



James Boyd Reay papers

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Saturday, June 7, 1969

I'm back in Army fatigues again! Flew here to Oakland this morning after 2 exciting days with Jeannie. Thursday mite went to Harrah's Casino for dinner and show. Jim Nabere was great! (bill was \$25.00!!)

Friday spent the day in 'Frisco. What a blast we had!

Got my jungle boots and fatigues today. Speaking of "fatigue" - I am tired. Only 3 hours of sleep last night. I'll probably be here at the Oakland Army terminal for a couple days, before flying over to 'Nam.

Haircut cost \$ 1.10 today -

Sunday 6/8

Got my shipping orders today.

Leave at 6:00 in the morning. Won't get much sleep tonite with formations at 11:30 ^{p.m.} & 1:00 ^{a.m.}

Called home today! Sure was fun talking to mother, dad, Marg, Beth, and Kim. Still seems like I'm just a faint from home (in the El Caminos!) but I'm actually back in California.

Food is best I've had in the Army. Haven't had any details yet, either.

Maybe this is "the calm before the storm" (?)

Wrote a bunch of post cards. Nice to look forward to postage-free mail for the next 12 months.

Couldn't make church because of processing, but went to the meditation room and heard a good devotion on Eph. 1 (dialed on a phone) *Weighed in at 185 pounds today.

Monday-Tuesday June 9-10

En route to Vietnam. Crossed the international date line, so lost a day. Stops in Honolulu (my 27th state) and Guam. Crossed over Wake Island. Sent some Hawaiian perfume to mom from the Honolulu International airport. Wrote some postcards. This plane is huge! We board & exit from front and rear. I bought some slide film so am getting some pictures. This 24 hour flight is something else! I'm enjoying the air-conditioned comfort of the plane since I can "look forward" to temperatures around 100° when we land in Bien Hoa.

3:45 a.m. Wow. What a long day.

Arrived at air base around

8 p.m. It was dark and had been raining. Muggy air, as I had

expected. As we were coming off the plane we were warned of a possible attack, and directions to a bunker if necessary. I thought it was unnecessary - after all, at such a big established place, how could the viet cong even get NEAR!?

But around 1 a.m. during the last stage of our in-processing, the sirens did go on, the lights off, and we had to run for cover for approximately an hour!

I guess it's common for a few rounds fired at the air base every other night or so.

We changed our money into U.S. certificates. Seems funny to have 5¢ and 10¢ bills!

Wednesday, June 11

Morning detail bringing truck loads of clothing to a Vietnamese village. They're steady workers and many of them speak English.

Went to service club after supper. Nothing there but magazines from last year - but at least it was half way air conditioned.

Am really intrigued with the Vietnamese. Although I've seen only women and a few old men, they all seem to be content living so meagerly. Many of them wear old army clothes. Makes my knees sore to see them stoop and squat for long periods of time as they work. Had to see that most of them here are just servants to service men.

Thursday, June 12

Still haven't received shipping orders at noon. Maybe this afternoon. I'm anxious to get to my assigned unit. Sandbagging-detail this morning was pretty exhausting. Wonder if I'll ever get used to dripping in sweat all day. Just slept in shorts last night and still woke up sticky.

I always heard so much about the rotten water. Here, it's fine. Luke warm of course, but tastes good.

Aaaah! Finally received my shipping orders this evening for Chu Chi. Not too far from here. South central Vietnam.

What an unusual day this has been. I went swimming twice.

Friday, June 13 ←

Glad I'm not superstitious.
Today I'm movin' on. Just finished a
5:30 a.m. breakfast. As I brought my
plate to the outside kitchen window, a
Vietnamese lady was digging through the
garbage can for good food. (apples, etc.)

Flew here to Cu Chi Base Camp
in a small army transport. The pilot left
the back end open. What a view! The
9th flight of my life, but the most exciting.
Now for a helicopter ride!

There wasn't enough transportation so
Chuck Rye was left at Bien Hoa Air Base.
We're probably separated for good now.

Filled out forms and listened to
welcoming remarks 'till 9 p.m. There's a
bunker for every barracks. (called "Hoatch")
* I'm PFC (E-3) NOW!!

6/12 Cont.

Almost forgot where I was. The pool was like a bath, but wasn't too warm to enjoy. Was great to spend some hours "sweat-free". They required a swimsuit and very few guys had one, so there was plenty of room in the pool.

A small miracle that Chuck Rye and I are still together! Mike Smith got shipped to Plietu yesterday.

Saturday, June 14

Another long day in the Army with little accomplished. Up at 5, and took a shower in the dark. Only a drizzle of water but it sure felt good!

Got a free haircut this evening. I got it SHORT - about $\frac{1}{2}$ " It feels great!

Went through processing and finally got my orders and address. I'm glad to be staying in Cu Chi.

Got paid \$231.75 - That's for three June plus some back pay. I will be getting about \$200.00/month with E-3 and combat pay. Am putting \$100/mo. in Army savings - 10% compounded quarterly!

Guard duty tonite. Three hours on; 3 hrs. off. No weapon - just a big blue stick!!

Missed JAN & Lynn's wedding today. 

Sunday, June 15

Forgot to say yesterday that I ordered a Kodak 850 Carousel slide projector! For \$150.00⁰⁰ it should be meat. (The best one they offer.)

So tired after guard duty I slept 'til noon. There was action right outside the perimeter all night. (flares, helicopters, mortars)

On detail all afternoon laying a concrete floor. Got a sunburn.

Finally got to my unit: A-2-14th Inf.

Had a steam bath, shower, and massage. Then came back to go to bed. Everyone had weapons & were running to the bunker line. Had been receiving incoming rounds. I had none so went to bed anyway.

Monday, June 16

My 5 days of training start tomorrow. I was on detail

this morning digging holes for big posts. Making another bunker.

Got a money order at noon to send my tithe to church.

Wrote letters this afternoon and 'til dark.

Still seems funny to be using military money - like 10¢ + 5¢ bills for cokes.

At supper my chicken was raw at the center. Ugh!

Shower felt good tonite in the dark. The way some guys smell I wonder if they've had one since they got here.

Tuesday, June 17th

My first of 5 days training was interesting. Classes from 8-6:30. Mostly on weapons and booby-traps; ours and theirs. Sure hafta' look close for those tripwires!

C rations for lunch & supper. Yuck! And someone took the dessert out of both my meals.

The weather sure can change fast. This afternoon all of a sudden it started pouring for 5-10 minutes.

Came back, got a Coke, and wrote letters out on the picnic table.

Chuck's company is in training with mine. I ate lunch with him.

Wednesday, June 18

Same as yesterday; classes
til 6, back to company area,
wrote letters and showered.

Zeroed M-16 this afternoon in
a brief, heavy rain. These jungle
fatigues do dry out quick.

Sure could go for a swim at
home, a hamburger on the grill, and
a spin in Al's 'Camino'!

Took a few slides.

Thursday, June 19

Classes were review of machine gun, anti-tank weapons ("LAW") radio, etc. Pretty helpful. Good, interesting teachers.

Got a few more letters off, and a quick dip in the pool before it closed.

Rains some every day. We're at the start of the monsoons. I remember studying about monsoons in Mrs. Fogo's 7th grade geography class, & now I'm experiencing 'em!

This hootch has a big turnover of guys; new in country, R & R, wounded, etc. Talked to a guy tonite with shrapnel in his back and hip. Has quite a limp and his stomach may be punctured or damaged.

Friday, June 20

Found out about police dogs in Vietnam. Pretty useful!

Got my M-16 issued today. The stock has shrapnel holes from the last guy that had it.

Yuck!

Saw a movie with Dean Martin - drive-in style, in the bleachers.

Was told I'll be going to the field on the 23rd.

Raining again tonite, so I put my swim trunks on to take my outside shower. Felt great. Found a watch on the bench. A pretty good Timex.

Saturday, June 21

Today was the last day of practice! Now it's the real thing. Classes 'til 8:30. Had a mock ambush to get experience in what it's like.

Sunday, 6/22

5 p.m. arrived here at Patent II fire support base a couple hours ago. Came by truck convoy. Had to see the poor, naked kids in the villages along the way.

Leaving in 2 hours for my first night ambush. I've got a funny feeling that I just got into the Army & don't know much of anything! Well God, here we go!

Monday, June 23

I could write a book. I'm back at the company area again.

A purple heart on my first ambush!

We got hit hard last night. One guy killed and 8 of us wounded. I

just got one piece of shrapnel in my back. They dug it out at the hospital. Then I slept a

few hours on a real bed. When

I woke up they gave me a complete new set of clothes. Some

compensation!

That guy that was killed had a wife and they were

expecting a baby. What a way for a young father to die.

I was only yards from him when he was hit.

Tuesday, June 24

Had my bandage changed at the aid station. The Captain-doctor said it should heal up in fine shape.

It's nice to have so much free time to do what I want: Read, write letters, a cold drink when I want it, etc. These guys sure have it good that stay at Cu Chi

Wed., June 25

Got my stitches in today - 5 of 'em. A spec./4 medic just off the field did it under the supervision of the Captain. I was his guinea pig. I guess he did OK though. I couldn't feel anything or see what was happening anyway.

There sure are alot of guys that fake excuses to be in here off the line. And all I hear is "war stories."

Sent personalized jungle hats to Charlie and Sean.

Thursday, June 26

Tried to get in at the dentist, but was too busy with "priority" patients.

Signed up for a business course through the mail.

Only \$5⁰⁰, I work at my own speed, and future courses will be free.

It will be something to keep busy and should be interesting.

Friday, June 27

Waited at the dentist's to get my one cavity filled from 7-12 noon. No luck, and I can't get an appointment, so will have to try again next time I get to base camp.

'Been getting my bandage changed daily. Tomorrow I go back to the field.

Have enjoyed reading for hours at the air conditioned library - a double trailer set-up.

Saw "To Kill A Mocking Bird" tonite, Good!

Cleaned my M-16 good for tomorrow.

Saturday, June 28

3:00 p.m. Well, here I go for a second try. Wouldn't you know another AP (Ambush Patrol) is planned for tonight. The first one they've had since I "left" on Sunday mite.

Had to get new equipment again to come out here today. I don't know what they did with the stuff I brought into the hospital. For all I know they threw it away with my clothes.

We got **SP** parts today; toothbrush & paste, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, gum, candy, envelopes, paper pens, shaving gear, etc. Such care for we G.I.s!!

