

L. A. LEAZIERO Gmg 2

U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY

DET. DONG TAM (R. U. N)

F. P. O. SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.

96648

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FREE



~~Mrs Dorothy Vallesas~~

~~Carpentersville Ill.
60110~~

Hi There

3/25/68

Well I got your letter today, I want to thank you for the book you sent, and also for the paper, many said that you were going to write, so I was kinda looking for your letter. as you can see I don't write to good either. well I tell you a little about this place, all it is, is a dust bowl, the dust blows all the time day and night, and the heat is some thing else to, but after the sun starts down it cools off pretty good, you could use a blanket, but almost all the men just sleep in there clothes because of the mortar attacks, and rocket attacks, it gets kinda cold laying out in your bunker with no clothes on, I have only been here over two weeks, and we have already been hit six times already, all of it comes after dark, and when you hear the siren, you better be heading for the bunker, by that time they already dropped about two or three rounds in, so you can see you can't waste

to much time, the army here they
shoot all the time day and night with
their big guns, but I am already use
to the noise, and it dont take long here
to tell the outgoing rounds, from the
incoming rounds. thats for sure. I
wish that I was at one of them good
old parties around there right now
they sure do make you feel good
all the parties that drove to up
there was out standing. No I am
not driving bus or truck over here, I work
in the armory here taking care of all kinds
of guns, plus make boat runs on the Mekong
river, plus I am mater at arms here on the
base, I dont know how many more jobs
I get before I get out of here. By the way
tell me a little about you self and
your family. Well I guess I better go
to chow now which is good here
for what conditioris they work under
to make it, so I'll say good bye for
now and hope to hear from you
again

your Friend
Larry

Hi There

4-7-68

I got your letter today, and I mite
as well get right at it answering it
I hope that all of you are fine, as
for my self I am fine, except
for the same stuff, the heat and
the dust, which is here all the
time day after day. you are talking
about school how things have changed
I know that they have, I have three
in grade school, and their work is
a lot different from what I used to
have when I was there ~~age~~. I got a
letter from marge to, and she said
that she had finally got over to see
you, and you had just got a letter
from me. as for the R. V. N. that stands
for the Republic of Viet Nam, you know
marge ask me the same question
about that, yes we are south of Hanoi
50 miles I would say and five miles
south of my Tho Dong Tam aint
on the map, but my Tho is. as
for the P. X here there is one on army
side of the base, which every one

uses, so that most of the good stuff
that they do get in don't last too long
soap, they usually have that, and a
few different kinds of candy, they do
pretty good for as many men as there
is here on the base. Beer we can get
6 cases a month, plus three quarts of
whiskey a month, plus three quarts
of wine if you like wine I don't care
for it too much so I don't even buy
it, we got that ice box in our house
that we keep full of beer and pop, so
we don't go thirsty, that's for sure, and
we got a little club here on the way side
with a pool table, and a regular long
board shuffle board. Margie said that
you all send a package, will I be waiting
on it, it will take a month at the
most more then likely to get here
or sooner, depends on the air planes
will the V.C. have been giving us
too much slack in the last two
days he mortored us Friday night
then he dropped some more rounds
in on us this morning about

four o'clock I guess he had some
extra ammunition that he didn't want
again so he dropped it in on us, real
nice guys these V.C. well I got to go get
some sleep, because I didn't get to mud
last night, and we don't have to work
today, being Sunday, we work six out
of seven every week. So good bye for
now, and hope to hear from you
soon

As always
Larry

Hi

4-18-68

I received your cards, and two letters, but I have have pretty busy that's why I havnt answered your letter before this, mainly because we are suppose to be hit this Sat. by about 5000 VC. so the whole base has been hopping around getting things ready, just in case and attack comes, they loaded up about 900 rangers today which are going to slow the VC down as much as possible, so every one around here is sorta sweating this Sat. but if they come between the army and the navy I reckon we can handle them. I got your cards on Easterday and there was two of them. I was going to try and send you and Marge a card, but they never did get any in over at the P.X. they wouldid have lasted long if they had I guess. I got the pictures back from Marge of my children. if you got any of your family send them to me, then I'll send them back to you, I'll send

