



## Collection Information:

**Folder:** Correspondence: Letters from Dan Conlon, 1986.

**Series:** Vietnam War Service.

**Collection:** Daniel C. Conlon Papers.

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7 May 1986

Dear Dr. Hickey,

My apologies for taking so long to get back to you. I was delighted by reaching you and your warm conversation some one month ago. Since then I have spoken with Jim Morris over the phone who shares my regard for you. Finally your books have arrived. I have just finished your second volume FREE IN THE FOREST which shed great light on what I am trying to do myself.

The delay has been because of the heavy schedule of patients and call here in Minneapolis. I can write only when the medical work is done. I wanted to get the first few chapters in presentable form before I sent them your way. Have had to throw out a lot of personal comments to get to the thread of my story. Hope what I have done so far is intriguing enough for you to want to read the rest. Of course I eventually want to publish this thing, but have much more to read. The positioning paper is only tentative. Have read many more than I listed but have some ten or fifteen more to read before I feel I have adequately covered the literature. Have not read the French literature as you have but have some of Paul Mus' work in translation.

I feel that perhaps my view of the conflict is a bit different than yours. My exposure was with the Montagnards who went with the Viet Minh/North Vietnamese. I include some of Jack Rudy's insights to show you what I mean. I could not find any of my people among your references. Perhaps they wore a different name when I knew them. I was intrigued by the cross marriage of the influential families from the various tribes. Lick Rahlan, a.k.a. Y Djit was a brother to Y Bham. Henri Chaulders was the political advisor to Y Bham. You do not mention having known of their existence. Although you mention the Kmer Krom as part of the FULRO, you never mention Fred Ladd or Son Ngoc Thanh as being part of the movement.

I will have to go over your book with a pen and go word by word and name by name and make sure I have not missed some essential points you made. Please bear with my ignorance. I have been at this since 1982 as a student and have much to learn. I must get Jack Rudy's permission to send his information your way, as you no doubt understand.

22 Feb 2013

Dear Jay,

Here's the first installment of Jack's letters to me. More to come when I find a copier that will copy legal sized pages that Jack liked to scribble on in haste (and made it hard to read at times).

The time has gone by rapidly. We have a real winter up here with some snow almost every other day. Flucting with <sup>degrees</sup>  $\pm$  above & below. Building "Character" we like to believe.

It was an emotional time at the end of January. I was surprised

(2)

publish/print one.

Some of those pages I sent you  
were not signed i.e. Dec 1984 +  
Jan 1985 - but they are Jack's  
style. He must have been hell  
on wheels in a court-room.

I enjoyed seeing you, meeting  
Pamela again, and having the time  
to talk with you after the celebration.  
If you read both my manuscript +  
Jack's, you must have been aware  
of Jack's involvement in the C.I.D.

I see a lot of Jack in you - and  
that's a compliment.

that your mother simply did not  
know about Jack's <sup>dead</sup> ~~career~~ in the  
dis Force / Agency.

I have made the adjustments  
in the book. You are now Gary Luckie,  
Robert is Helen, Patte is Agnes &  
your dad is Charles Luckie.

Amazingly, after all these years, I've  
apparently found an 'angel' who is  
getting my book published —  
as an POD (printed on demand) and  
an E-book. Have to admit this is  
all very foreign to me. As I told the  
folks here "I know how to write  
a book — I hope they know how to

As I said to Patti & Robin, it's hard  
to describe the bond Jack & I had  
even though we spent <sup>only</sup> from end of  
Jan to April 1967 together. Those  
were intense times - little sleep,  
staying exciting places, some danger,  
- never a dull moment. He was  
a good friend, a brilliant companion,  
and a hell of a lot of fun to be  
with. He was one of a kind. I miss  
him.

Take care, Jay.

P.S. My prostate  
cancer has found  
my bones - am  
being treated at the  
Pamona Mayo Clinic - I feel fine.

I'll be in touch

Love,  
Dan Conlon

10 April  
2014

Dear Jay + Pam, Patte, Robert + Richard  
Jim Ezekiel + Marie  
Finally made the copies I

promised more than a year ago.

These are yours to keep. Some from  
Lick Rahlan (AKA 4-Djit), a  
few others from people you don't know  
but may give you a flavor of  
where Jack + I spent our time -  
and had our adventures. I'm  
almost sure you have a copy  
of Jack's article in TRUE, The Men's  
Magazine. If not here it is also.

Sorry to be so long in sending  
this stuff. Always on my TO-DO

Just but, somehow, other things  
got in the way. It was emotional  
reading through Jack's letters. Those  
and the letters I sent to Ky on a  
daily basis, plus my reading -  
led to the book you have.

The story needed to be told, I  
feel.

Patti, you are now more than  
a year out from taking care of  
Jack. Hope the strain is less  
on you.

Spring is finally here - a winter  
to remember.

Much love,

Dan Conlon

with Cathy Boxer