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13 Aug 71
Chu Lai

Dear Family -

As usual, apologies for not writing sooner, but I'm afraid that work has accelerated lately to the point where I really don't have any time of my own. With so many new officers, most of whom know virtually nothing about the operations of the Company (and, unfortunately, nearly all of whom are determined not to admit it) things are rather awkward, and an immense amount of paperwork is being produced which has absolutely no reason for existence. That, coupled with a severe manpower shortage, which we've been told will not be rectified, is making life rather difficult at the moment. So, I've been spending quite a bit of extra time at the office and working at quite a few things which have nothing to do with my job. "say, would you type up this disposition form for the Chief of Staff - and revise the second paragraph while you're at it?"

The point of no replacements is that the division will (eventually, but probably not for several months) be shut down. The hospital in Chu Lai itself is already cutting down operations in preparation for being closed out. Since that is the case, it would be advisable to stop sending the library books, inasmuch as they don't have enough patients for them any more and are hesitant to accumulate anything.

I think that I already mentioned that I'd received package #3 and the books. At the moment, I have such a backlog that I don't know when I'll ever be able to read through it - even the portion that I especially want to read - since I just don't have the time any more. If you have some especially marvelous book, it might be better to send it in an envelope.

I've developed another roll of photographs, but printing them to send ~~home~~ home will have to wait a while until I have the time (a couple of them were taken with a borrowed telephoto lens, so they should be interesting).

I'm afraid that that's about it - nothing very interesting to say except that I'm quite well and love you all very much -


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