mind. What do you think about the
peace talks, do you think they
will do any good if they do get
together? If and when I do leave over
here I want to stop and see Jack and
Marge, and also you and your
family, my wife is going to meet
me in Chicago when I do come home
and I already told her that we
were going to see you and Marge
before we go on to Indiana. Well
I guess I had better start cleaning
my rifle, and I also got one of the
officers rifles to clean which will
put me up a while longer. I keep
mine clean all the time, but some
of these guys their rifles wont shoot
for the dust and dirt inside
them. I guess they just dont care
but I damn sure do, thats the only
thing that is going to at least
give a man half a chance anyway
well I guess I better get to work
I got duty all night here in the
armory and it is after ten now
by the time I get done it

will be twelve any way, I thought
we might get him tonight with motors
but I guess Charlie is saving them
for the weekend. So I'll say
goodbye for now and write you
later.

as always
Larry

5-1-68

Hi There

I hope this letter finds you all in the best of health. as for my self I am fine. well I got your package the other day I want to thank you for sending it. I kept some of the stuff and passed the rest out to the other guys that live here in my house. I also think that you have a awful good looking family thanks for the pictures. I am going to send them to my wife to see, then have her send them back. well things was pretty quiet around here up until last night, the first mortars started coming in about two this morning, so we spent and hour in our bunker, then went back to bed, then at four they started coming in on us again, and they was really close I could hear the

~~the~~ pipes going through the air
after they had' employed on the ground
we sure didid waste time getting
to that bunker again, because when
they come in that close, there the
ones that could get out. so I guess I'll
sleep with all my clothes on tonight
and my boots, just in case we get
hit again, it takes to much time
grabing your pants and boots, helmet
and flak jacket. I looked for some
one that wanted to recivie more
mail but I havit found any one
yet, for your friends to write, but
I will keep looking. well I guess I better
try and get some sleep, in case we do
get hit some time tonight, tell every
one I said hello, and thanks again for
the stuff that you sent.

Your Friend
Larry

5-24-68

Hi Everyone

Well I am finally getting around to writing you, we have been pretty busy around here, plus I got behind in all my letter writing, Boy the weather here is some thing else the rain cools it off some but it dont take long to get hot again then it stays that way until about nine o'clock at night. As for the VC hitting the base here, well they have give us a little rest, they havnt hit us since about two weeks ago, so most of us caught up on a little sleep, not having to get up and running to the bunker all night long. Well how have all of you been just fine I hope. I hear that it is still a little cool around there. I sure would like to see some cool weather for a change, but I guess it will be Jun. before I will be able to do that after I finally leave this place for good, and I hope that I never have to come back to this place after that. I was late writing to marge to so I hope she wasnt to

worried, but better late than never
I guess. Well I want to go to the
club and get a beer, so I had better
say good bye for now. Hope this
letter finds you and the rest of
your family all in good health.
Write when you can.

Your Friend
Larry

6-3-68

Hi Everyone

Well I am a little late again in answering you last letter but the work load around here has started to pick up a lot, we got a new squadron of boats in, and we are trying to get them squared away, because they are going up around the D.M.Z and operate, so I am behind in all my letter writing again. I got the paper that you sent also the other day. Well every thing had been quite around here since our last attack that injured 13 navy men here on navy side, but this morning old Charlie dropped a bunch more mortar in on us, we stayed in the bunker for about an hour, he hit about four thirty in the morning, and that is late for him he usually hits way before that, but that's one of the things about the VC, you never know what he will do. The fighting seems to be picking up around here again, I guess because of the big push on Saigon, the more the army gets rid of there, the less that will come on down into the Delta around here. I talked to a guy off one of the boats that just came

back from my around the P.M. 2. and he
said that Charlie is using 600 lb. mines
in the rivers up there which are all
Russian made, so that shows what the
North can get a hold off. but they are still
losing a lot more men than we are, so I
guess in time they will end this war
for lack of men. Well I guess I'll now I got
a boat run early in the morning down
to the town of my Ho, and we were
get hit tonight again, and I just can't sleep
in that bunker for well so I'll say good
bye for now, I hope everyone in your
family is just fine I'll write more
later on.

