

Dear,

We'll we finally had the Colonel inspection of the old bird really showed up this time. Again I was bypassed - not even asked a question. Indicates one of two things, Either I'm so good at soldiering they don't bother or I'm so bad they don't bother. But it bothers me not as long as they don't bother. We were told afterward that he was very impressed with our battery blot! So were celebrating by having post privileges today + tonight, but were restricted to battery area tomorrow due to guard duty (which I bypassed, not thank goodness).

Feel very good today. We got the place cleaned up fairly fast for the trip just today + actually got ~~it~~ a decent night's sleep. After I went yesterday, a north wind blew up (at about 40 mph). Boy what a dust

storm that was! The sky
was red & the sun gone.
Very dirty and bad for
getting things clean for
inspections. But we'd have
had to go over everything
anyway, so what's 2" of
dirt instead of just
specks.

Felt so good writing
to everyone yesterday. I'll
have time to read & relax
this weekend to get
ready for another boring
week. We have a P.T.
test Fri. about we grade
it ourselves - big deal.
The big thing now is that
there is little motivation
to do things by the books.
The common comment is
what the hell can they
do to us, send us to Nam?
Altho they'll still yell at
us, I imagine they'll be
in a good mood after
impressing the brass so
it shouldn't be so rough.

Will try to get out the V
phone sometime tomorrow
without getting caught for a
detail. Yesterday I went
to get your letter at the
post room + ended up
cleaning compass stands.
See what trouble you cause.

Oh, by the way, I don't
feel a Chevelli is for us.
They're too small. I'd rather
get a full sized or medium
sized car (a Belvedere or
Chevy II). But I really
lean toward another
Bel Air - they're a little
less expensive than an
Impala + cheaper to run
+ keep up usually. Also,
we probably could keep
our snow tires + that's
a consideration - they are
expensive, you know. I
generally liked the looks
of Aul's cars + their
warranty, but I agree
we should look around.
See, that will be best.

Wrote to Grandma explaining our plans & asking her if she'd help arrange a loan thru Garland at First State. It requires that she put some of her stock up to cover collateral. Seems that she doesn't mind much - she did it before & all it is is a legality because she still collects her dividends & that's all she keeps the stock for - to pay taxes. The actual collateral is a lien on the car - the stock is just a backup for the looseness of the loan terms of payment (a book maneuver). I may get mad at Grandma at times but she's sure done alot for me & bends over backwards to help financially. Of course she's the only relative with strings & some money to pull this off.

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It must say that, for
Grandpa dying so relatively
young, he did leave
Grandma fairly comfortable
with wages & means to
get along. I do believe he
was a smart person &
really did love his family
to ease enough to do what
he did during not so
easy times. You can't help
but respect that kind of
dedication and hard work.
I'm glad we've had families
who really tried. It helped
us to work to build our
own lives from relatively
little material backing. I'm
proud of what you & I have
done, dear. I hope we can
instill this in our children,
even tho they'll probably
have less money problems
than we faced. I do
expect them to pay part
(1/2?) of their education,
clothes, cars, etc. I don't
want another Mark & Pos

type of people running
around who don't really
see where the stuff came
from or how they keep
~~it~~ ahead of some of their
contemporaries. That
doesn't cut it with me
at all. I must say that
altho I may have made
mistake & fallen short
of my goals at times, I've
pretty well worked for
all I've gotten (& you
also). That makes life
so much more deep and
meaningful, I think. Of
course I do want them
to have it quite as tight
as we had it - sometimes
it hindered rather than
enhanced incentive. But
I want them to feel
they're contributing to
their own development
& building their own
lives, material and
mental-emotional-spiritual
in form.

I do know one thing.

I plan to become involved in the non-military movement in America. I do not want Eric or Brian to have to face this unless it's absolutely necessary. I'm not going to raise men to be used up in only ~~partial~~ partially thought out defenses. If this requires political involvement, I'd get involved. This has become a very part of my personality + thought + one must stand up for the few important things affecting his life + the welfare of his family + close friends. By the way, I read another very good article in the New Yorker. It was by a catholic priest of this Eastern sect I was telling you about this last week. He was explaining his participation in civil rights and pacifistic activities. He

said basically that altho
the religious aspect of
Christianity are "other
worldly" the mere act of
God being shown in the
man Christ is a political
act. It is an act to
affect mankind & the
structure of society in
this life. Because of that
a true Christian must
be involved politically to
constantly improve this
world's political social
structure. This requires
actually a resistance to
the establishment as long
as aspects of that establishment
are anti-Christ.
(which may always be ^{in form}
due to human fallibility)
The essence of his thoughts
was that we are really
obligated to non-violently
resist state & conservative
institutions - the state
glass church, the military
establishment, old big

