

July 1967

Dear mom & Dad:

Its been quite awhile since ive written so I guess I better get one written.

I got to go into Huy Hoa today and look around. I got some junk I am

going to send home but I have to have some stamps so can you send

me some. I got two paintings for 3.50 and two statues carved out of wood

for 9.50. So Ill send them as soon as I can. I sent two rolls of film to Hawaii to be developed and I put your address on it so when they are done they will send them home.

I sent them about a week ago so I dont know how long it will take to get there. I have two more rolls

ready to send out now. Bet I have

close to 200 pictures by now. one of those last two rolls should have

the pictures of our ships after they were mortared. I guess we are going back to Dau Tieng next month.

I wish we would stay up here because Dau Tieng has been getting hit quite abit since weve left.

Dont know if it was in the news or not but last monday night about 12 o'clock two of our gunships were up flying on an alert

and they both collided in mid air. They were firing on VC sampans traveling up a river about a mile from our airfield. Everyone on both ships were killed, that was eight men. Both ship blew up and burned when they hit the ground. There wasn't hardly anything left afterwards. The gunships carry 14,000 rounds of ammunition plus 48 2.75 inch rockets and all of that blew when they caught fire. We were up all night that night flying back and fourth. So that makes 11 people we've lost since we've been over here and everyone one of them was killed by our own accidents. ~~Know~~^{no} one has been lost to enemy fire so far, its all been by our own faults. From what I hear both ships were flying without any lights on.

I got the two rolls of film and cookies the day before we left. They have film here but I hardly have time to get any. we got paid again and I got 250.00 so I'll be sending some home when I can get a money order.

Since we've been up here our Pilots have been teaching us to fly when we have some free time. I've flown the helicopter a couple of different times now and it's really a tricky aircraft to fly. I've got about an hour and a half stick time now. I think if I really had to I could fly one far enough and land it safely without too much trouble. A couple of weeks ago a crew chief at Chu Chi flew his ship back and landed it when the pilot and co-pilot got shot. That's why our pilots are giving us stick time when they can.

We are finally getting our air medals for flying so many combat hours. I am going on 3 oak leaf clusters now and after I get four gold ones we get a silver one. Well I just boxed up the stuff I am sending home. That flag I got is also in the box with the two statues. I have another tubular package also to send with those two pictures in it. If you will when you get them have them framed. I now have 3 rolls of film left, one is colored prints. I think I'll have them sent back to me so I can send some to Greg. I'll have to wait until I can get down to the airforce base to mail these packages.

guess I better end now so write
again soon and everyone take care.
Did alan find a car yet?

Tell everyone I said hello.
Love Ron