

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.

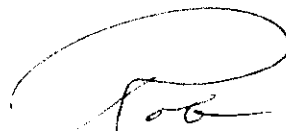
I just finished Galsworthy's To Let and The White Monkey, and now have to decide what I'm going to read next. I started to read Persuasion, but really couldn't get into it. Somehow, what I managed to read seemed much more wooden than Emma. Emma seemed to treat a situation/society/environment/whatever 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' contribution - please  
check & return says she ok?

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

- 1 A. Have you received the Sunday papers  
we have been sending (parts Thursday)? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- B. Should we continue to send them? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1 Was food package sent 3/29 in (Craig  
Cassette Box) still too large? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
I must be awfully concentrated to fit in one of those little things