

A/3/6
RVN
5 Feb 67

Dear Mrs. Harvey,

I enjoyed very much hearing about your family. It's a good, solidly knit unit, the type there should be more of. In spite of what some educators and psychologists have said, I am ~~not~~ firmly in favor of family life as the best environment for both children and adults. The two greatest needs of people are interconnected -- the need to be a contributing member of a group, and the need to have ~~and~~ another's love. These are both provided for in the family, as are most lesser needs.

Your husband sounds like a fine sort of man, meeting the challenge of life and conquering it, and you seem to

compliment him as loving wife and mother keeping her nest comfortable and her family happy. Your two wonderful children complete the structure and give it all a meaning and a purpose. A well-built family like yours is like a beautifully-constructed chapel. It adds to its surrounding community, and gives the community an additional aesthetic beauty and concrete stability.

We're up in the mountains now, forming a triangle with Dev-co and Plei Djerang. We were on the road to An Khu when we ~~got~~ got orders to come up here -- in fact, we stopped

dead in the middle of Pleiku, rollin' down the main street, when we turned around this way. There's been a lot of trouble brewing here. VC knock over a couple of outposts every night, and there's a North Vietnamese Army division in here somewhere. Couple of nights ago they hit Duc-co and Plei Djerang at the same time; we had half the battery firing in each direction. Right before last the CIDG (a kind of militia) at Duc-co mutinied -- VC infiltrators. Nearly wiped out Duc-co before it was ~~it~~ broken up by us and a whole slew of tanks and APC's.

We've a man-eating tiger

here close by, too. Brown, who used to be a guide in Africa, goes after him every day. Never has even seen the beast, though.

Funny thing... when it was just Charlies we were worried about, we had an open perimeter, but as soon as the bit about the tiger came out, we had to put up triple-roll concertina barbed wire. Not that that would faze a tiger.

Only other thing that's happened lately was a fire in the ammo dump today.

Along about two o'clock while I was asleep, a couple of barrels of diesel caught a tracer bullet and went up, and ~~set~~ set the whole dump on fire -- about 2,000 round of high explosive,

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1,000 rounds of white phosphorus,
and another 1,000 rounds of illum-
ination, smoke and so on, plus
7.62 mm rifle ammo, .45 cal, .50 cal,
grenades (hand and 40mm), signal
flares, and 60mm and 81 mm mortar
ammo. All, of course, with
fuzes and propellant power. A few
of us got there in time, and
put it out before many went
off, though. I think I set a
world record for waking up
and running a hundred meters
with a shovel. Funny, people's
reactions... most of the gun-
nunnies like myself ran to
help, but when things started
exploding the armor and
infantry units started to run
for it -- half the camp left
around, over, under, and through

6

the wire, and most were perfectly safe under cover. Altogether we only had two casualties -- one burns and one shrapnel, and there were about twenty of us there.

I have to go now. I have just time to address this before I go upon the .50 for guard, and I have to get plenty of sleep afterwards 'cause I'm going out with the tanks tomorrow. Au revoir.

Sincerely yours,
L. F. Wiggant

P. S. I just remembered. My APO has been changed from 96 295 to 96 318. LFW

PFC Lawrence F. Wyzant

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APO San Francisco ~~96318~~

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Free



Mrs. Emma Harvey

U. S. A.