

Interesting Facts

Total number of letters I received
from Bob in Vietnam - 110

AFC ROBERT A KOLLAR
RA169 24918
101 REPL DET
101ST ABN DIV
APO ~~96383~~ 96383



MRS MARY KOLLAR

FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
61032
U.S.A

First letter from Vietnam

Sgt. Robert A. Kollar E
HHC 3rd Bde., 101st Airborne Division
Scout Dog Section
APO San Francisco 96383

FREE



Mrs. Mary Anna Kollar

Freeport Illinois

61032

United States of America

UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES - VIETNAM

Last letter from Vietnam

Sp/4 Robert A. Kollar RA16920918
HHC 3d. Bde 101st Abn Div (Airmobile)
Sgt. Day Sect
APO San Francisco 96383

FREE

Dec. 3, 1968 (39)



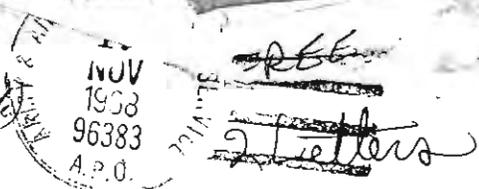
Mrs. Mary Kollar

Freeport Illinois
61032
United States of America

UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES - VIETNAM

Dec. 3, 1968 - 97 days in Vietnam
268 to go

Sp/4 Robert A. Kollar RA16920918
HHC 3d. Bde 101st Abn Div (Airmobile)
Sgt. Day Sect
APO San Francisco 96383



Nov. 15, 1968
286 to go

Mrs. Mary Kollar
Freeport Illinois
61032
United States of America

Turned Sp/4

Nov. 15, 1968 - 286 days to go
- turned Sp/4

Wednesday Aug 28 1968

Dearest Mary

This is going to be probably the very last letter you will receive from me from the United States for one year. Next correspondence will be from South Viet Nam!

The closer everyone gets to departure the edgier they are getting. The thinking is what get you. Believe me, if I wasn't with six other guys from Scout Dog's it would be a lot tougher than it really is for me. There are only seven of us scoutdoggers in group 9 (our howl group) all the others are either going before or after us. Jobs are cracked amongst us to ease the tension - faces are getting kind of grim. There's a lot of letter writing going on.

We're in Bldg 590 and are restricted to it till our departure from Oakland. 590 is a huge warehouse like structure with a sea of bunks, several TVs, a row of hot food, hot or cold drinks vending machines, and pool tables.

We are scheduled to leave Oakland at 5:00 AM (7:00 AM your time) on Thurs Aug 29th. We

arrive at Travis Air Force Base at 6:00 (8:00 PM your time) and take off at 7:00 PM (9:00 PM your time). The flight is supposed to last around 2 1/2 hrs. That means we could arrive at Ben Hoa at around 1:00 PM Saturday Aug 31st - Labor Day. That would be 6:00 PM in Freport.

Viet Nam is ^{2 1/2} ~~two~~ hours ahead Deepot I think check & see - it might be nine like I told you on the phone. You can check by looking on a world map that shows time zones. Put a time on Freport & increase 1 hr for each time-zone to the East until you get to Nam. Let me know what you get.

Last night and tonight talking to you was pure necessity for me. I really needed to communicate with you. I'm deeply honored and grateful to your concern for me & your expression of love & empathy through your tears. That, though you were hurt deeply, was the most beautiful thing you've ever done for me. I really need

to be loved and reminded of that love to
soothe my insecure being. The expression
of your tears means the world to me
that you, whom I love more than
any creature on this Earth, love simple,
stubborn, sometimes (records) immature,
unworthy me. Thank you my Darling
for the greatest gift ever - your
precious love.

In a few riped emotions yet
about our decision not to get you
pregnant before I left. Although
our decision was a sound one I
can't help but regret that I did
leave you without child - a part of
~~me~~^{us}. - sort of unfulfilled. I hope
it turns out we were right because
what's done is done!

As I lie here, facing the unknown
of tomorrow, I think of all that has
passed between us and am grateful
for all the time I have been able to
spend with a wonderful woman. I

remember many happy and wonderful times we had together also the trying and sad times. I wouldn't change a moment.

Thus now we leave today. I'll try to call you before we leave but if I don't get to we've said our goodbys already.

I'm awfully glad you are going on that Conn. trip. It'll be good for you to get away. But get back safe.

Harry, I really wish there was more I could say but I can't cry to you or bemoan my fate here - I'm here that's all.

Just remember I love you with all my heart and am looking forward to the day we may be together again.

Take care of yourself and God bless you. I love you

Robert.

Sep 1 1968

Dear Mary

Here it is your first letter from Viet Nam.

But you thought you were cool going to Europe, a real world traveler! Well I'm a world traveler too now. I've been to Hawaii, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.

I taped the tape over but don't know when (if) I'll be able to mail the tape to you.

We took off from Travis AFB around 7:00 PM Pacific time & had a meal on the plane. Couldn't see the ocean - just a sea of clouds.