Sunday, June 29

Went on a couple hours sweep this afternoon. A lot of rain and mud. Seems unnecessary to tramp through the freshly planted rice paddies after the "gooks" spend endless hours preparing them.

Ate dinner + supper = CHOW, in the bunker, watching the rain.

Another ambush patrol tonite.

Three cheery letters today!

Dave Mallinak, Gervé Christopherson, & Russell.

Sure doesn't seem like Sunday.

Monday, June 30

The AP went well last night -
no contact! Carried my M-16, 15
magazines, 100 round machine
gun belt of ammo, 2 grenades,
canteen, poncho liner, and Claymore
mine.

Made a company sweep this
afternoon. Rode APC^s out to the area.
Went through a small village. People in
rags - little children naked. Old women
chewing on tobacco. (with no teeth) A young
mother nursed her baby as we
searched her bombed house. I offered
lifesavers to one small boy, he
grabbed the pack and clutched it &
stared at it until we left. These
people really live in poverty. One old lady
offered me a cup of water from a rusty pot.

July 1st, 1969

Another AP last night. Happily - no action! Returned at 6:30 a.m., had breakfast, shaved, & cleaned my M-16.

One of the APC squads has a small pet monkey. Really cute.

Happy day - no AP Tonite, 'cause we leave early in the morning for another fire support base sight... we are to build it!

I thought conditions here were uncomfortable, but I can expect worse now!

My week-long worn clothes smell - & stink! But then everyone else around here does, too.

July 2, 1969

Flew ~~by~~ helicopters out here in the "Hobo Woods" to set up a new fire support base. Not nearly as elaborate as Patent II, but what a days work! By dark, the bunkers are built, the wire and claymore mines out, the tower and communications set up, etc.

There's no road out here. Everything comes by helicopter. Two hot meals a day.

I was really surprised to see Chuck Rye! His unit was here just for the day to help us set up. Had a good talk.

6 letters today! 😊

A lot of the guys claim that this new set up is just bait for the enemy.

4th of July! '69

ha! Some 4th of July. Fireworks
don't mean "thrills & fun" anymore.

Went on an 8 hour patrol
today. Hot and exhausting.

Planes flew over with loud speakers
in Vietnamese asking the gooks to
join our forces.

Found a number of tunnels.
Threw grenades in them.

The bomb craters are immense.
Some must be 30' deep.

No mail today, but got clean
clothes! What a treat! Had to
dig through the pile to find my
size & then changed right there
in the middle of the perimeter. Only
in Viet Nam do you live like this!
*8 years ago today it was North To Alaska!

July 3rd

1969

Today is dad's birthday! Is he 52? I can't remember for sure.

Funny what age does to people. He seems and acts younger now, than 10 years ago.

Went on a long afternoon sweep.

I'm walking "shotgun" - second guy in the file, just behind the point man.

Found a few tunnels and blew them up. The platoon with us, hit 2 booby traps, but only the blasting caps exploded. They were fortunate.

Had chicken & mashed potatoes for supper, and I drank a quart of milk. Sure tasted good, even though it wasn't very cold.

First day since we've been here that it didn't rain! Of course there's still tonite.

July 5th

A surprisingly restful day. Came in from Ambush Patrol at 6:00 a.m.

Wrote some letters, washed & shaved, relaxed and did some small details.

Was guarding the perimeter from the top of the tower before supper. Watched air strikes and helicopter supply deliveries through the binoculars.

A neat view, but didn't feel too safe on a wooden scaffolding.

Then "Ziek", my squad leader, climbed up the ladder to deliver 10 LETTERS to me! What a blast reading all that mail...

What a lift! I could write all night now, but it's getting dark already & I haven't even a flashlight. Everyone commented that they're praying & thinking of me. 

July 5th (continued)

The first platoon of our company was out on patrol this afternoon. The pointman hit a booby-trap and was killed. The grenades he was carrying also exploded. Two others were wounded. I remember now the "dust off" chopper going over about 3 p.m. They were on patrol just a few hundred yards outside the wire.

I didn't know the guy that was killed - but I thank God that I wasn't on that patrol.

July 7th

Patrol from noon til 6 p.m. The point man spotted some booby traps, so we pulled back and had artillery from base set them off. The area is full of tunnel complexes. Must've put grenades in another 1/2 dozen today.

Ambush patrol came in early with a prisoner of war. They shot and killed one other goat. The "body guards" shoved him around some & posed for GI's cameras before the helicopter took him away for questioning at Cu Chi.

Ambush patrol for me tonight.

We wear steel helmets & flak jackets (fiberglass lined - anti shrapnel) in the perimeter after 6 p.m.

July 6th

Had incoming mortar rounds at 1:00 a.m. and again this afternoon at 5:30. Am glad they didn't come close. Our mortar men retaliated with "baku" rounds.

Had a 7 hour sweep. Found a number of bunkers and blew them with grenades and C-4. One bunker produced a cache of ammo, 80 lbs. of rice, etc.

Five letters today and a package of cookies, Funny Face drink, etc. from Pikers in Sun Valley, Calif. ☺ yum.

Bunker guard tonight. Sure hope we don't have anymore incoming!

July 8 - Tuesday

● Aaahh. An uneventful day in Vietnam. Had to stay awake nearly all night on ambush patrol, so got

● today to sleep! Wrote some letters, too. Another new guy came to 3rd platoon. He's Steve Robinson

● from Cula Vista, Calif. Used to go to the church there that I was in with GIA! So we know some of the same people.

● It rained alot today. We dug trenches to relieve some of the big puddles. The mud just gets thicker.

● Willis Tapscott was going to bed and fortunately had a flashlight along. There was a tarantula the size of his fist where he sleeps!!

July 9 Wed.

1969

Left patrol base "Dragon".

happy day. ate breakfast, packed, and took off for Emery Fire Support Base; still near Cuchi.

My first ride in a Chinook. Carried over 30 of us & all our gear.

Afternoon patrol, My first day as pointman. I plan to use the motto that a few others have:

"God is My Pointman!"

Had to come back before finishing patrol. The water & mud was waist deep! Pretty hard going.

My first Eagle Flight at 6 p.m. Copter flew us to area where "C" Co. had enemy contact. There for 2 hrs.

Killed 2 goats. Received considerable AK fire. Grenaded dozens of tunnels.

Thurs. , July 10

11 months to go in Vietnam!

Had a refreshing shower just before supper. Wow, what a luxury!

Went on patrol from 10-5.

Tiring cause of all the swampy areas. Went in up to my thighs a few times. Had to back track a number of times when it got too deep.

Threw my first grenade in combat well, I dropped it in a tunnel & ran. Found more rice & freshly dug tunnels.

Went out & camp back on Army Personnel Carriers. (tanks)

Got my business correspondence course yesterday. Plenty to do now.

FRI. July 11

Saw a "soul brother" on KP with a mshawk haircut! Brought back memories.

Spent the whole day on patrol with a mech. unit. Boy do they have it easy! Sit and ride all day - that's all!

Those APC's really cut through the brush. One in the caravan of 10 got stuck, but another one pulled it out.

Literally hundreds of villagers stood & watched us pass. The kids held their hands out for candy, yelling "Chop Chop."

What a pathetic sight - all those people living in dirty shacks. (The big bad wolf could blow them over with one puff - puff!)

Saturday, July 12

You can't reason with the army - just have to be ready on a moment's notice and enjoy what you can.

Found out at 10 that we were going to Cu Chi on a "stand-down". It's hardly worth all the fuss for less than 24 hours relaxation, but nice to sleep with sheets (grey as they are) and no bunker guard or AP tonight.

They had a "barbeque", a young gook band, & a movie. This place is called the Cu Chi Hilton. ha! It's just a small step up from sleeping on the floor of a bunker and dining on "C" rations.

Sunday, July 13

Slept 'til 8 a.m. - wow! - when the 1st Sergeant came through yelling and getting us up for a police call. Of all things. Life in the army is one continuous Police Call.

Mailed a felt picture to Bobers with a good verse about friendship. (letter writing mentioned, too) Hope it gets there ok. I was in such a hurry I didn't bother to insure it.

Trucked back here to Emery at 11:30 a.m. It was a short stay in Cu Chi! Spent all afternoon on patrol with the mech. unit - but walked in swamps also for a long time. Came back to steak on paper plates in the rain. AP tonight.

Monday, July 14th

Finally had to throw out the bilfold
the gunners gave me before I entered GIA.
My new gork bilfold is plastic &
dog skin. Sure looks like it anyway.

Just got back from AP at
6:30^{a.m.} and off on 4 hour rice paddy
patrol at 7:30.

Left after supper for a
cordon & search mission. Stayed out
all night, circling a village.
the artillery shot constant illumination
for over an hour while we got in
position. It was nearly as
light as day!

Rather miserable in the rain.
We weren't allowed to bring our
ponchos.

Letter from home - Tim may be coming to Nam.

Tuesday, July 15

Stayed in position, guarding the village until 5 p.m. Just as we were heading back the rain started again. Ate wet, but glad to find 5 letters waiting for me at the bunker. Too dark to read inside, & still raining, so I sat in the outhouse and read them! The good news from the world, far outweighed the putred smell.

Ran out of mosquito repellent & sure enough they came humming in my ear.

Wednesday, July 16

My poor nose is peeling for the 3rd time in about a week! Have to find some way to protect it from the sun.

Our company went out to tear down DRAGON patrol base today - the one we just built! I was fortunate - it was my turn to stay back. So I cleaned up the 4 bunkers of 3rd Plt., took a shower, shaved off my struggling-blond, moustache, & wrote some letters. So nice to have a relatively quiet and private day for a change. And to stay dry all day! Unbelievable.

Our astronaut's head for the moon today!!

July 17, Thursday

The "doughnut dollies" - Red Cross girls came & we played a couple games and got bubblegum! Kinda fun for a change in Routine.

Leaving at 5 p.m. for a "rif" (patrol) and ambush.

Tom Grant and Ray Rosendorf left for new assignments as security guards today. They were wounded with me - their 2nd purple hearts.

So they're off the line.

But - talk about a small miracle or answer to prayer: letter from home today and Tim is coming to Vietnam! Whopoe!

Just about a month and I should be back to electricity and !!! semi-civilization. I'm very fortunate.

Friday, July 18

Ate breakfast at 7 after riding back from A.P. sight on the "tracks". Last night while navigating to our spot, another A.P. from our company received sniper fire. Our 'gang' was just about 200 meters away from the action! Fortunately, no casualties. They sure saturated the hedgerow with machine gun fire and grenades! Haven't heard if there was any "body count."