Your Friend
Larry

6-16-68

Dear Dad + Family

well I got your letter the other day, and was very glad to hear from you. Well things are still pretty quiet around the base here yet, although they are fighting all around us, and as you know Saigon is getting hit about every day now, as for us here we havnt been hit in well over a week except for one round Charlie dropped in yesterday afternoon right about chow time, but we dont even worry about just one round as long as it doesnt get you, but that is the only one in over a week, so maybe Charlie ran out of ammo again. I hope he stays out for a while because I sure do enjoy getting a full nights sleep once in a while. you know I am the same way when I take my wife out or we go with another couple I usually spend all the money I take with me. except for over here we get beer for a dime from the army, but in our club here on navy side we pay 20¢ a can which still isnt to bad. but some of the guys go a little crazy on the 10¢ beer I have been in the club many nights and couldnt ever buy a drink because someone is always

Having a party either for leaving V.N. or coming
through a fire fight with VC, these sailors are
and altogether different sailor like is on the
ships in the States, every one is so much closer
together here because we are a team and it
takes team work. Well I go to go so I cut
this letter a little short, tell every one that
I said hello and take care of yourself

as always

Larry

7-8-68

Hi Every One

well I suppose you think I forgot how to write since I haven't written in a while well the work load here has picked up so much that we are working 7 days a week now twelve hours a day, and with this heat most of the time I take a shower and go to bed, things have been quite around here now for about three weeks now except for one mortar round that came in a couple nights ago but we don't worry about just one round coming in, as long as it don't hit us. I got the box that you sent also I want to thank you and the other people that made it up every one in the group enjoyed every thing. I am glad that you all had such a great time on your vacation it sure must have been an outstanding place I got the nice card that you sent from there to, maybe one of these days I can make a trip like that I know that my wife would enjoy it to, as for a picture of my self I don't have any, so I'll get one of the guys to take one this week, and send

it to you. I don't know how it will turn
out, because I don't take too good a picture
I made a 35 mile trip up the Mekong River
today in a boat to pick up some gear
I guess we was lucky because we didn't
have any trouble with the VC coming or
going, well I guess I better get to bed I got
to get up early in the morning again
with all this work I can't hardly find
time to even drink a few bottles of beer
so I think I will take time tomorrow
night though. Tell everyone that I
said hello, and I hope that every
one is just fine. Goodbye for now
and write soon

Your friend
Larry

7-19-68

Dear Dorothy & Family

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health, as for my self I am just fine, well every thing is still quite around here, the VC are supposed to start another big push starting tomorrow so I think that I will be sleeping pretty light tonight, from the word we got here they are suppose to try and overrun the base here as well as Saigon, so every one is kinda jumpy here on the base, so all we can do is wait and see what Charlie is going to do. I thought I told you that I got the box that you sent I have had it about two weeks now every one enjoyed it thank you. Well I got about 25 days before meet my wife in Hawaii, I leave Saigon the 13 of Aug so I will be with her from the 13 until the 19, they give us one week in some other country, it sure will be wonderful to see her, of course the kids will have to stay home because of the money it will cost her to fly \$350.00 round trip from

Indian and that is with a military
discount. Well I guess I better be
getting on to bed tomorrow is going
to be another long day again. Good
bye for now, and write when you
can

as always

Ferry

8-1-68

Hi

Well I have been pretty busy lately so I haven't had much time to write every thing around here is still pretty quiet, it has been over one month now since we have been hit by Charlie, all we are doing right now is work and now we are waiting for this big attack that is suspected from the VC, there are a lot of VC down here in the delta, they are all waiting for which should be their last big attack through the delta, no one knows for sure when it will come, but it will, as you have more than likely heard on the news back there. Oh I finally got a picture to send you, it kind of is but I don't take to good a picture any way, it was taken out front of the place where I work the sand bags is around all the places that we work and

where we live, and they sure
do come in handy. Well I leave
here the 10th of this month, then
leave Saigon early the morning
of the 13th for my five days
with my wife, I sure hope
that the VC don't start all this
stuff before I get on that plane
I am really looking forward
to that trip more so than
I have any trip that I ever
made. Well I guess I better
get to bed I got another big
day tomorrow, so tell every one
that I said hello, and write
as often as you can.

