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51. One of the tragedies that happened to us was when Mike Williams and I went into the drink off No. 8. Mike died and as I recall one of the pilots that had to be sent home. Mike (green) finished his tour in Oct.

*★ French manager*

52. While we were at Dau Tieng or Tri Tam or Camp Kheiner which were all the same place, we stayed on the Michelin rubber plantation. The story was that the Army paid the French rent and the French paid the VC for protection. I recall at least twice a civilian Beech Bonanza landing at the airfield. On one occasion there was two beautiful round eyes that got off with the pilot. I never saw their faces.

53. There was a beautiful swimming pool on the plantation but it rarely worked and I never swam in it. The camp had several buildings built by the French which were a beige stucco with an orange/red terra cotta tile roof. I went in a few of the buildings and they were airy inside. There were trees everywhere and I was told that if we damaged one that it would reduce its ability to produce rubber and we would have to pay the French \$100 a fee for each one damaged. I don't recall seeing anybody counting, however.

54. Unlike up north we were seldom without power in the South. On what would be the southern portion of our area stood a generator so large that it looked like it came straight out of a train locomotive. There were civilians that ran it and did a good job as far as I could tell.

55. One night when the perimeter was probed the 25th Div sent some infantry up to help us on our portion of the line. When they got there they changed their minds and asked if we would help them. They thought that we were a bunch of helpless pilots with pistols. They had not realized that every crew chief and gunner had their own 60 and we probably had more firepower than an entire battalion of the 25th. There were a few special weapons out there. I know some of the EM had mounted a mini gun for ground use. It had a nickname, but I do not recall it. It couldn't fire much as it would overheat. If you recall at the gate there was a recoilless rifle. The only one I ever saw fire. In addition to our issued weapons the unit had a collection of captured weapons. That's the nice way to put it. Some were traded, some purchased and some absconded with. Some of the weapons I recall were a German Mauser, several SKS semi automatic, several AK-47s, a luger, a Thompson machine gun, an M-79, several M-2 carbines, an M-1, a Japanese rifle, an Israeli machine

*Nov 9*

56. I myself carried a 38 and an M-2 carbine. The 38 in its holster would be rotated to a position between my legs when I flew. I was a deadly shot with the 38, ha, ha. I could hit the ground 5 out of six times. One time I did throw a can onto the ground and try to hit it at about 40 feet. Too high too low, too high, too low. I finally had to walk up too it to hit it. If I ever had to use it for real I would have to hope for a tall man or someone laying down.

captured  
weapons

58. Procurement of captured weapons was simple. It was routine for the grunts to call in a Huey to bring back the cache of weapons found, or in some cases if there had been several enemy killed, to bring back their weapons. They would just load them on the chopper and send them back. I was told that the infantry became concerned when the count in the field and the count at the rear were almost always different, often exactly four weapons short. My explanation was that they probably fell out. Thankfully they never looked in the heater compartment, if we landed or under the sound proofing or behind the crews back. Well, the infantry then sent along a guard to watch the weapons. Well, that was a no brainer. How hard do you think it was for the crew member to distract the guard while the other crew member raided the booty? The air force would pay up to \$175.00 for an AK and the navy would give you a pallet of plywood. For a little ! liquor or other booty the CH-47s would deliver it.

59. We were all quite young. I remember the guy we call pappy was 29. I recall that his last name started with a P. It might have been Padie, but I am not sure. I recall he was trying to get into OCS at the time and age was a problem.

60 [redacted] arrived at Day Ten [redacted] I was awakened by  
first few nights by [redacted] after about three nights I mos-  
ne or heard barking again. I did here the morning [redacted] with strange  
[redacted]

Dick, I was going to try next time to do this in word and send it as an attachment. Looking over the notes I have a

Tokyo

Geoff

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