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big business, government,
or labor bureaucracy, and
worn + torn social structures
& more that are expendable
& can be improved. He
preaches, actually not only
getting involved in resisting
the structure, thus joining
other structured organizations
but also doing "your own
thing" on your own personal-
world-contact level. The
article was long, had
many great tidbits of
thought, that I soaked
in. You know, I should
read more magazines. Used
to, I read mostly books,
but I'm finding that some
of the better magazines have
a wealth of info & thought-
provoking articles besides
just news (Liberty old
stand-by, Time). Anyway,
it would be a joy being
a part of this man's
congregation, a tremendous
person with one of the

best organized forms of
religious grouping I heard
yet. These small congregations
work on a direct help-
the people at home system
while providing a family
like structure of small
units that really do 10x
more good than the tall-
steeple set. Not that that
particular sect is what
we must join, but it's
along the line of what I'd
even begin to be interested
in committing myself &
my time to. If we can't
find something fairly
pleasing, I will not go
join a second-best Sunday
School dreamer group just
to get the good cross award
for society's sake. But
there are ways to find out
about groups like these
close to wherever we'll
be, I'm sure. You know
Aunt Marion & Uncle Tom's
church is nice & small -
I liked it. We'll see what

we run into.

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Boy, when I began to write
to you, I don't seem to know
when to stop. Haven't heard
anything on the news about
the Peace Talks or Mr. Nixon's
great new foreign policy. I
feel so damned uninformed
since I've been in the Army.
I hear your better informed
in Nam. They furnish free
press releases daily. I feel
I'd love just about everything
find with me - no more
money than we have.

Our training schedule
has us graduating the
19th & out processing the
morning of the 20th so
I may be home by that
Thursday who knows.
Anyway, I should be home
on the 21st at the latest.
Sound like most will
have to report to Calif. or
March by which time
last weekend. Still don't

have my specific orders
yet, but I expect that
those dates are pretty
close to what they'll be.
Hope it's Oakland, because
they're tied up with a
backlog of group processes
there and it may lengthen
my state-side time before
I go. Just means that
much less time I'll have
to extend over there to
get out early. So here's
hoping it's Oakland.

Looked for a Valentine's
Day card & just couldn't
find one that wasn't sing-
songy or plain old. So
you'll just have to put up
with my plain old "I
love you." I'll be your card
when I get home, O.K.?
How do I find so much to
say after 2 letters yesterday
just looked up the
flag design for S. V. A.
(Or at the library). It's a

yellow flag with three racing stripes down the middle horizontal like this:



with the stripes red. Interesting little tidbit of info - just happen to see it on the table top here.

Everyone's still pretty excited about getting to go home soon. I'll have plans to go by auto, & here are 5 of us & it should be cheaper than by bus and we can leave when we want to, which sounds pretty good since we don't know yet when uncle will let us want to. I doubt if these guys are too reckless - they talk sensible about getting back in one piece. So I'm pretty sure we can trade off the chore getting back & make pretty good time. Got the money order. OK and am sure it will be plenty until I get

paid. Sure do like writing
on this paper I bought
(for a huge 14¢ a pad).
Good thing its thin or
I'd never be able to afford
postage. All I could find
were nice yellow, blue &
pink pastel envelopes at
the PG, so if you see one
don't be too shocked. I
think the guys are nice
but not sweet.

Some of us have to
qualify with the M16 this
week (Mon. & Tues.) but
since I already have I
don't have to go out to
the field. Good thing, too
because its turned cold
again. Of course, I'll
probably end up on some
"shit detail" as they say.
It is the price of a warm body
in the Army, especially as
a trainee. At least I won't
be that much longer. Hope
we're treated better later,
but Cordell seemed to

indicate that until you get
rank, it's not much better
later! Oh, well, only a little
more than a year left. That's
the only thing that cheered
me about Nam - the change
of an early-out. Sounds
great, no est-rig?⁸

I was so worried, I'd not
even be able to write yesterday
for inspection. But with
that barracks orderly, it
it became just the opposite.
I mailed 8 letters last night.
Post mail specialist had
to get all that arranged +
out before inspection this
morning. I like him. He
commented on the smell
of some of your "tissue
envelope" letters. Said it
turned him on. I said I
was flattered for you -
my wife and we've joked
about it everyday since. I

ask if it's a smelly + usually
get some smart answer like
"No, just Mama this time"
or something dumb like that.
Anyway, it's one of the few
laughs of the day + definitely
already the highlight of
every day.

Guess I lay off a while
& read. I love you dear. Feel
like I just had you right
here to babble with. Sure
am relaxed + glad you are
too. Have a happy, happy
week (or at least a not
unhappy one).

Love

Thym