So nice to relax today. Maddening though that the Showers are empty, happens everyday. Have to wait for resupply. Sure take alot of things for granted until they're no longer available. Like how many times have I run the water til I got a cold glass full?!
(BACK IN THE WORLD, of course.)

July 19 - SATURDAY

Good letters from Mollie &
Zdravits, among others.

Since we're on night operations,
we've had the days pretty free
lately. Sure seems strange, but nice.

Cleaned my weapon after getting
in this morning, and slept for
5 hours!

The artillery hasn't been nearly
so active the last few days. Wonder
if it has anything to do with this
"lull" in the war. At least my ears
are getting a "rest."

Protestant service this evening.
It will be ~~strange~~^{nice} to go to church
on Sundays again after this year.

July 20 Sunday

Pretty disgusting - haven't had a shower for a good 4 or 5 days. Out of water again this morning. I just stepped under the shower & got my head wet when it dribbled to a halt.

Fired on goats on AP last night. We got some incoming as well, & it was too close for comfort. What a good feeling when the gunships arrived and went to work. Called in artillery too, but didn't find a trace of anyone at daybreak. It's so dumb. You can't see where you're shooting at night, anyway. The tracers don't light up your

target! While I was out there lying in the mud, the college-age were water skiing at

Bobcats! Rats!

Monday, July 21

Our AP sight last night was
dry! "Slept" in a peanut field.

Letter from Aunt Hetty! Quite a
surprise.

Listening to the radio with the
live moon walk, etc. A historical day!

Just found out that the last guy
who had my weapon is back in the
world now. He had been in country
about 3 months, was walking point, &
hit a bobby trap.... He lost a leg.
That accounts for the shrapnel holes
in the stock!

Sun rays are constant here - between
rains, of course. My nose has burned and
peeled 3 times in the last week or so! Should be
down to the bone, soon. Or is that earlidge?
Anyway, I have the best overall tan of my life!

Tuesday, July 22

• Sent letters and peanut plants to Bobergs & Dianne Christopherson. (just a few leaves) They're growing all over. Hardly the Fishers, salted in the shell variety though.

• Saw my first enemy corpse on a sweep this a.m. Killed in 2nd Platoon's ambush last night among 8 or 9 others.

• All I can say is Why? Is it all worth it? I'm back in Cu Chi!

Ahhh! A bed & sheets again. Saw a band, got my mail & read today's newspaper! (We get them a day late in the field) Wish this was a weekly set-up! But I probably won't see another standdown since Tim arrives next month.

Wednesday, July 23

Was woken up around midnight
with beer poured in my face. Kinda
blurred my vision - and thoughts
for a minute. My happy fellow
soldiers partying.

Mailed home my purple heart.
(Also some slinky, oriental P.J.'s for Kim's birthday)

Received it at an awards ceremony
from the major, yesterday afternoon.

- One month from the day it all happened!

Back at Emery and bunker
life again.

AP tonight - of course. Not
much fun operating in the "spider
web" - direct route from Cambodia
to Saigon.

Less than a month & I'll
be relieved of this!!

Thursday, July 24

I was assistant machine gunner last night. Carried 500 linked machine gun rounds besides my M-16 and regular load.

My left boot has been rubbing my ankle and has worn a small, sore hole. Probably will take for ever to heal. The medic is keeping a patch over it. Relieves the irritation of rubbing boot when walking.

Finally got started on my USAFI Personnel Management course. Hope it's interesting.

Hasn't rained yet today so we're bound to get soaked tonight on A.P. ugh!

Friday, July 25th

What an experience last night.

Almost to our AP sight when we spotted
goats in the tree line about 200 meters away.
After further observation through the
priceless starlight scopes, we found
ourselves surrounded on 3 sides
by what appeared to be a NVA
Company! If that wasn't enough, the
2nd Plt. was disoriented & spotting
up, thought we were goats! After
some dangerously close M-79 rounds,
they informed them via radio of
their idiotic blunder! Such
stupid mistakes.

Well, the air ships came in
and really went to work on
the area with rockets & mini-gun
fire. A steady stream of tracers!

Friday, 7/25 (Continued)

● Then we pulled back & set up our claymores, but saw no more enemy movement. And we didn't even get breached!

During the "action" I was eating some candy. Just felt like doing something. All we could do is lay there like dummies. (Not that I wanted to fire!) I had a funny thought of if I was killed, I could imagine the undertaker complaining; having to pick pieces of licorice out of my teeth! (stupid!)

Had KP today. My first time in the field. So I stay in tonite!! 😊

● Actually it felt good to do some work. Hauled dirt filling mud holes - and there were plenty to fill!

Saturday, July 26

Received my 4th pair of glasses from the army. One pair broke in transit here, the other pair I somehow lost (thunk!) on an AP last week. All I had was my "prescription sunnies," so was glad for the clear pair. Ordered them while in a stand-down Wednesday.

Good service with the chaplain.

Moved back to Patent II this afternoon. Passed my old AP sight of that "historical" June 22nd. Along the dirt road to the base, the sides of the road were strewn with truck & jeep parts, (from mine explosions) spotted with grave markers, and occasional adobe & thatched roof hootches - along with mobs of kids.

Sunday, July 27

● My nose is losing its 4th layer of skin this month! And already burning again. Have to get some lotion before this goes on much longer. It's sore!

● Had guard this afternoon at the perimeter gate. Not much to it. Just check ID's of gooks coming in. Swarms of kids around. Really cute. Sure wish I knew Vietnamese & had some "Chop-Chop" to offer them!

● Jack pot today at mail call - 9!
I stayed back for guard. The guys out on a sweep found a cache of N. Vietnamese clothes - 3 barrels full - all new & neatly folded. Someone's going to be mad when they go to get them!

Monday, July 28

Not soaked on AP last night. Besides the rain, the rice paddies are filling up.

Stayed back today to take KP for a guy that wanted to get pictures. Two battalions burned & bombed a village 5 clicks from here. Supposed to be highly VET Cong and NVA infiltrated. Watched the air strikes from the top of the bunker as I wrote a letter!

Had "trash guard" for 4 hours in afternoon. My job: to keep the throngs of kids out of the garbage. They love to hunt & pick through it - barefoot - with smouldering fires! Lots of good creations are thrown out, etc. Poor kids.

Tuesday, July 29

● Kim's birthday! She must be 10 already.

● Got a big goodie package from home! And cookies from Jeannie, too. Nice to have some munchables for a few days. The Vietnamese kids will love the bubblegum. [and me 😊]

● Helicopters dropped us in a hot LZ (Landing Zone) this morning. Just before our "fleet" landed, a chopper flew low & dusted the area with billows of white smoke, to conceal our landing. Found numerous booby traps and evidence of VC. Recovered rice & supplies. Yesterday (as I was on KP) my Squad Sgt. - Sgt. Shields got hit in the leg with an AK round. He's in the Cu Chi hospital.

July 30, Wednesday

This was the hardest, most tiring day we had in Vietnam. We were out humping from 7 to 7! Seemed to be no end to the rice paddies &

Swamps we crossed. I got some good pictures as we waded - or I should say floated - through water often up to our necks. Felt nice & cool, but it was a job to keep my billfold & camera dry!

Got back to find 5 letters & another package from home! Had to laugh when dad had addressed it: "Purple Heart Veteran!" Got a pocket knife & small flashlight - perfect! Also a jar of "Mrs. Leay's Black Raspberry Jam", among other goodies. I'm sure even the "Kipper Snacks" will taste good!

Thursday, July 31

KP again today. I don't mind. It's not bad at all. All the pots & pans are washed outside in garbage cans.

Nice to get the sun, but I have to find something to protect my Tender nose!

Glad to get 6 letters 😊

Got paid \$89.00 after all deductions & allotments.

E-3 pay is \$155.10

plus 9.00 foreign duty

plus 65.00 Combat pay
(hostile fire)

\$229.10

Friday, August 1st

I get off line this month!!
Seems hard to believe - but delightfully
true.

Had gate guard for 4 hours
this morning. A steady flow of
Vietnamese past our perimeter on their
way to "market" - the nearby
village. Some on foot, but mostly on
Hondas, bicycles, & ox carts (water
buffalo carts)

Everyone had something to sell.
Some Hondas had as many as 5
people! Babies & all through all the
mud. Crumbly road.

Raining last night so our sergeant
arranged for us to sneak out of our
AP. Stayed in a vacant bunker. If
caught, he could be court martialed!!

Saturday, 8/2

This was my worst day in the army. ^{one} of the worst of my life. Dewey Conrad from Ft. Lauderdale was killed by a 40 lb. anti-tank mine - booby trap. Can't explain how I feel. He was such a nice guy & I had talked to him so much. Our feelings of the army & Vietnam were very similar. He was going into Cu Chi to re-up & get off the line in 2 weeks! Same time I should be going in. Just seems unreal that he died this morning. Then we came into contact in late afternoon. Hooks were hidden in thick woods (in the Hobbs') & snipers picking off our guys. We pulled back, air strikes came in & then we went back in. Received more sniper & grenade fire. A guy killed from 2nd platoon. 15 of 26 in my platoon were dusted off!!

August 3, Sunday

Sure doesn't seem like Sunday.

Got up at 6 am. to sweep the road down to Trung Lap village. No occurrence. Then packed up all gear & moved down the road to this observation point. Will be here 3 or 4 days - what's left of our platoon. Only a fraction of us are left. I was very fortunate not to pick up any shrapnel or injury of any kind yesterday.

We have tower guard here & check ID's of passing gooks.

Not much to do but I feel lifeless. Don't feel like doing anything. Just keep thinking of Dewey. 26 yrs. old. College degree - ready to re-up - and almost engaged. His family hasn't even found out yet!

Monday, 8/4

Wish I could get going. Glad
for lots of mail, but it just stacks
up to be answered. Swept the road
again this morning. Filthy village.
Pigs & water buffalo all over. Smells
everywhere. Shabby hootches are made of
mud, C-ration cardboard boxes, used
lumber, sheet metal, logs, anything. They
don't seem to care for anything better.

The kids swarm around us out by the road. All beg for food. When we give them something, they don't appreciate it - just hold out their hand for more. The limited English vocabulary they've picked up from GI's is pathetic. Mostly swearing. 6-7-8 year olds begging for cigarettes. Slept some today, but still constantly tired & bored.

