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10 September
Chu Lai

Dear Family-

What's absolutely new and earth-shaking since I wrote Last? Not a lot, I'm afraid. Zach, in lieu of trying to write, sent along a copy of a paper on 17th-century Bordeaux he did over the summer - so, just to be annoying, I'll have to bend him a critique - & to see just how much I do remember. In the meantime, I'm still finishing the Holborn Germany & Europe - which, in my present mood, is a pure delight.

Reminded of my sister's story of a woman at a party gushing over "important books" as opposed to the novel, I picked up a copy of The Greening of America - and spent the first 50 pages howling with laughter. It's the sort of writing that would be much more appropriate in Look magazine, i.e., vague generalities & simplistic "truths." It seems that the supposedly literate segment of the public is composed to a rather large extent of somewhat flaky-minded individuals. At any rate, before I'd gotten very far, I'd thrown it down & gone back

to Holborn.

It's still extremely warm here - & it looks as though it might stay that way until the end of October (& hope). There are heavy clouds forming on top of the mountains at the end of the day - but so far they're quite innocuous - and are producing what are unquestionably the most spectacular sunsets I've seen - with colorings that, unfortunately, I doubt a photograph could reproduce - opaque purples and huge luminous areas of reds & pinks, all laced by heat lightning.

Did I ever mention that I got to see "Waterloo" some weeks ago. I'd Steiger as Napoleon comes off rather unusually, to say the least. That, combined with cutting it down to a length tolerable to American audiences and the ~~elongation~~ ^{elongation} ~~effect~~ ^{effect} one gets with wide-screen film on a small screen, produced a somewhat unreal effect. Not a particularly good flick, certainly, but lots of costume and panache - which are thoroughly enjoyable. Napoleon addressing the troops, and, of course, the ball on the eve of the battle [A scene which has been

ruined for me by the "Saturday Review" cartoon: "Gentlemen, isolated enemy units have been sighted..." as a muddy enemy private waltzes happily with one of the ladies.]

I've noted that, for some odd reason, there's one affectation in wearing uniforms here that involves turning jungle fatigues into something as close to a jäger suit as possible - though I'm sure the people who do it ~~don't know~~ ^{aren't aware of} what a jäger suit is - or its association with GBS. It involves blousing the trousers at midcalf - but is most convincing when a walking stick (an affectation most noticable among the blacks) is added. The jacket looks almost right with it, although the end result is generally somewhat comical.



That's about it. I love you all very much. Be happy. Stay well.

Rob