

Dear,

22 March

Haven't done a thing all morning. Should zero my weapon this afternoon but may not get out of here until tomorrow & then things will still be confused. Tomorrow is Sunday & a lot of guys, especially office personnel, get off that day. They try to stay off the roads after 5:30 for fear of ambush & don't go out before 7:30 to wait for mine clearance.

Was thinking, if you buy that Schlesinger book, do have Mom M. read it, too. Think she'd enjoy it & it might give her some insight into what's going on, too. Hope that sending \$50 a month for now is enough. If you get in a bind, I can always mail some home in a money order & put off purchases for awhile. Want the tape recorder first & then a good camera. After that I may change the allotment & send \$200 home. Should be able to do that by June if you need it badly for the summer.

By the way, ambush in Vietnamese is *phaguette* so a certain Am. phrase must be gingerly used over here so as not to panic the natives. Will write more later

and hope to have more to say.

By the way, altho I'm at Phu Cat now, I'll be 20 miles on north (still close to the coast) at Uplift for headquarters battery. Hope you can find a map, and keep me marked. Wrote to Mom M, Steeles, + Dad + J. and told them my correct address including the H & B change + my being PFC. Surely I'll be getting mail by next weekend. It takes about 4 to 6 days to go one way. So it may not be until the first of the month before I get any. By then I'll be so new & starved, I'll die. By the way again, Debbie's birthday is today. I sent her a card while I was at Nha Trang (which still may get there a bit late).

Finally zeroed my weapon, so my intro. here is done & just am waiting to be shipped up to headquarters. May be tomorrow tho since it's already 3 + they like to keep from starting out too late. Will leave early.

here don't do anything but keep
up equipment & gear work &
go "boom boom" the baysans in
the villages. What a stupid war.
Most of us are just here in
the way of what action does
occur & not really fighting
anyone except our own lines
and self-pity. In the last
6 months all but 2 injuries
(wounds) were long based out
of dozens of injuries in the BV.
These were hurt one by a mine
blast (blew his foot off) & the
other by a sniper (killed) while
he was going riding without
permission. Other have either
come down with Malaria didn't
take pills, shot their own toes,
had jeep accidents, or got
hurt around the guns. That's
encouraging knowing I don't
plan to do stupid things. But
it's not encouraging when one
tries to arrive at a raison d'être
about the war & our presence.
Just underscores my former ideas

tomorrow maybe + maybe not.
No one tells us anything. We
sit around the barracks, they
come in + take us to do some
part of our processing + then
we come back. No planning
no bother, + it's driving me
nuts.

Also, got my address to
R + M so they can write to.
Told Ron about the Sch.
book (since he's been bugging us
on New Left literature) +
think he'll grab it, too. We
had a great discussion of the
New Left (can't write left) while
I was there + they explained
a lot of the theories behind it.
Made Sch's book that much
more interesting to see how
he handled the philosophy
of the new groups (+ they're
~~so~~ many segments with many
different beliefs + activities -
you can't lump all of them
into Yippies or hippies or
anarchists by any means).

Honey, I don't understand
this war, 90% of the men

against this thing.

I love you, Leona. Feel so close to you. Just as I did last nite. Hope all is well at home & you're finally settling down with the books & playing the game of "what can I remember." Sure it's scary & nerve-racking - but if you let it, it gets kind of interesting & like a game - and you learn something about your field & yourself too. Don't get down - I'm pulling for you. All you need is a pass - no high honors or snow job. You can do it, I know. And if you clutch or fall short, you'll be better prepared next time. No sweat dear. I love you & am all for you now - you know that. Take care & study hard & remember my love for you & it will keep you cool & calm.

Will write more tomorrow
(was sent to bed this afternoon and so)

Hold your breath & sigh a relief!
I've been put in command dept.
Running the radio from 2:30
A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Can't believe it.
So much to find out yet. But
the facilities here aren't bad. Even
have a refug. in our bunker-
barracks. Will be on details for
2 to 3 days while they check me
for clearance (security) & then I
start learning the trade.

I'm so happy I could burst.
Guys really trying to help
me get situated & put things
away. Here's hoping it stays
like this for the year. I
love you, you wonderful good
luck charm. Will fill in
more detail tomorrow after
I talk with men some more
& get my briefing. If I have
to go to war it's the only way
to go. It was my N.S. that did
it, I'm told. God bless college.
Love,
your happy dym