

Sorry about the rather weak envelope
but it was all I could lay my hands
on at the moment.

#10 (or something like that)

May 6, 1971

Dear Family -

I've received the latest package - the one with the pumpernickle in it, also the one Tricia had sent from A&S; thank her for me. I also have the check-off-what-you-liked letter, and will return it when I can find it. In the mean time there is something you can send me, and as rapidly as possible:

- 1 pr reading glasses (same frames as before)
- 1 pr distance glasses (same frames and same amber tint)

My apologies for losing them again, as far as I can figure out, one of our trusty Vietnamese employees made himself or herself a little money by wholesaling to a shop here that custom-makes sunglasses etc. Unfortunately, I can't get another Army pair - they lost the perscription along with my health records at Ft. Ord. From now on they stay locked up when they're not on my nose. This is too expensive a proposition.

In case I don't find that letter: I do like the pudding and fruit cocktail, which are very convenient and rapidly consumed. Fortunately, you've stopped sending sausages, which are a bit too much.

Our old section officer finally left, the one that "wrote" you that letter, and I am very grateful he's gone. However, I mustn't be too harsh; before he left, he included a letter of commendation in my 201 file (the dossier the Army keeps on me). Still, he was rather conceited and not too bright, and, worst of all had no sense of humor. But he's gone now, and the new branch chief seems to be more capable etc.

In the mean time - I've been recommended for promotion to SP4 (the present equivalent to Cpl), although there aren't very many allotments going around and if I ever get it, it will be several months before anything comes down. Still, it would be nice - especially the extra money. We'll see. Maybe by August or September I might make it.

May 8, 1971

Received the package of books which contained the Galsworthy's Pan of Sky's River; thank you very much, it was a lovely choice. I found Kenneth Clark's Civilization in the special services library (it was a rainy afternoon & they were afraid their roof was going to collapse! They gave me a plastic bag to carry it in - an idea some libraries at home should take up.)

Anyway: Momma; it is not the monsoon season; that doesn't come until the very late of fall. We've had a few Spring tropical storms - but nothing much - rather enjoyable if you're indoors.

Sorry about the brevity of the letter - but I'm working overtime these days. I will try to write more fully in a little while.

I love you all very much,

Bob