

#40

Chu Lai  
17 Oct

Dear Family -

Halt, cease, desist, and so forth. As I mentioned in my last letter, I am coming home early - however, now you can expect me some time around the 5th of November. October 28 will be my last day in Chu Lai, so plan your letter accordingly - inasmuch as your mail takes about 6 days to get over here, your last one would be sent on the 22d. I've already mailed home two packages of books (book rack, so they may take some time) and have another two - and then one of odds and ends - so that I don't have all that much to carry when I start moving.

In the meanwhile, we're busy trying to clear ~~up~~ up all our various loose ends before clearing out... people in the hospitals being medivaced when their unit stands down so that they don't have to stay behind here, helping various people clear up the rolls (every unit contains a few "ghosts" who don't exist), and getting the unit physically ready to move. Although we're standing down, most of the people in the company will simply be moving to Da Nang - where the unit will be re-constituted under a different name - so I'm rather fortunate in going home.

Even so, I do have quite a bit more time of my own than I've had for some months. I've finally been able to get into Antonia Frazier's biography of Mary Q of S.

The weather's cooled off delightfully with the monsoons - although with the attendant disadvantage of turning Chudai into a large glob of red mud. It hasn't quite gone as far as when I first arrived, though, so the change from summer is still enjoyable.

(Please note: yes, I did get the viewer and slides - though storing them is a bit of a problem [despite the viewer's smallness - & it is quite a good one] - however, I'll be home before I see the next series.) The pizza arrived today - I believe that we'll have to fix it up tonight - thank you.

An accomplishment (or sense-of, at any rate): this morning I was awakened a little earlier than usual to say good-bye to the first person from "my batch" of draftees. My situation has become so seemingly permanent that it's rather difficult to believe that it's ending. However, one more assignment after this and I'll be done, which is rather encouraging.

Love,  
Joe