for a sacrifice - not
for me but for GIK who's been gone
for about 2 weeks working for the
Special Forces. When Hing discovered that
I'm leaving in 4 days, he was really
upset - wants to have a sacrifice for me
~~but~~ told him I won't have time. Also took
in a sacrifice at Hluc's house and then
came home by 5⁰⁰ PM - went right to bed
- was awakened by music at 9⁰⁰ PM from
the Officer's club. Have been drinking coffee
and Pepsi ever since. Got a hot shower
and a new set of clothes and feel pretty
good right now except I'm hungry.

You can't believe how nice people have
been to me here. Everyone takes very good
care of me and someone is always with
me to make sure I get back okay, get
my sleep, remember my camera, etc.

It's tough to say goodbye to the Montagnards
and tougher yet to say goodbye to the
people I've come to know here on the base.
Charley Brown left on RTR yesterday so said

(2)

201

15 Jan

good bye to him. Bob Shultz is gone. Jim Hawkins has left. And, Sweetie, would you believe I have only 4 more days in Pleiku? Probably this letter and one or two more and then there won't be any reason to write because I'll be ~~back~~ ^{home} home!

Have a sacrifice to go to at Anaou's house tomorrow — if he remembers. These people are celebrating their ~~the~~ New Year's now and have been on a steady drunk for the last 2 weeks. My going away is just another excuse to have some more rice wine. Tuesday is the big sacrifice at Hlin's house — Col Mullar, my self, Bill Gulton, Lick, Hlin, Hnyar, Huir, Kil, Ton, Hink, Jun, — everyone is apparently going to be there. It's a good idea — that way I can have my blast and pass out and call it a town. Wednesday I have to go to Lick's house for a final sacrifice and then it's home, Sweetie. Ache all over and am shaking as I write in anticipation. I need you Sweetie. Please me back to civilization slowly, be kind to

me when I say stupid, strange things. Listen
to my stories as patiently as you can
and I'll listen to yours. And then we'll
both forget this wild, strange, wonderful,
sad and ugly year — and start to live
our lives all over again. Sounds good,
doesn't it. We'll be okay once we both
settle down and have each other again.

I love you, I love you, I love you.
Be good, rest up for our meeting in
Seattle, sweetie.

Will write again tomorrow.

Love you,

Dan

207

17 Jan

17 Jan 68
MRE, RVN
4⁰⁰_{AM}

Hi Kay,

well, it's coming to an end. Had my big sacrifice at Hlin's house today -

14 jugs of rice wine - one from each of the men there. Col Kullas, Luch, Ton, Major Paul Hawthorn, Berris, Roy Worthington, Lee Ignatowicz, Hlin, Honyar, Hink, Hunt, Kil, Karr, Jun, even Agles from Plei Koteq, Bill Gulten, T.I. Harris, Ralph Nagle (new man I'll tell you about sometime).

- all kinds of strangers - also Brian Riel, Frank Barnett (he'll put me up in Cam Phan from Friday till Sunday when I leave here)

Got drunk and was taken home by John Hodgson and Steven Charles. Slept from 5^{PM} till 11^{PM} and have been drinking coffee ever since.

Have been asked my opinions about Viet Nam, the Montagnards, etc by generals, colonel, L.C.'s, majors, captains, EM's and nurses. They

appear to think I know something about this thing. I know only one thing for sure - I'm

sick and tired of the whole thing. Want to go home very badly and be with you and the kids. Maybe I'm just tired period. But

can generate very little enthusiasm for any thing remotely related to this lousy war. I'm all for "flower power." Let's make love, sweetie, not war, okay? May be when I get away from here, I'll miss it but think it'll take a long time.

Your last letter stated you haven't heard from me in 5 days. Have been writing every other day except one time when 3 days went by. Wrote 2 from Saigon and two or 3 from Japan. Perhaps it's the P.O. fouling things up again. Hope you've heard from me by now.

Will get paid tomorrow and mail my final box to you. Am wearing this jacket I received from Hlin today. It's beautiful. They say that if I sleep with this jacket on, then I can talk to them and they will hear me. Also Hlin gave me the family gaung — level — that you measure the rice wine you drink with. A very special gift — like giving the family silver away.

Have taken quite a few pictures lately — hope

(2)

20²

17 Jan

They come out as they will make good memories.

Tomorrow is Lick's sacrifice for me and Thursday is Ton's blast and then I'm through! Hurray! Was going to leave Thursday but Ton was broken hearted when he learned I was going to leave without giving him a chance for a sacrifice. Oh well. That'll be the end, though. No more. May be a vectorator when I get back home.

Sweetie, I'm beat. Will try to get some sleep now. It's after 4 o'clock in the morning and tomorrow promises to be a long day.

Love you, sweetie. Take care. This will probably be the last letter you'll get from me before you leave for Seattle. Just in case, it's not - will write a note tomorrow also.

Love you very very much,

Love, Dan

