

Jan 6
Cam R. Bay

Dear Family -

First of all, don't try writing to the return address on the envelope. A letter would take forever that way, and I'll be finding out what my unit is in a couple of days anyway. Cam Ruid Bay is quite luxurious & the weather is comparatively mild - though I don't know what it's like once away from the ocean. The base itself, or what I've seen of it (it's actually an Air Force base & an Army base & heaven knows how many other discrete units) is absolutely magnificent. The pace that is maintained here is rather leisurely compared to that of a "stateside" base - somewhat the way I'd picture some obscure French or English colonial garrison around the turn of the century. But then, it may very well have been - maybe there's a disease which infects [figuratively!] northern armies, or southern armies - a sort of pleasant ennervation - I'll have to find a suitably scientific name for it. The flight itself was thoroughly

uneventful - a DC-8 chartered from
Airlift International (& gather they
make quite a business from this),
from Seattle to Alaska, Alaska to
an airbase just outside Tokyo, and
from there to here - about 19 hours
in all. The stopovers were quite short
& we were, of course, restricted in our
movements - so no one really got
to see anything. During most of the
flight I slept & occasionally tried
reading a bit more of my Nabokov
novel. Unfortunately, in this one his
celebrated feel for language consists of
belabored puns and irrelevant allusions.
Much of the tedium was relieved &
when three of us began singing songs
we remembered from grade school.
Somehow, everything we couldn't finish
wound up as the chorus from "Short'n
Bread." We found it immensely
entertaining, but I hesitate to guess
what the other passengers thought.

After the Nabokov, I have a series
of essays on Jewish intellectual history,
& I can always pick up something
else at the PX here before I leave.
At the moment, I'm solving the
book-weight problem by giving them

away as I finish; but with some of the titles that may come to present something of a problem. (Maybe I can ~~do~~ about the contents & give them away that way - education by subversion, or at least by fraud).
Jan 4

Our orders just came in - most of us (including most of the people from ALT) are going up to Chu Lai on the coast at the bottom of I Corps, in the north, to get another ~~old~~ replacement company. That probably means we'll be going to The Americal Division, but we'll have to see. I managed to pick up an Anthony Burgess novel, so I have reading material for a while (some-one showed up with a ton of books in his duffel-bag, including hard-covers - heaven knows what he'll do with them all). Anyway, as soon as I know where I'll be, I'll send you my address.

Just remember that while I do miss you, I can't miss you that much - because I have you all with me - for contemplation or consultation whenever I need it.

Love,
Rob