as always
Larry

8-30-68

7th

well I'll bet you thought I got lost or
something, well I went on P&R then
when I got back we had so much
work ahead of us that I just hadn't
had time to write like I should
as for the trip to Hawaii to meet
my wife well it was the best
five days that we have ever spent
together it sure is a nice place
there, we went all over the island
took tours, I think I must have
spent about 70 or 80 dollars on film
for the camera I bought over there
we both sure did have a wonderful
time I would have missed it for
nothing, now all I can think about
is getting out of here and getting
back home to see the kids because
they all stayed home while Judy
came to meet me. I guess they really
raised a fuss, but it would have
cost too much money to bring them
all over there. I was only back
here one day before we started

getting hit by Charlie again, it seems
funny in a way one day you visit your
wife and two days later you are
sitting in a bunker with mortars
coming in all over the place, this is
one hell of a war that's all I can say
and it doesn't look like the Paris
talks are doing any good at all to
me, every one waiting on the other
one to see who is going to do
what first I am glad that I will
be getting out of this hole come
Jan. some time, and put my feet
down on the ground back there in
the world away from all this
mess over here, well how is the
family just fine I hope every one
working hard every day I'll send
you a couple more pictures next
week if I can get some film. I
worked all night last night again
moving ammunition from one magazine

to the other, plus we have got to
move out of the armory where I work
now, pretty soon into a new building
that the civilians built for us so
that will be a big job too. one thing
about this place there is a lot of
work, and the hours are getting
longer it don't bother me too much
because it sure makes the
days go by a lot faster. Well
I got to get to bed so tell every
one that I said hello and I hope
that all of you are in the best
of health.

As always
Larry

9-26-68

Hi Every One

Well I have got quite a few letters from you, but they have been keeping us really working these last couple of weeks, it seems like every time we are suppose to get a little slack, well some thing else comes up, but being in a place like this I guess I will finally get use to it some day, so I am sorry if I am a little late. Well things here on the base have really been quiet for the last month or so, we have not took a round in on the base at all, but they sure have been doing a lot of bombing and fighting just a few miles from the base. The weather here it has rained for the last three days and this whole place will nothing but one big ~~and~~ mud pole, the rains are suppose to be over with next month, but I'll

looks to me like they are just starting
there. I heard that you was having
rain to, and Judy said that it
has rained for a week there, as
for the trip we took together, we
just had the polard camera, I wish
that I would have had a movie
camera, it was really a place to
see, it would make a grand place
to go any time, as well as you like
to go on trips I know that both
of you, would sure enjoy it. Well
I fear as I know yet I will leave here
the last week ~~in June~~ I should
be in Chicago some time on the
13 of Feb. so I have got to go see
Marge and Jack so I am looking
forward to seeing all of you too
I hope to stay a couple days. Judy
will be there too if the weather
isn't too bad for her to get there

along with the kids I will sure be
glad to get back to the world, I have
really miss the family more this
time then I ever have, well I guess
I better get to bed because tomorrow
is going to be another long day
so tell everyone that I said hello
and I hope that all of you are in
the best of health take care.

as always
Larry

MSU 14-1968

Hi

well I am behind in my writing again I owe you at least two letters but I have been busy around here working at the club here and attending my own duties every three days. well things around here have been quite for a while at least we haven't been hit in over a week now so maybe things are going to slow down since the bombing halt. I don't know but I don't think myself of the halt myself at all, and there are a lot of guys here that think the same thing but it's done, so we hope for the best. well I expect to be in the Navy for nine more months but I still should see all of

you the last of Feb or the first
week in March when I will
get transferred to from here I don't
know yet I got to wait on my
orders to come here first, then
I'll know what my next duty
station will be and when at
but I should still get my thirty
days leave upon leaving (V. N.)
I am sure looking forward
to seeing you and the family
plus Marge and Jack and
their kids. I hope to stay
in Carpentersville about two days
all depending on weather my
wife meet me there to, the
only thing that would stop her
would be the weather, well
it is a way off yet, so I guess
I will wait and see when
I get there it sure will be
a relief to get away from
all this more like going into
a new world when I get to

San Francisco. I don't drink much
here, but I sure am going to
have a good night out that
first night just to celebrate getting
drunk all in one piece well I guess
I better go to chow now so tell
every one that I said hello and
hope to see all of you before
too long

as always
Larry