August 5th Tuesday

Spear, Holt, and Darling^{Ellis} came back out to the field today. Bought some items from the geeks ~~yesterday~~ ^{this morning} while on guard out by the road. The guard is actually a farce. We're supposed to check ID's, but it's mostly a job just to keep us busy.

Fun goofing around with all the kids if you can overlook their constant begging for food. As soon as I started looking at one "mama-son's" "wares", a crowd gathered yelling & holding things out for me to buy. Cheap stuff - all of it - but must have some Nam Souvenirs!

Went to Patent up the road for supply. Prot. Service in a dust storm! Oxidized my fatigues for another dusty pair!

August 6th Wednesday

Up at 6 for road sweep. Road guard for a couple hours in morning.

Filled my pockets with gum, candy, & rations before going out. ... didn't take long to distribute it all!

Finally write some letters. First since Friday. I have over 25 to answer!

Good letters from Grace Larson, mom, Meryle & Kim.

Surprisingly little rain the last 2 days, and it's like a dust bowl going down the road on the Tiger track. Must be like the Oklahoma dust bowl in the dry season. But of course the water is steep & sloshy in the paddies.

Thursday, August 7th

Found out we have about 4 days left here at the hard spot. 😊

By that time we're to have some new replacements out here.

Had fun on road guard talking with the kids. they love Wrigley's gum. Had everyone chewing!

Talked to Sgt. Brown about his R & R in Sydney. Sounded neat.

I'd like to take advantage of the opportunity to live-in with a family. That would be cool. No hotel or restaurant bill, plus the chance to really experience living in another country. Can't wait!

Unusual day... NO MAIL... Hmmm!

Friday, 8th of August

Read another chapter in my USAFI course today.

Was transferred down the road
a ways to have tower guard at
an ARVN compound with 3 other

guys: Sgt. Overby, Dave Hardy, &
"Chief" - Verne Prellship.

We'll be here for about 3 days.
The cooks here are nice but
what a raunchy set-up! We
live up on the tower & I'm sure we
have it better than the families
below in the rat infested bunkers.

The ARVN soldiers live here with
their wives & kids.

Sodas are 50¢! So I hope they
bring us some 'cheap ones' out on re-supply.

August 9 - SATURDAY

Was 'relieved' at the ARVN compound and am back at the hard spot again tonite. Never know where I'll be sleeping next!

Glad for mail from home & a letter from Aunt Dot.

Found out we're going to another hard spot on the 15th ... back on nightly AP's. Hurry up, Tim!!

We're supposed to fire down the road (from the tower) every half hour during the night, to "discourage" any gooks from planting mines.

We have a huge starlight mounted on a tripod ... runs on a flashlight battery, but costs \$17,000 !!
(so I've heard anyway.)

August 10, Sunday

● 5 days til the day that Tim reports to Ft. Lewis!

Road sweep this morning.

● Road guard & tower guard during the day. Wrote 8 letters.

When we went to Patton for
● supper, I got a shower, too!
Felt soooo good!

An old man came to the
● perimeter this morning with a
bad cut on his thigh. His
legs are so small & thin.

● Doc was in at Cu Chi, so
I grabbed some gauze, ^{tape}, &
first aid kit, & patched him
● up. Evidently, they have no
first aid of their own. Another
sad fact of these primitive people.

Monday, August 11

6 Letters 
TO DAD.

Military Payment Certificates (army ^{\$}money) were useless at 8 a.m. today. We'll change it for new issue - a new series. They did it once before ... last October, when \$6 million! was caught in unauthorized hands. No gooks are to have it, so they're just "out."

New guys came out today. Sure makes me feel "short." One is from Hutchinson, Minn. He even knows some guys from MTKa.

Talked to Lt. Riggsby at supper in Patton. I'm going in the 13th (Before the news hard spot!) to talk to a legal advisor about my possibilities for placement. Maybe I won't come back to the field?!

Gook activity building up in the area. 

Tuesday, August 12

This war !!! Yesterday afternoon a couple guys from another platoon must've had an argument. One of them went outside the perimeter to the dump, and the other guy shot him in the head. Killed!! ~~Number~~

Just last week a guy from artillery at Patton left the perimeter by himself - without a weapon & went down to Truong Lap village. He was found the next day - decapitated, and completely dismembered!

Last night gork movement was spotted on 3 sides! Grenades came in, & steady illumination, but fortunately no contact.

I go in tomorrow!

Had a good nap this afternoon after tower & road guard all morning.

3 welcomed letters

Set trip flares in the concertina wire after show.

Wednesday, August 13

Found a mine on road sweep this morning. The engineers blew it in place.

I have some saw, gauze & tape to care for my heel blister. Seems that the Vietnamese kids (& adults!) have found out. Many have cuts and sores so ask for band-aids & gauze, etc.

A "treated" about 6 yesterday. Kinky! fern. Too bad they've no first aid for themselves!

Came into Cu Chi on the resupply truck. Nice to have no bunker guard! Only 8pm. but I'm tired so will go to bed on my dusty cot.

Received 3rd welcomed package from home. Yum!! Also 2 letters & magazines from home.

Thursday, Aug. 14

Well, I'm back at the hard spot tonight after spending the morning in Cuchi. Was referred to 4 buildings before I finally got any info. on my reassignment possibilities...

typical Army bureaucracy!

They finally said I'd be sent to another country in the Pacific.

When I returned with the convoy, only to learn that Lt. Riggsby wants me to stay in the company as a jeep driver! So I'll just wait until I receive word from Tim...

within 10 days I hope... and then go from there. At least the time on the field for me is SHORT!

Miss America, Miss Minnesota, ('68) & other state queens are in Cuchi tonight... for the

SHAMERS!

August 15, Friday
The historic day... Tim
reports to Ft. Lewis... now
things should roll! 😊

Packed up once again & flew by
Chinook to Huntsley Patrol Base.
This hardspot in the Hobo Woods is
very similar to Dragon Hard Spot in
early July.

Also a rather discouraging day, as
I went to the medic ^{sitting} ~~found~~ red
blotches all over my ankles. He says it's
ringworm. Ugh! Immediately started
me on pills & ointment. (it's common
over here) Thought I better really check
myself over & found my seat full of the
blotches, too! ...and a few on my
legs, starting, & one on my cheek. Yuck!
Glad they're not painful anyway.

Saturday, August 16

Two weeks since Conrad died & 3rd platoon was nearly wiped out. Now we have lots of new blood in the ranks!

Called for a hasty heliborn in late morning. I was the lucky one to stay back from 2nd squad & watch the stuff. Otherwise the weapons platoon (mortars & artillery) would pick up what they wanted. It happens!

Am nursing my sores. Kinda makes me feel like a victim of the Plague! wonder how long it takes ringworm to cure. Yuck - this climate. Well, I got a "Crude" shower this morning anyway. Kinda Tarzan Style: A bucket with holes over my head. Felt good, anyway.

August 17, Sunday

Just got letter from home about Margie being sick & knocked out cold on the cements, and Beth getting her leg ripped in Buddy's dog fight with Terry's dog. With accidents, but I guess it could have been ~~less~~ ^{worse}.

Also a package from Diane Christopherson, & letters from Cody and Alice Tengenfeldt, a missionary here in Nam.

Rained long & hard last night. Was on bunker guard so wasn't too wet. Hardest rain I've seen here in Nam though. We stayed in on account of being out on a long afternoon rif. Found a huge weapons cache. Amfed tired today. Slept & wrote just one letter. Leave on AP at 5 p.m.

Monday, August 18

The AP didn't pan out as planned. We had been humping for over 2 hours, nearing our AP site, when we received word via radio from "higher up" to immediately return to Hantsley Patrol Base: Urgent!

It was getting dark, so we headed back at a fast pace. Just after dusk as we approached the wire, the perimeter received a volley of incoming mortar!

We just laid low in the grass while our men returned mortars.

Sure felt helpless out there in the middle. After the return fire, we bent it through the wire & to the bunker.

2 hour bunker guard shift. (back)

8/18 Continued

No more action during the night. Military intelligence expects this base to be hit one of these days. A NVA soldier Chieu Hoied a few days ago & gave the warning.

Lt. Donaldson is nice to me, letting me stay back today. I figure he doesn't want something to happen to me like to Conrad, when he had prepared to go to Cu Chi within a few days of his death. Well, it does kinda' scare me, but I'm glad I've got THE protector!

Cleaned up the 3 platoon bunkers (junk & wet clothes everywhere) & had latrine detail. ☺ Got zinc oxide from mom! Letters from mom, Mary & Kim. ☺
ANOTHER \$1.00 card from Diane Christensen.

Tuesday, August 19

● Hope that letter from Tim arrives soon! This is a hairy location - especially with the NVA

● & Viet Cong's recent increase in mortar attacks. We didn't go out on AP last night because they still expected to get hit! - And we did!

● Just at dusk all of a sudden a mortar exploded right outside the 2nd wire, the flash appeared to be there anyway. We had all been talking outside the bunker, so scrambled inside with steel pots

● & flak jackets. I thought it was lucky that it didn't get in the perimeter, but then learned (BACK)

Continued 8/19

that the other side of the perimeter did get direct hits!

17 guys were dusted off within 10 minutes! 17! Oh it makes me sick - is this worth it all?

I don't know how serious the injuries were.

Bunker guard from 1-3:30 a.m. Happily, no more action during the nite.

Had a refreshing shower today. Don't believe how I've been "falling apart" recently. My ringworm appears to be clearing up nicely, but what a big pussy blister below my right knee! I've no idea what it's from. I'm digging into my little medical bag all through the day it seems!

Tuesday, 8/19 (Continued)

Received another new recruit into our platoon. He's from Down & his parents have a cottage on Lake Bemidji!! He thought he'd seen me before, but decided I just look like someone he knows. Must be a dozen people just here in Nam that have told me that. I didn't know I have such a common (BLAH?) face.
..... C'est la vie!

Have a team of snipers out here. They were sighting in with some practice shots this morning, from the Tower.

Bunker helicopter trafficked, too.
Sherlock went to Cu Chi

BACK)

8/19 (cont)

yesterday for a new job, driving a jeep. that makes me the longest in the field in my squad! (Better new guys!)

Have to wear flak jackets and steel pots in the perimeter after 5 p.m. now.

Got a picture of Loi Bau Din mountain. Hope it turns out O.K.
It was pretty cloudy.

