

Jan 16
Chu hai

Dear Family -

At the moment I'm waiting in a shipping shed for the people from my new unit to come and pick us up. Allowing for typical army efficiency, it should be quite some time before anyone arrives, so maybe I'll be able to begin a letter (I hope - right now, there's a rather heated discussion going on about transportation - progress people vs. environmentalists - I may still be able to write).

First of all - did you get the check I sent home. I made provision for the soldier's deposit, but of course it didn't go into effect on the first paycheck, so I thought that was the best way to get rid of some of it. After this, however, it will go straight into an account from the paycheck.

Just before packing up,
I decided to take a look through
the chapel library & discovered
MacDonald's At The Back of the North
Wind, which I've borne off with
me - along with an historical
novel purporting to be Hadrian's
memoirs. When I get settled
down I'll unlimber the tape
recorder & see about sending one of
these.

Jan 18

Apologies for not sending
this right off, but getting settled
is taking quite a bit of time. The
tape recorder works beautifully,
but I won't try making a tape
until I get some quiet - Right
now, every tape recorder in the
hutch (I'm afraid there's no other
word for it) is going full blast,
mine included.

Living quarters - I'm in the standard design, a tin-roofed thing divided into six cubicles, each shared by two men. These person I've moved in with is rather quiet, which I appreciate.

Work - I'm working the nightshift 7pm to 7am, which is good, because there are fewer people around and things are ~~not~~ not as noisy as during the day. The captain I work for is rather an oddish, apparently self-made, insecure, and obsessively tidy - but basically decent - it seems he sends off a note to one's family assuring them one has arrived in one piece. Anyway I think things are going to work out well. Chudai is right on the coast, large and extremely

busy (although not half as busy
as it could be - the atmosphere)
- jeeps, trucks, road graders,
helicopters, and observation
planes of every description are
always buzzing about -
accomplishing heaven knows
what.

Altogether, things are
progressing satisfactorily, but
its time to get supper &
go to work. I'll write more
later.

Love,
R.B.