

Chu Lai
June 7

Dear Family -

I had a whole (not a half, but a whole) day off yesterday, which was very much needed. I'm afraid, though, that I really didn't do anything very exciting. After running myself a few errands, I settled back to read Bainton's Erasmus all day, which was really the very best way to spend it. I don't know which was more surprising, the number of details which one can forget or how quickly they do come back to mind. Anyway I enjoyed myself immensely, and was reassured of Bainton's good sense when I started finding footnotes to "Hannah Holborn Gray." Mrs. Gray has never bothered to write very much, but what she has manages to force itself on one's attention. It is, of course, a pleasant sensation to be in the middle of a scholarly work (Bainton is popular, perhaps even obvious at times, but one must grant him his scholarship) and to run into something so reassuringly familiar as a reference to a favorite professor ... and to the things she spent a year (not drumming but) subtly introducing into one's rather thick skull.

I am, naturally, suitably impressed by my sister's GRE scores. I generally describe my sister as "far more intelligent" than myself, if only to watch their faces - however, an actually superior performance is another matter. Really madam, this sort of thing must cease! And that has absolutely nothing to do with "male chauvinism;" it's pure egoism speaking. [Incidentally, people generally show each other all their photos. So far, the two which have elicited any kind of enthusiastic response are the one by Laviosa and the one of Jimmy playing his recorder. Not because of their male occupants, however. The general comment, to you and Tricia, is "She's very attractive," followed rapidly by "How old is she?" I'm afraid the answer in both cases has caused general disappointment.]

Oh yes, I didn't get down to the beach yesterday for one simple reason...shark warnings, just like Jones Beach, though around here they're probably a bit larger. We may get a chance to go down to the beach during lunch hour during the hot season. It seems the CG has become concerned about the support troops when he discovered that 1/3 of the AG Company was composed of constant (not occasional) heroin users...and that doesn't even take into consideration the people who use milder drugs. Charming, but it may bring about some improvement in living conditions. Anyway, the beach thing is one possibility that is being considered. A measure to combat the rather stifling boredom. However, I am content with Indochina's most rapidly-growing library - mine.

As for the odd shape of my stationery - I started to sketch one of my boots on the bottom of the page, but it started to look more like a lima bean than a boot, so I eliminated it with a pair of scissors. So much for Art.

That's about it for now. I love you all very much.