Wednesday, August 20

No incoming mortars last nite ☺. Had 2 1/2 hours bunker guard. A couple bunkers down fired M-79 rounds about 400 meters out at a gork sniper in a tree - so they thought, anyway. That was about the only 'action' of the nite.... which was fine with everyone concerned.

My boil is really bad news. It's oozing light green pus.

Reminds me of Tim's battered

knee of a few years ^{ago} (like 6 or 7!)

but not nearly as bad. they were

going to send me to Culchi today to

have it lanced, but haven't been

bothered with much pain, so will wait till morning. Mom's birthday's just a month away.

Thursday, August 21

Finally got into Cu Chi! Waited outside the first wire at Huntsley for the morning Chinook at 7:00 a.m. ... "it was late" - like $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours late. That's the ^{action} army. } Anyway, got into the company area to catch lunch; wiener & Kraut-tasted gork; and fruit cocktail with silverware (no plastic!)

My boil is going to be OK.

Will stop back at the aid station in the morning before returning to Huntsley. (Now my skin's peeling)

Anyday now ... Tim's letter ☺

Yesterday afternoon got a huge can of mom's oatmeal/raisin cookies. Best I've had in Nam by far. Sure went fast! (more bubblegum, too!)

Thurs. Aug. 21 (cont.)

I think some guys will go through their entire lives asking people for the time cause they don't bother to buy a watch. Don't think I could be "sein" without one. :)

Had some BLACK JACK gum today. It's gotta' be the first time since Mrs. Clausen gave it to us collecting for the paper route. ha!

Saw my first USO show tonite; The New Folk, from Columbus, Ohio. Real good folk music. Too bad it's the guys on the field doing all the work, that never get to see the shows!

Friday, August 22

Finally got a lesson done & sent on my USAFI Personnel Management course. Hope things will start moving now!

Read in the air conditioned library for a few hours.

Had a hamburger & the snack bar. Sure's been a long time!

A company was having a stand down so I went over to watch the movie: The Baller with James Coburn & music by Roger Miller - it was stupid comedy.

Got 11 letters. 😊 Not one from Tim though ... maybe tomorrow.

Saturday, August 23

Had a "red alert" in Cuchi last nite.
The ^{base} camp received some 'incoming', so

we all saddled up with M-16's & ammo,
& headed out to the bunker line.

I was glad, along with everyone else, that
the action was already over, cause after

15 or 20 minutes we went back
to the hooches & to bed... it was
after midnight.

Came back on resupply. Boy, those
Chinooks are powerful things!

Glad there aren't many days
left at Hutsley. Go in for
a stand-down on the 27th.

Sunday, August 24

We heliborned out on a rif + ended up spending 12 hours out there. Found a bunker complex + some gork supplies. As they were inspecting, a group clustered, + someone tripped a booby trap, (GI hand frag.) wounded 8. Included were the captain, his RTO, + Chien Hai, etc. All were dusted off.

Then we sat in the sweltering sun for 3 hours before being picked up + moved into a hot LZ. Delta Company had contact (2 killed) + we swept the area with them after air strikes. One NVA Chien Hai + and there were others killed. Was glad to get back to Hartsley just before dark.

Monday, August 25

Still no word from Tim, but mail from home and they've not heard either.

Went on 2 heliborn missions in suspected hot LZ's, but no contact. The first place we were dropped was 2 clicks off target!

But went through the hedgerows & found a bunker complex.

Then we were flown to a village, & after searching it, humped back to Hentslay.

So hot! But at least we were only out for 5 hours.

An afternoon shower felt great.

Tuesday, August 26

Another hot day, but a short
rif around the perimeter. Didn't
find anything, but picked up a
couple parachutes from illumination
rounds, to send to Charlie & Sean.

Got mail from Boberys, Jean Nelson,
Di Christopherson, & Annin flag company.
(I want a Minn. State flag over here!)

I thought I was a pretty neat
person when it comes to cleanliness
& orderliness, but one of the new guys
really goes overboard. After every
rif, he washes off his boots and
scrapes the mud off his fatigues. On patrols
he ties the baggy jungle fatigues with
shoe laces tight, just below his knees.

BROTHER! 'Complains about everything... plan
to re-up ASAP! (figure)

Wednesday, August 27

Last day at Hemsley. Packed up
& flew by Chinook to Cuchi at
9:00 a.m.

Received another package from home,
and 8 or 9 letters! But... no
word from Tim.

Raining hard tonight; nice to be on
stand down & stay dry for a
change. One more night on a
mattress & sheets!

The battalion supplied cases of
pop & beer, & the food is much
better than out in the field.

Poor excuse for potato salad
though: the chunks of potatoes
~~were~~ about a 2 inch square!

Thursday, August 28

Came to Patton after lunch.
Went on rif through the deeply filled
rice paddies. When I got back
and took off my boots, my left foot
swelled way up & felt like it
was broken! Also my ears hurt
something fierce.

Fortunately, the Company Dr.
is out here, so I got some
eardrops, & penicillian pills, & a
chemically heated "hot pad."

Really got cold being soaked
in the rain. Felt great to get
into some dry clothes after the rif.

I got 2 days Sham time here
for my foot, since I can't get my
left boot on.

Friday, August 29

Tim is 19 today! Sure wish I could have heard from him. I'm starting to wonder if something's happened. I really expected to hear a week ago.

Hardly slept at all last nite. My ears really ached & my feet were throbbing, but the heating pad helped.

I don't believe all the things going wrong with me recently!

The platoon went on a heliborn today. I slept part of the day & cleaned up the bunker, etc. Didn't have much ambition to do anything.

Letter from Jerry Coffman & Christopherson.

At least my ears & foot seem to be somewhat improving.

August 30, Saturday

Was put on KP this morning but by noon my foot was swollen worse & hurting more, so went back to the aid station. Got a new profile - to stay off my foot! - and some new pink pills ... 4 a day.

Really is a relief to keep my foot elevated ... sure looks fat! wonder what it is? The Doc calls it "inflammation".

My ears are much better. Still taking ear drops. Last night was a pain. they really hurt.

Must be x-pecting something here at Patton. Like daytime sapper teams, even! Have double bunker guard at nite, (2 guys up) and there are guys from another company on the bunkers all day. Guess the cong. + NVA are really building up.

August 31, Sunday

Things are looking up this last day of August! ☺ At.

Rigsby said the letter from home should be sufficient confirmation of Tim's presence in Nam.

- On Chi tomorrow?! At

least I've taken my last patrol, and my last AP.

I feel like "singing!" I've known for 2 months now that Tim was coming to Nam, & tomorrow I will get off line.

Now that I've put in the 3 months on line, (almost) I

can appreciate what I've gone

through. I'll always remember the "rough times", and

appreciate life more!

Monday, August ^{oops!}

Monday, September 1st

It finally - actually, happened!
I'm in Cuchi for reprocessing.
Will get an appointment tomorrow
for a drivers test to drive a
jeep for the company. Fun! I'll
probably be around for 2-4
weeks during my processing.

Got in with resupply at 2 p.m.

Now I can mail these Vietnamese
"souvenirs" home. (clothes, hammocks,
parachutes, etc)

Enjoyed reading ~~all~~ tonight in
the air-conditioned library!

This sure is a different life!

Tuesday, Sept. 2

Got some letters written today.
Most of the day I was free, and
the time sure went fast!

I stopped at the PX, library, &
Saw a movie Tonite at another
company's stand-down.

Rusty showed me all about
driving the jeep. Should be fun!

Wednesday, Sept. 3

My drivers test will be Friday morning. It was to be this a.m., but Rusty was gone with the jeep to pick up a dust-off at the hospital. Thornton fell off an APC when it backed up & stopped fast. Hurt his knee.

Checked out a book on basic auto mechanics. Should be interesting & valuable.

Went to the motor pool with Rusty to see how the jeep is turned in at night. Forms to complete - MATCH!

Finally got Tim's letter today! DT took 12 days to get here, in country. Ridiculous! But good to hear from him. He's assigned to 173rd Abn. Div.

Thursday, Sept. 4

Went to the aid station and was sent down to 25th med., as my foot has gotten worse instead of better.

The DR. prescribed more penicillan pills and sent me to the treatment room to have it lanced.

The novocaine didn't take full effect so it was rather touchy having him lance & probe & squeeze.

By the time I left, my foot felt worse, so I couldn't put any pressure on it or stand up.

I got crutches from the aid station so am getting around slowly. Will see what happens tomorrow when I go back.

Sat., Sept. 6

My foot is OK - little pain - until I get up on it to hobble to the latrine or magazine rack. Then it really throbs and starts trickling blood.

Kinda' nice to just lay around all day, reading. Started a good novel - Hotel.

The Red Cross Supplies a nice box of toilet articles: soap, razor, shampoo, toothbrush or toothpaste, comb, etc. There's a nice shower right at the back of the ward. (in another building)

Taking penicillin pills again.

Friday, Sept. 5

Came back to 25th med. for
"foot check" + bandage change.

The DR. was concerned over the increased swelling + redness (a new DR.) He told the medic that my foot should not have been lanced + probed yesterday! The other doctor's hasty examination + orders were evidently inaccurate! Well, I'm surely not the first GI to be "butchered" unnecessarily.

I was admitted immediately to ward 2 here at the hosp. A windowless, quanset set-up. Nice to have a thick mattress though + clean P.J.'s!

Sunday, Sept. 7

Finished Hotel & really loved it.
Started Thoroughly Modern Millie
& another paperback - a detective
type story.

The DR. came through
on his 10 second check-up.
No words to me. 'Balled out
the wardmaster for not supplying
me with hot packs. - They're
completely out! SO. he heats water
in a coffee pot & douses sterile
gauze bandages. They scald my
foot on contact & ^{then} cool off in
about 2 minutes. Big help!

I'm on penicillin shots now.

My poor seat!

Shower felt good - but hard to
balance on my right foot!

Monday, Sept. 8

I'm felling apart! - I'm sure of it! ☹️ My right ear is infected again. Rather than eardrops the Doc has me slosh some solution in it on Q-tips. At least it's relieving the pain. . . . this country doesn't seem to be doing me much good.

Thoroughly Modern Millie was good. I'd like to see the movie now.

They brought me my mail from the company area. Nice! Letters from home, Bobbergs, etc.

Tuesday, 9/9

Progress Report: I'm on one crutch now! My foot's becoming more mobile. I guess the penicillin shots are helping.

Slept a long while this afternoon. Don't know what made me tired.

Sure is nice to have real shampoo in the shower.

They didn't bring me my mail today. H'mmm!

