

BELATED (I THINK) HAPPY BIRTHDAY (I THINK)

TO MOMMA!!!!!!

Chu Lai
April 7
#8

Dear Family -

Another letter, this one necessarily brief, inasmuch as nothing has really happened since I last wrote 3 days ago. However, maybe I can overwhelm the mail situation by sheer volume. (Incidentally, I received letter #20, then #18, then #21!)

It seems that I'm back on the night shift for good -- or at least until someone gets another bright idea. Of course, I'm delighted; the other job was becoming intolerable because of volume and the fact that it was sadly understaffed. It was only when some other people were scheduled to come in that I was able to leave it. Rather odd - we have some replacements scheduled to come shortly; something which made me realize that I'm no longer considered "new in-country" A very fortunate development; a "newfer" is generally in a rather awkward position (although I somehow managed to avoid that, luck, I suppose) and is the "snake" or "turtle" of the unit (someone who took so long to get there). Now I'm actually going to be "shorter" than someone else in the office.

I just finished Galsworthy's To Let and The White Monkey, and now have to decide what I'm going to read next. I started to read Persuasion, but really couldn't get into it. Somehow, what I managed to read seemed much more wooden than Emma. Emma seemed to treat a situation/society/environment/whatever with great delicacy, rather (I suppose) like pinning a moth or butterfly to a card, managing to preserve a fragile thing through that treatment, to make it seem alive. Persuasion (so far as I got, I confess) seems rather wooden, artificial rather than delicate. That's not quite what I mean to get across, but it will have to do at the moment. However, I'll try the book again in the future.

Did you get my last letter (#7)? If not, it contained a request for two books to be bought and saved for when I come home: Roland Mousnier, Peasant Rebellions (Uprisings?) in the Seventeenth Century and the latest volume in the Langer series, The Great Illusion, both published by Harper & Row. Your mercenary son reminds you.

Scene in Galsworthy: Soames Forsyte sits at the breakfast "despising an egg." I know just how he felt.

It's a rather peaceful night. I think I'll try writing one more letter to some lucky soul and do a little reading. There's not much more to relate.

My love to all.



Lais' contributions - please
check & return says she ok?

Multiple Choice Questions - Please circle —
or add — the correct response and return
this form to the sender.

1A. Have you received the Sunday papers
we have been sending (parts of "newspaper")? Yes No

B. Should we continue to send them? Yes No

1. Was food package sent 3/29 in (Craig) Not rec'd yet.
Cassette Box) still too large? Yes No
Please carefully concentrate to fit in one of those little things