

My dearest wife,

If only you could have shared the sights of today. What a beautiful country! I was pleasantly surprised not being awakened until 6 this morning. So, I got a good night's sleep. Went for our plane after breakfast. It was very hot & sultry. The plane didn't leave until after noon. It was a transport of the old vintage & very hot & noisy. I didn't get to see anything from it - no windows. When the bay opened, there was miles of snow white sand along the runway with green misty mountains in the background. Can Rapp Bay is beautiful & much colder - or lets say cooler than the south. From there we took a plane to Nha Trang & we could see out of this one. Quite a nice voyage! First the white sand against a sea bluer than our auto. Then islands of bright green off shore. The land again & what a land. Nha Trang is a valley port area in the middle on the mountains. The rivers are clear, homes of old french domination, very green paddies, and that blue

blue sea. What a vacation spot. It has to be one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen - even in pictures. Of course the people and goods + bases are surrounded with horrible shums. But the scenery is absolutely breathtaking. Will be here for 2-3 days, then ship off the unit. Don't want at this APO - should have my real address by Tues.

The weather is less humid here + the heat almost comfortable (except in the sun). Feel great. Seen such beautiful things today + been very relaxed.

One of the greatest things I did was go thru a Viet - souvenir gift shop in the Can Rahy Bay Airport. It was there (along with the 15-min flight from there) I missed you most. Oh, honey, I must get some of their pottery. There were elegantly shaped vases - black with intricate designs + scenes done in mother of pearl pebbles (very minute) set in the engloped ~~the~~ paint. So beautiful! Then there were innumeral different

bolts of silk-embroidered cloth
(like that cloth of your cock-tail
dress) in light pastels with
light or shocking designs or
picture. It was gorgeous stuff
for 80¢ a yard! Gues. I liked
the boxes best, tho - and all so
cheap! Also they had full
strain cultured pearl necklaces
for \$20 or so! Wow! And pearl
rings with diamond side sets
for \$25. There's alot to see &
do here - hope I do have a safe
chance to do so sometime. Most
of the guys have hardly bothered
to do more than complain about
the heat & there's so much
to see & think about. Oh, well,
everyone to their own thing.

War news of the day was
that I was in my first air
raid today. We were waiting
in the airport at Sun Ho
when there was a tremendous
blast from the field, with
a second one. There was a
mass rush to the bunkers -
scared me to death. Hundreds
of guys running all over is
enough to scare anyone - add

explosions & it's pretty hairy.
Well, nothing more happened
& we came out to find out
it was our own plane dropping
a couple of bombs by mistake.
Ha, ha, some joke. Rest of the
day was obviously pretty
calm. But the guns are starting
the fire again (it's dark -
always fight at night).

This camp is for further
processing so will be as
diddy as the last. Just hope
I get stationed someplace as
nice looking scenery, wine
as this. Makes taking the
elements more pleasurable,
anyway. Talk is that most
artillery people go to Pleiku
from here. Word is that
the infantry has had some
action there lately but that
that artillery bases are fairly
safe - only mortared once
in past 6 mos. - that's a
good record.

Honey, do write to everyone
else & tell them I'm alright.
Been so busy with processing

etc. only have short time to write + want to spend that with you. Once I'm on a regular schedule, I can write everyone else. So pass word along - o.k.

I can see why this is an R.R. center - it must have been the vacation land of Viet Nam for the French in the 30's - just beautiful - that's all one can say.

Probably missed you most yet today. Wanted you to share this stuff with me - not under these conditions, necessarily - oh, well. Anyway, it did me good to see stuff. Made me feel like it may be possible to make this year interesting - even tho my job + activities in general may be dull or tiring. There's good people, tho, & they have so much around, but are still so poor they hardly can enjoy their beauties + works of art their own land has to offer. The poverty is plain rank. The people + their shacks, smell. They're a ruff people, but when

cleaned up & well clothed
(like the bitches all over town
with their cards to be signed
for appointments) they are
very pretty. Saw 2 little
only decently clothed at the
air port today - beautiful kids.
And hard workers - they
amaze me. Women carry huge
bundles of laundry on their
heads. And these little men
throw around garbage pails like
they were water glasses. If
only we could have spent our
billion helping them rather
than convincing them & forcing
on the new disenchanted ones
of the belief we can offer them
a better life. Why didn't we
give them a better life with
this money to begin with.

Ate ice cream today at
the USO at Cam Ranh Bay. There
are nice places & I couldn't
believe I'd found ice cream
in this place. It was homemade
so I had 2 huge helpings. May
not see that treat for a while.

Looked at tape recorders at
Buen Hoa. Saw a Sony that looked
nice. It was very small. Enough
room for 2 small spindles, a small
speaker, & that's it. Was in a
leather case - which sounds good
if in the field - and was only
\$13 a piece. Hope I can find something
like that up here. Am afraid that
by the time I get sent to base
camp & get paid, their PX
won't have much & we'll have
to wait a while on the recorder.
We'll see. Also want a camera
so bad I can taste it. So much
I want to take a picture of &
share with you & keep. Will
see what happens.

I love you, dear. Want to
hear from home. Surely not much
has happened, but I like to
keep up with all the little
things we like to share. It
may well be nearly 2 weeks
before I do hear from you. Oh,
guess it will be just that
much more appreciated.

Getting writers camp near.
So, I'll close. Will have time
to write more tomorrow, surely.

Must try to sleep in this
nicer climate. First time I've
been comfortable since I got
here. Until tomorrow, I'm
with you comme tu es ici
avec moi, n'est-ce pas? Je
t'aime.

Ryan