Experienced a Vietnam first at supper, with lemon-custard ice cream. 2nd rate stuff, as usual over here, but a nice change. Can't wait for a Dairy Queen + 31 flavors cone next summer!

Wed. Sept. 10

Was glad for 4 letters. My first USAFI lesson returned. Rather proud for a score of 93.

Read most of the day - Two interesting mysteries.

What a different world this is in the hospital. So relaxed. Wouldn't know there was a war going on if it wasn't for an occasional helicopter flying over and occasional explosions shaking the walls.

Am off the crutches! The heat & shots are working great. Still oozes & hurts if I walk on it long though.

September 12 - ^{FRIDAY} ~~Saturday~~ ^{oops!}

I get out of the hospital and the Doc says to keep my foot elevated & heat pads.

So the ad station has no heat pads &

Lt. Rigby puts me on details. I really wouldn't mind it, but I can't stand on my foot more than a

couple minutes without it hurting something ferocious. As a result, it

hasn't improved a whit since I left 25th med. Today I was

heading up a crew of geek women & girls - tearing down an old bunker of all things! They loaded the wheelbarrows and I hauled them away.

Another letter from home - & other mail, including my plastic Minnesota State Flag!

Thursday, Sept. 11

Wadl the Doc gave me some penicillan pills & sent me on my way

This afternoon. It was a few stay at the hospital. I've got a week profile since I'm still unable to wear a boot.

Came back to the Co. area to find my stuff locked up - most of it that is: my poncho, poncho liner, and plastic wash bowl (prized possessions!) were "taken." That's life in the army - people just take what they want.

Got a package of good cookies from Mr. & Mrs. Lee Johnson (Concord, Calif.) and other mail including a welcomed letter from home. Got Tim's temporary address, too.

Saturday, 9/13

A new guy came into the company - from Minnesota! And he said he had to look twice to make sure that I wasn't someone he knows. 'Said I look like him. How many times is that now?! I must have a common face.

Well, things are starting all over again with my left foot. When I went back to 25th med. for a check-up, it was really hurting & swollen again.

The doctor wrote in my medical records, "Already it is worse again." Duh! I don't have much faith in him. Seems that this should've been healed long ago. Well I'm confined to my cot for 4 days. No details!

Sunday, Sept. 19

Another week that I couldn't get to church. It's been a long time.

Not much to do, confined to bed. So I wrote 14 letters. Now I "just" have 20 more to answer.

Went back to get my bandage changed at 25th med. They re-packed it to keep it from starting to heal up inside the cut. Boy that was sensitive having that guy poke stuff into it. Ouch!

It's gotta' heal up good this time.



Got letters from home, Mollie, Kim, church bulletin, etc.

Gettin' blisters on my palms from the crutches. Ugh!

Monday, September 15

Here I am back in Ward 2.

A 3rd DR. ~~re~~ admitted me since the 'infections' seemed "healthy" as ever.

I'm now on 4 capsules, every 6 hours. - Quite a mouthful!

Some of the same guys are in here; some sick, some shamming.

Last night about midnight my platoon was hit out on AP. Hal Harris was Killed, Pots went into shock & he's at 12th Evac. Quick got shrapnel in his legs. —

Tuesday, Sept. 16

President Nixon announced
another troop reduction - 35,000,
by the middle of December.
It's an encouragement.

This new medication is
really working fine.

Sgt. Spears brought my
mail, including a can of
peanut butter cookies from
Jeannie. Yum! At 2m all.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

My foot looks & feels
the best it has since

August 28!

Spent most of the day
reading; Bonnie & Clyde were
good, although different from
the movie.

Almost finished a James
Bond type story - interesting,
but unreal.

Thursday, Sept. 18

Read "Funny Girl" &
Gidget Goes to Rome". Feeling
good and enjoying the
relaxation. Nothing to do
but read and sleep! Meals
in bed, too. Not a bad
set-up, really.

Saturday, Sept. 20

The Doc said he's keeping me in another couple days, just to make sure it doesn't flare up again.

I wore a boot on my left foot today - the first time since August 28! 'Walking around to get used to being on my feet again!

Mom's birthday today!

Wish I could call home.

52??
ops! 50

Saw a movie - they have 'em outside most nights for the patients.

FRIDAY, Sept. 19

The day went fast, I was unusually tired for some reason, and just enjoyed sleeping for hours on the fresh blue sheets & thick mattress.

'Hard to believe a war's going on just outside. It's nice to be "exempt" for a while.

The new 25th Div.

Commander came through today - a 2 star general.

I had a few words with him. Golly 'ol' Chap!
ha.

Sunday, Sept. 21

Oh! My last day in the hospital. My foot's feeling almost normal again -

finally,

Went to the movie tonight - "Yellow Submarine." Plenty Psychidellie, but neat. Very different.

Buccinger brought my mail this evening. Hartint brought it since Thursday, so I had 12 good letters to read.

Am Reading "To Kill A Mocking Bird." It's going to be just as good or better than the movie.

Monday, Sept. 22

Actually felt good to do
some work - first time all month!

Got back from 25th Med. Hosp.
just before lunch. Details the
rest of the day; painting the
outhouse, filling sandbags, & R.P.

Took a shower tonite in
moonlight!

It's so weird but nice to
be in Aichi. It's usually just
a rush-rush small-like
business community. But the
gunships continually fly over
head, and the explosions in the
distance are menacing.

Went to the service club
after supper. Played roll 'em &
Keep 'em. Got 4 good letters.

Tues., Sept. 23

Spent the day painting the outhouse with Jimmy Fannier. He told me all about his family's ranch.

Ate supper at 4 and went to Bunker #65 here at Cu Chi for Bunker guard. Only 4 of us to a bunker, with 2 up at all times. We pulled 4 hour shifts from 10-6.

Gunships were constantly circling & passing overhead.

Got another package from home with good candy & gum. Also letters from home & Boberys. 😊

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Had the day off since I only got half my sleep on bunker guard last night.

Wrote some letters in a.m. and move down at the service club after supper. Made up my first newsletter.

There was a floor show at the service club, a great band and 2 dancing girls; one of them a vocalist - pretty good.

Beautiful moonlit night -
but what a place to spend it!!

Thursday, Sept. 25

● Steve Robinson came in today. Abcessed teeth or something.

● 'Cut grass around the company area today, but at lunch

went down to the PX. Got a beautiful AM/FM Panasonic

● transistor radio. Only \$15⁰⁰ - has good sound and an ear plug, too.

● Looked at materials. I want to order a 3-piece suit soon.

● Got a nice letter from Dr. Karl Andersons. Ah, it would be nice to be at the lake right now!

● Sent off my newsletter to Bud & Karen.

Bob Speares told me all about his recent R&R in Bangkok.

Friday, Sept. 26

Went to the PX and shopped around some. Wish I could decide on a camera - wish they had some! Everything gets bought up so fast.

My AM/FM's working fine. Had 2 details today - both painting. Really a hot day.

Bunker guard tonite here at Cuchi. Back to the rats at #65.

Slept good last nite after listening to stereo music (HEAD-SET!!) with Rusty & Steve Robinson.

Saturday, Sept. 27

feels tired but neat to
use a pencil for a change!

- Been a long time

Had most of the day free
and enjoyed it. Went to the
PX and library, and wrote
over 15 letters, some of
them on C.A. tonight at
the company's supply room.

Got a get well card from
Mrs. Foley for my foot!

Surprised to learn from
an enclosed letter from
Ruthie that Mary writes
home almost daily!

'Dug some holes after
supper. Big thrill!!

Sunday, Sept. 28

Finished a morning detail in time to get to church at our 2/14th Inf. Chapel. Had been a long time; since the middle of August!

Got a letter from Lee & Charlie.

Got a letter BACK from Ft. Rucker, Alabama to Bob Yamataka. Evidently it reached there after he had left. I wrote it on June 21st!! (My last day of jungle training over here.

Filled more sandbags today - that seems to be the story of my life!

Monday, Sept. 29

Mailed off Grandmother's felt plaque this afternoon. Hope she likes it and it arrives in time for her birthday on the 6th. Her 77th!

Did some heavy work today, and it was a hot, muggy day. Loaded "night packs" - materials to be flown out to hard-spots for a unit to set up protection and a perimeter for a temporary night location.

My hands aren't toughened & I've lost chunks of skin on nearly every finger. 'Better than pieces of shrapnel IN them, though!!

Tuesday, September 30th

Went to a practice with
Fields for a ceremony at
Division Headquarters
tomorrow.

Saw a good movie at
the service club tonight:
"The Heart Is A Lonely
Hunter."

Wednesday, October 1st

The ceremony at Div. Hdqrs. today was to commemorate the 28th anniv. of the 25th Inf. Div.

Ah! Another month gone, and another month closer to home.

September went faster than any other month in the army. Probably cause I spent half of it in bed!

Had a pretty good floor show tonite at the service club. Almost makes a guy forget there's a war going on!

Got 4 letters today, wrote over 10.

Thursday, Oct. 2

Went on detail at Battalion

S-1 this a.m. Ended up staying
the day and typing, filing, etc.

Looks as though it may
become a daily job for
 awhile

Had CQ at the company
 orderly room after finishing
 the typing at S-1 around 6:30.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

Had CQ again tonight after working all day at S-1.

It's unbelievable how many reports there are to type up.

Dgt. Welsh - in charge at S-1, said he's asked the Captain to speak to the major about making my job there permanent! It's a nice offer, but I think I'd still rather go to Cam Ranh Bay or another part of Nam.

The living conditions would be certain to be better. Anyway, I want to see another part, another situation, of the country.

I turned down Alfa company jobs too; for mail clerk & administration clerk.

Saturday, October 4

Another long - but relatively interesting day at S-1; typing, etc.

After getting off at 7 p.m., I went to the aid station for plague & small pox shots. The medic there is a nice guy - showed me his new Yashika camera with electronic flash - just what I'd like - & only about \$50 for the outfit.

Mom & Dad are probably home now from deer hunting in Wyoming. Hope they had good luck.

Sorry to learn today's letter that Sean's eyes are covered - he got Cement thrown in them!

I declined the S-1 job (as a perm. position,) I want to transfer to Cam Rahn bay or some other nicer place.

Sunday, October 5

Went to our 2/14 chapel this a.m. Next Sunday I'd like to attend the Division Chapel.

Got a postcard from Glendo Wyoming! The deerhunters should be home by now.

Wonder how many ~~they~~ got this year.

