

Thursday
July 16, 1970

Dear Mr. Williams,

Your letter arrived yesterday & I just had to write and tell you how much I appreciate your interest & encouragement on this tour. It has made all the difference.

As you know I am stationed here in Bien Hoa. I am not, however, presently working in NLD, but rather in Refugees (renamed War Victims as of 1 July). When I arrived here, Mr. Whitehouse was on home leave but had arranged for me to work in Refugees at least till he returned. The day after his return I had lunch with him & discovered, as you said, that he is a tremendous person. Due to the great influx of refugees from Cambodia, Mr. Whitehouse agreed that I should remain in the Refugee Division on a TDY basis until this crisis-period passes. Working in the CORPS Div., I have had the opportunity to work in provinces throughout III CTZ. So far I've been two Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, Binh Duong & Gia Dinh & should be able to get to all the other provinces before too long. I think Tay Ninh is one of the most beautiful places I've seen - in spite of the B-52 bomb craters. The huge refugee camp there with a population of 13,000 - 14,000 people, is a model of organization. I most appreciate the chance to meet with GVN officials at every level & in all areas, & to talk to the people themselves. My language has been invaluable & I hope I can improve my rating.

Bien Hoa is pretty depressing aesthetically but the friendliness of the people & the evidence of economic growth makes it a very hopeful place in every other way. Possibly when you were last here it was an open-city to the Americans. This is no longer the case so, in spite of the presence of Long Binh & Bien Hoa A.B., the town has managed to keep its own character & the people are not resentful of the CORPS personnel who shop in town.

In fact, with my comfortable quarters, a very satisfying job & many new friends, I am much happier than I had foreseen when contemplating this tour.

Since leaving Saigon, most of us in CORPS XIX have lost contact with our classmates in other corps but from what I've heard, most of them seem to be pretty pleased with their positions.

Your aid in arranging interviews for Lnts, Mary & I with Mr. Maynard was a tremendous help because for the others the Corps assignments seemed to be pretty arbitrary & being able to choose III Corps really meant a lot to me.

I'd like very much to keep in touch with you in the future so please write again if you can find the time. When I ~~get~~ back, maybe we can get together for a good talk. I'd like that. Many thanks again.

Susan

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