

#11, probably

20 May 71

Chu Lai

Dear Family -

Good heavens, it has been a while since I wrote. I'm awfully sorry, but things have been piling up here and I'm getting less and less time of my own to write in. We have a number of people whose tours are ending and who will be leaving, and the replacements we had hoped for haven't shown and aren't likely to. So all of us are doing quite a bit more work to make up for lack of personnel. Anyway, I did have a half-day of yesterday and spent it writing letters to all the people I haven't written to in about 8 weeks or more. I can't remember when I sent off my last letter to you, but that probably means that it's been too long.

I must have written about the AG party, which was quite pleasant, and I'm sure I wrote about needing glasses again. If I didn't, it's on that fill-in-what-you-like form Lois sent, which I returned yesterday.

Let's see; what's been happening? Not a lot. I finished the Forsyte Saga, and will have to move on to other things. It's curious that I like novels of that sort, Galsworthy and Powell. I suppose that it has something to do with the creation of an entire world of characters, rather like a superior version of a soap opera. [I was speaking to someone who spent his R&R in Nationalist China, and said that he'd seen a Chinese soap opera, which, though he couldn't understand the language, seemed exactly like an American one, only transferred to Taiwan]. I found a copy of Kenneth Clark's Civilization in the special services library (wait a minute, I know I wrote to you about that ... however, it does deserve a second mention) which I enjoyed immensely. Have you read anything by Iris Murdoch - definitely odd.

Sometimes I think that people might be right and the Army is changing. One of the first things my new OIC did was to hang up an anti-war poster in the office. I loathe the Army for a number of reasons, but in what other army could someone do something like that? If nothing else, it argues for an odd sort of confidence.

Got your latest food package yesterday. Only a few fig newtons are left, inasmuch as when it was seen what they were, most of the people in the office carried off a few, even if they were beginning to be a bit stale. Yum.

Small note, not really important but mildly satisfying. We were notified yesterday that we're now officially rated as the most efficient medevac section in Vietnam, beating out the 101st by .1%.

More work just came in, so I'll cut it off here. I do love you all very much, and always think about you.





South ←

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- A hand-drawn diagram of a room layout. A vertical line represents a wall or partition. To the left of this line are several items: a bed (1), a table (2), a foot locker (3), a guard gear (4), and a screen (5). To the right of the line are: a fan (6), bookshelves (7), a room partition (8), a front shutter (9), a tin roof (10), a false ceiling (11) with the note '(more addition)', a front door (12), and a next room (13). A circular object with a cross-hatch pattern is drawn to the left of the wall line, and a lightning bolt symbol is drawn above it.
- 1] bed
 - 2] table
 - 3] foot locker
 - 4] guard gear
 - 5] screen
 - 6] fan
 - 7] bookshelves
 - 8] room partition
 - 9] front shutter
 - 10] tin roof
 - 11] false ceiling
(more addition)
 - 12] front door
 - 13] next room