Went to the service club and library to write letters after working at S-1 till 7 p.m.

A hot day, but refreshing at lunch when I went swimming! The pool is close, so hope I can swim after. It had been a long time - since June - when I last swam.

Monday, October 6

It's midnite now - finally
got a shower - the one our
battalion used was empty so I
used the officers shower.
(sneak-sneak)

Worked at S-1 till 9 tonight,
getting ready for the IIG
inspection tomorrow.

Have to be at my desk at
6:30 in the morning. Ugh!

Things should be much
more relaxed after this
inspection is over.

Heard from Tim today! Now
they can finally start on my
reprocessing.

Cam Ranh Bay, here I come!!

Tuesday, October 7th

The IG went good. Got a little sick of saluting the Brass though. Didn't even have to go back to work after chow tonite.

Got BUKER letters. One from Mol with a polaroid picture

of Sean in Sun glasses. Class!

Chuck Rye is in CuChi!

He left a note on my bunk

so I went over & saw him at the CuChi Hilton. He's got a moustache - looks tough.

He'll be in till the 10th, so I'll be able to see more of him.

-Been a long day. I reported to S-1 at 6:30 after a quick shave.

Wednesday, October 8

Spent another night with
Chuck. Saw their stand-down
floor show, skin-flicks, and
movie.

My company will be in
for stand down tomorrow. It'll
be good to see them all
again. Wish I could take
off from S-1 for a few
days!

Got a letter from Mary.
GIA is coming to an
end for another year.

And Carolyn Fety, plans
to enter in January!

Thursday, October 9

Chuck stopped by to see me before he headed back out to the field. It was good to see him the past 2 nites.

Saw a movie tonite with Danh Traung - interpreter at Patton.

Patton's been getting alot of incoming mortars this month.

Oct. 1st the Sgt. Major was hit, & had to have a foot amputated. He was taking a Shower at the time.

I'm reading Airport by Arthur Hailey. It's great - as good as Hotel that I read while at 25th med. last month

Friday, October 10

Alfa Company came in
on stand down. After work I
went over to the new stand
down area where they were.

Good to see all the guys again -
and reminded me of how glad
I am to be in CuChi.

Saw the floor show, but didn't
stay for all of it. The guys
were so rowdy, you could
barely hear the band!

Got 3 good letters today.
I have a lot of 'em to
answer.

Saturday, October 11

Spent the night over at the stand-down. Gads to be with the guys. Watched some TV, the floor show, and movie. Plenty of free sodas on ice in a trailer.

Got a call at 5-1 just before supper. Charlie Company was in contact; 1 guy killed, 5 wounded; just outside of Patton.

The war doesn't seem to be diminishing from the Infantryman's viewpoint. I hope things will change soon.

Great letters from Blythe and Larinans.

Sunday, October 12

Missed church today. The status reports always keep me busy during those morning hours.

The guys went back to Huntsley after lunch today. It was a good stand-down. What a good feeling not to have to mount the trucks with them!

I was teased by quite a few guys for being 'pale'. I have lost nearly all of my tan. C'est la vie'!

Worked most of the afternoon on Cpt. Baron's new awards file. It made me sick to see all the honors & awards the officers get - without the work or dangers of the regular soldiers.

Monday, Oct. 13

A week before my birthday, but I'm celebrating already! Dianne Christopherson sent a gift-wrapped package, & inside were 8 or 9 individually wrapped items. Really nice of her.

Got some other mail as well.

Ruthie Siebert sent the GIA newsletter - about 10 pages long!

It was good to hear ~~from~~^{about} everyone's activities since break-up in December.

Tuesday, October 14

Went to the library at 8 pm
after finally finishing for the
day at S-1.

Heard from Bethel College
today. I have to send another
application to start the process
rolling for acceptance next fall.

Good news! The GI Bill
monetary benefits have been
increased 50%! For a
single man, the going check was
\$130 a month - now it's \$190
a month! Not bad.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Got a big can of cookies
from Aunt Emelyn today, &
a birthday card from Carolyn
Opier. ☺

The cookies sure are good.

M'mm, homemade food.

Most of my afternoons
the past couple days have
been making chests for
Captain Baron; A painstaking
job, but interesting. The days go
by faster than ever.

Little free time, but I
like the job, and am happier than
at any other time in the army.
- Really feel on top of things.

Thursday, Oct. 16

I moved into the S-1 hooch today. Wow, it's great to have a room of my own. I set my cot up ~~for~~ with bug screen, and unpacked my things. I even have a chair and shelf! The best living conditions I've had yet in Vietnam. The hooch is close to the new shower too. And it even has electricity! I'm using my electric razor again - after 4 months of dormancy. (?)

Got a letter from Al - first letter I've ever gotten from him! 😊
- Nice of him to write.

CQ tonite at S-1 all night. at least I ~~shall~~ sleep on a cot under a roof!

Friday, Oct. 17

Since I had CQ last night, I got the afternoon off!

Went to the PX, read in my room, and went to bed early - like about 6 p.m. I sure felt good to have a long sleep.

My bug screen works great - a real relief. Now I don't have to cover up.

Got bulk mail including a package from Pikers. - A bunch of Birthday cookies! Huge ones, with decorations - taste good, too. Mrs. Piker even put in a Happy Birthday napkin and a package of candles!

Dave Swan wrote about his AK47 wound. Quite a story!

Saturday, Oct. 18

How disgusting! On the awards clerk desk today I saw a "confidential" notice concerning awards for snipers. The more goods they pick off, the ^{higher} ~~more~~ award they'll receive! The "pay scale" starts out with a measly bronze star for 5 or 6 dead goats, but for those dead-eye sharpshooters who pick off over 16, a silver star awaits them. Some incentive - some program!

Received 2 packages and b'day card from Jeannie. She sent cookies, & a big box of raisins! 😊

October 19, Sunday

I'm in another color guard - this time holding the 2/14th flag at the Division ceremony. Today was a practice.

After work at 7 p.m., I went up to the main pool, Waikiki East, for a swim with Phil Fields. Nice pool - great swim. Had to walk back in the rain. No big thing.

Got a birthday card from Mom & Dad and 4 other letters.

Went to the Division Memorial Chapel for the 8:30 service. It was pretty good, but the organ player had his problems. Went with Bob Spears.

*

Monday, October 20

Well, my big 21st birthday -
is legal! Next year I'll spend my
birthday at HOME for a change! I
don't feel that much older, but
lots have happened since last Oct. 20
when I was in Tracy, Calif.

listened to country western tapes
in Sgt. Welch's hooch - (his birthday,
too!)

Glad that my 1049 form
requesting Reassignment in Cam Ranh
Bay, went to Division today.

My CO approved it, so
SO FAR, SO GOOD.

I should know in 2 weeks
if Division approved it.



Tuesday, Oct 21

Have CQ tonite. It's not
bed. I set up a cot. Just need
to be here to answer the
phones.

Well, Today I carried 2/14th's
flag in a ceremony at Division
Hqtrs. A 4 star general
was there to present some
medals! First 4 star I've
seen in Nam.

It's really getting hotter with
the dry season starting. Wow,
I've been sweating alot. At
least it's nice to have a
Shower available and clean
clothes every other day.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

More mail today, but another day without getting a letter off myself.

Letters from Beth and Mollie and Bud. Another package from mom & dad!! Gum, candy, mandarin orange. (I'mmm they're gone already) and Aug. Reader's Digest with pressed leaves from Minnesota trees! Neat.

Picked up some ringworm pills & medication at the aid station. One's starting on my leg. The medic there insists I look just like another medic here in Cuck's. Now I go again.

Thursday, October 23

63 "That's Easy to Remember"

That's how many letters

I'm behind in answering.

Not started tonight. We got lots of writing ahead of me.

Got \$5.00 and a book & card from Mr. Scott. Nice!

Actually, it's illegal for us to have greenbacks over here because of the danger of them getting to the

Black Market but I'll exchange it at the bank tomorrow.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Chuck 'Rye' is back! He's in for 10 days of LCLC. Good to talk to him again.

Had a few pedos at the 'Dragon's Den' club - only 5¢ tonite.

Had to work till 9. Capt. Baron was all keyed up about a lot of work that needed to be done.

Got another package from home. yum. - Krispie treats & oatmeal/raisin cookies, among other goodies.

Also another \$5.00 and birthday card from B's, and other mail.
Busy, good day.

Saturday, Oct. 25

Got 6 letters today, & wrote 9, so I'm finally reversing the backlog.

Nothing thrilling at work, but Chuck stopped in after supper - in the middle of his compass course.

Watched the movie at 2/14th's "THEATRE". A foreign type war story, but it was pretty good.

This month is speeding by. 6 days til payday.

I turned down a security guard job at Long Binh today. Still hoping for Cam Ranh Bay.

October 26, Sunday

Went to the 86th Signal chapel this morning. The service was pretty good, but rather a meager congregation: 5 of us to be exact. The percentage of church attenders in Vietnam ~~must~~ be very low.

Letter from home about Becki's wedding. Sounded nice.

I have CQ tonight. Getting some letters written, and reading a book.

Monday, Oct. 27

Chuck came over this p.m. We played horseshoes over at the Cuchi Hilton before it got dark. He's about $\frac{1}{2}$ way through LCLC now.

Found out Jim is in for a bronze star for 'achievement'.

Hard work ... Ha! They hand out medals over here like candy.

I'll be getting my Combat Infantry Badge soon, too. It's about time! I was supposed to get it in July.

Steve Robinson is in. Went to the ^{swiss club} movie with him.

TUESDAY, OCT 28

Typical day at S-1, but
in the afternoon I rode
shotgun out to Patton II
FSB with Sherlock to
pick up Major Ritzgers.
Same old Patton - with
a few improvements; like
black-top!

The rice has definitely grown
a lot since I last saw it.

But that's to be expected,
since I haven't been outside
the wire of Cu Chi Base
Camp since August 31st!

Went to see Chuck at
LCLC after supper. He
had to leave at 8 p.m. to go
out on a "bush." Ugh!

Wednesday, October 29

A Halloween card! from Karen B. Also a letter from mom. Al's to head for Wyoming ~~again~~ this weekend with his new carry-all. Can't wait to see it.

Sure sounds neat; air-conditioned and all. Can't wait to own my own car!

They're constantly looking for guys for bunker guard; here in Cu Chi and at Patton. What a relief to have a steady job & not be worried about it. Nice to sleep all night every night!

Thursday, Oct. 30

Saw the 'best floor show
I've seen yet in Nam. A
girl from Australia - Wow,
did she have lungs!

Thought I'd get paid today,
but it'll be tomorrow
for sure. 3 letters today;
one was from Belma in
Netherlands Antilles. What
a wild stamp on the envelope!

HALLOWEEN '69



AND PAYDAY, too!

Maybe next month
I'll be drawing Sp/4 pay.
(wish-wish)

Went down to the
Service Club. There was a
GI band, halloween
decorations and food, but
just didn't seem like
the Halloween "I used to
know!" The service
club deserves alot of
credit though. They've
got a good active program
something every night.

Nov. 1, 69 SATURDAY

Ah! Another month down, and 9½ to go to ETS! They're calling for baker bunker guards at Patton, so I have CQ here at S-1 again tonite. I don't mind. It's a good chance to write letters & read, and I don't lose much sleep. - Sure is nice to sleep with a roof over my head!

Made a "big" \$100 deposit in my American Express Checking account, and looked through my Chevelle catalogue AGAIN! 😊

Sunday 11/2

CQ last night so I had the afternoon off. Went to the library and wrote letters. Phil was there, so we walked back to the mess hall at supper time.

Now I have CQ again tonite! Some of the guys have to go to Patton for bunker guard, so I'm filling in on CQ.

Monday, November 3d

Nice to have another afternoon off --- to catch up on my sleep! Came to my hoosh after lunch, finished reading the Reader's Digest, & fell asleep for 5 hours!

Nixon's speech on Vietnam policy is today (US is 12 hrs. behind.) Should be very interesting.

Nov 4 Tuesday

Got my bankbook from home & transferred \$50 from my checking to Savings.

Listened to Nixon's 30 minute speech. Nothing drastic, but comforting ... somewhat.

Nov. 5 WEDNESDAY

The roof at S-1 has leaks,
so a team of gork roof
repairers came today to fix it.
What a racket with them
pounding all day on that
corrugated aluminum!

Nov. 6 Thursday

CQ again tonight. Sure beats
going out to Patton. Cpt. Baron
asked me again today if I want
to stay on at S-1. It does
have its advantages. I'll have
to think about it.

My 3rd plt. was in contact
tonite. Lt. Fiddling & another
guy were wounded (shrapnel frags)

Nov 7, FRIDAY.

Sherlock' is SHORT. Just a few days to
DEROS & ETS! What a dream - for that
day to come for my 'freedom bird'
home.

November 8 SATURDAY

Great package 'from home'!

'Chunky', flashlight batteries,
etc. Still seem strange next
year to shop in stores again &
to eat & live normally!

Sunday, Nov. 9

A guy died today from
Delta Company from wounds
earlier in the month. There's
no end to the deaths & injuries
I just wonder how different things will
be a year from now!

Monday, Nov. 10th

CQ Home. Last night there was a yellow alert after two goats were killed in the wire on the Cuchi Bunker line.

TUESDAY, Nov. 11th

VETERAN'S DAY! I don't feel much like one, but I will be when I leave here in '70.

- Halfta' check in to the local VFW Chapter. NA!

Got my laundry back from the Quartermaster laundry. It's pressed & starched, but smells worse than when I sent it in!

WED., Nov 12

Finished up 15 stencils for the major & ran off 20 copies/ea. for his booklet on Awards Ceremonies. Big deal. The lifers are the only ones that get a charge out of 'em.

They're hard up for Patton Bunker Guards, so I volunteered to go out tonight. Shouldn't be bad. At least it'll remind me to appreciate life in Cu Chi!

Thursday, Nov 13

Patton had 2 incoming rounds last night!! Thankfully no injuries. But still, I'm too short for that stuff!

Thursday 11/13 (Cont'd)

My ears plugged up again. This stupid infection - or whatever. The doc at the aid station gave me an earwash, & it's nice to hear normally again.

Worked on more stencils at SI. Will my transfer ever come through? Now today, they started talking about me taking over Casuarth's & R & R. I just may become a permanent fixture at SI.

11/14 Friday

Called MACV - my transfer
will take another month to go
through. No sweat. I still have
it to look forward to.

Received an ~~ARCOM~~ ARCOM
medal today for work at S-1.
Mailed it home.

Just listened to the Apollo
12 blast-off! Sure would
like to see it live - or
on color TV.

I'm finally getting some
brown back into my skin.
I was really pale from being
inside constantly. - nice to
have a pool conveniently
nearby.

Saturday, Nov 15

Had CQ last night, so
got the afternoon off. Went
to the pool, PX, and a
movie tonite: RACHEL,

RACHEL. It was different,
but really made me think -
I liked it.

Plunged on a fluffy oval
rug for my room. It's
really neat. Only \$2.25 so
it should be well worth it,
if it's not stolen within
a week.

Aunt Emelyn sent another
big package of cookies &
30+ packs of gum!

Sunday, Nov. 16

When I got to work
this morning I found out
that I made Spec. 4

this month - effective Nov. 7!
That put new light into my
day. It means about \$40
more/month, and am no
longer classified with the
green-new Nam recruits.

Monday, Nov. 17

Fun, full day. Went 1/2 way
to Saigon and to Trung Lap with a
truck load of sewer pipes. Nite to
get out. - Got a meat package
from Cardyn. Opium - food, Krisbell
Bubbles, yo-yo, etc. all Xmas wrapped.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

● Got started again tonight on answering a back log of letters. A package of fudge from Mrs. Wahlen and the BMG girls (JR. HIGH) at MTKa. Supt. Sure was nice.

● Got a nice letter from Ruthie. We may have a GIA 'team' at Bethel next fall!

● 6 casualties in Delta Company today. - More calls, & more forms to fill out.

● Got some SPEC. 4 patches sewed on. "FEELS" good. Hope to make "Sarge" by the time I ETS from this hot country.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Now, I seem to be
using these afternoons off for
catching up on sleep. I went
for a swim after lunch
after throwing the frisbee for
1/2 hour with Mike Luttrell, then
slept for 4 hours. Felt good.

Thursday, November 20

Another package! Priscilla
Russell sent some delicious
cinnamon flavoured - crisp cookies
Saw the New Christy
Minstrels tonite at the "lightning
Bowl." Good, but not as
great as I'd hoped. 'Mechanical
difficulties' caused a 45 minute late
start. Closed circuit coverage of all FSB's.

FRIDAY, 11/21

Another guy from 3rd FH.
died today from a Booby trap
near Patton. I was talking
to him just last week
when he was in Cu Chi. Life
sure is uncertain - ESPECIALLY
over here.

Went to the Club with
Phil tonight.

SATURDAY, 11/22

Crosby's birthday! - and
the 6th anniversary of
PRES. Kennedy's assassination.

CQ tonight. Another month
is ending, and "only" 198
days to my normal DELOS.
I'm getting SHORT!

Sunday, 11/23 - Saturday 11/24

Christmas is close! We're going to get a tree & decorations & have a hootch party.

Thanksgiving came & went this week. The mess hall had a good meal, but nothing like mom's.

The weather has been surprisingly cool for the past few days. Cloudy & windy; reminds me of Sept./Oct. at home. The geeks can't take it! They were extra clothes & many of 'em have colds.

Blythe sent a cool chocolate Turkey & other Thanksgiving candy. Sure was nice - and good!!

Robinsons Had a great time decorating Xmas tree. Neat lights!!

SUNDAY

11/30

-

12/6

SATURDAY

Another month past! Now
I've had 3 months in the
field - 3 months in A Chi;
and am CAM RANH BAY
BOUND! My transfer finally
went through + I'm ^{soon} on
my way to 97th Bn. of
MP's. APO 96312 should
be "vedi in-ti-dest-een."
I'm am glad to be going
as SPEC 4.

Met a guy this week from
St. Paul. Turned out he
was drafted the same day
as me & we were even in
the same BASIC TNG. Unit!
(never met at Ft. Campbell tho')

The Commo guys put up
a lighted tree outside S-1.
About the most Christmasy
thing I've seen. Next-

we made a small
tree in our hootch and are
making decorations. Guess
my Christmas will be in
Cam Ranh after all.

Got my first Christmas
card - from Hutchie in LAS
VEGAS! I bought 25 Div
cards & am working on
sending 'em out before I
leave Ce Chi.

December 7-13 ^{SUNDAY} ^{SATURDAY}

I got 2 Christmas trees in two days! (Bober's & Pickers)

Really helps put me in the Christmas spirit. I boxed one back up & sent it on to Tim.

Got another CARE package from Mom & Dad, including SPACE FOOD STICKS. Wild!

Went for a shower late after addressing Xmas cards, & felt a huge leathery cold thing flop over my bare foot... The Biggest TOAD I've ever seen! Quite a shock.

Dec. 8 last year was break-up for GIA. Never dreamt then that a year

later I'd be a Purple Heart
veteran in Nam!

Tonite is my last night in
Cu Chi. I fly for Cam Ranh in
the morning! Quite a hassle
packing and out-processing, but
it should be well worth it.

Still getting mail. Belma
Reimer sent a "tin" of Cadburys
candy - Really good stuff! - from
the Netherlands Antilles, yet.

Naturally I have mixed
emotions leaving here. I've gotten
to be good friends with a number
of guys. But this is life in
the Army. Trust this will be
my last move! Certainly am
grateful to be leaving here in good
health - unlike many.

Dec. 13th (Cont'd)

I've tried to call Tim many times, but the connections are poor. Never got farther than reaching Bong Son before losing contact.

Didn't realize I had so much stuff. But I have to buy my combat gear, too. Dumb, they wouldn't let me turn in anything here, but my M-16.

Ah, tomorrow at this time I should be in Cam Ranh with the 97th MP Battalion!

Dec. 14-21 (Sunday to Saturday)

Finally got a flight from Cuchi after a 10 hour wait. That was to Ton Son Nhut, then I caught another Caribon flight to Cam Ranh - just an hour flight.

Waited in the airport 2 hours for a bus, then 2 hours at the MP station before getting to my unit - and bunk.

Am waiting on orders so don't have any responsibilities yet - not even a detail! Wow, this is the best Army setup I've had.

Got a "hot" shower - the first one in 6 months, & it's great to have a mattress & sheets. There is a huge place. Sand everywhere & hills. Think I'll really be happy here.

For your diary!

JANUARY '70

Daily log - discontinued
due to insufficient
paper supply and lack
of interest by the author!

R

P.S. Things are
GREAT
in Cam Ranh !!!