Landed at Honolulu Internat'l Airport around 8:30 PM Hawaii time & it was dark out but cool. Had a very short stay but we hit the bar. Didn't have time to enjoy drinks - just throw them

down our throats. I gulped 2 shots of whiskey, 2 T and T's, and 1 Singapore Slings. I needed to loosen up.

On the plane I read a book about Howard Hughes, the billionaire, and slept.

Landed at Cubi Point Naval Air Station on ~~the Bataan~~ Bataan, the Philippines because Clarke Air Force Base was closed because of weather. We got there about 2:00 AM local time & stayed till dawn when we took off for Clarke. Right across the landing strip from us was the aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, loaded with planes on its flight deck.

When we took off for Clarke the view was breathtaking. A bay full of ships surrounded by lush

mountainous green islands.
After a stay for 1 hr at Clark
we took off for Ben Hoa.

We sure got nervous when
we sighted the coast of Viet Nam.
We passed over miles & miles &
miles & miles of down jungle
God did rather fight in Czechoslovakia,
- no jungle! Landed at Ben
Hoa around 10:00 AM (at noon
(9:00 PM ^{orig} local time)). Damn it looked
like a war zone! Scary even.
We boarded air conditioned buses
& drove 6 miles to Long Bien to
the 90th Replacement Detachment.
Ben Hoa & Long Bien are around 60 mi.
North East of Saigon.

I'm sitting on my bunk in the
barracks & it's HOT! here. My god
it's hot. Right now I've got a headache.

When we got here we had to convert
our cash to military script. Enclosed you

will find 400 worth of the paper money. It's not Vietnamese money (piasters) but US military money. Don't spend it in one place.

I don't yet know my address. You can be sure you'll get it as soon as I do. I can't wait for a letter from my one & only girl! Write as soon as you can. Disregard the return address on this letter as it will no longer be good for me in 1 or 2 days & they can't forward mail ~~there~~ from here to where I'm going.

We should know where we'll be by tonight or tomorrow.

Right now I'm in one of the most secure areas in Nam. I'm not really scared yet because it's all like a dream. The danger's there but you don't really realize

yet. Unfortunately that realization will
come soon enough.

It's now Mon Sep 2 noon. I meant
to finish this letter last night but
the headache got to be too much
so I had to lie down. I've still
got it. Gotta get some aspirin today.

I'm almost certain we'll get assigned
today so I think I'll delay the closing
of this letter till after 6:40 AM formation.

I sure do miss you hon. Every-
time I look at my watch I see what
time it is where you are. I try to
imagine what you're up to. I hope you
got to go on your trip ok. Sure am
sorry 'bout your kidney trouble.

It's going to be another hot day
today. I'm dripping already at 6:00 AM!

I sure do wish I could see you
right now & hold you in my arms &
make love to you. Imagine how great

It will be to be together in Hawaii
on R.A.R.? Maybe I can then
see what the airport looks like
in the daylight!

I love you more than anything
or anyone in the whole world.

Have faith that we'll be together
soon my love and we will be.

Good bye for now my darling

Write as soon as you get my
permanent address and keep yourself
safe for me.

Je t'aime mon amour
Robert.

P.S. I've been assigned to the 101st AIR CAV. (formerly
the 101st AIRBORNE but they don't jump by parachute any more.)
Let Mom & Dad know my unit & tell Dad that it used
to be 101st airborne & hell know what unit it is.

nicknamed
the "Screaming
Eagles"



Enclosed is a
polaroid of my bin.

Nov 15 1968 Fri.

Camp Evans South Vietnam

Mary,

After I finished my happiness letter to you last night I had an enjoyable evening chatting with friends.

Remember I wrote our pl. Sgt "promised" no one would go out till his dog was ready? Bunk! This is a pl. Sgt & not an officer like our CO Capt. Bond. Yet he has officers above him too.

11:00 PM last night Bond told "Porby" Liphon & Sgt Allright they would be going out at 8:00 AM today. Damn that was a low kick especially to Porby. He just got his dog a month ago as his other dog was sick & died. Porby has had the dog a month but has never had a chance to work him at all except the trip we were working in had. Reno, his dog, was not doing with a damn, walking through wires like crazy. Porby was really scared & tears were in his eyes as he knew he did not know how to read his dog and that his dog was bad on wires & he would be going to heavily wired area. Kind of a suicide mission.

Our CO died however, at the last

2

might get a few more training days for
the dog, five. Nothing like a left
minute reprieve. So Albaugh & Poley did
not go out.

However, the 21st of Nov the 58th
will have men & dogs in the field irregard-
less, ready or not! That means we have
5 more training days.

Rebel did worse today. I think he
learned the same as he did so well yesterday.
However they moved ~~two~~ the wire positions
& he hit two. Damn if he hits one out
there! But he did pick up two others
and two decap they had out &
picked them up by scent alert. I'm
not entirely unhappy with him today.
I'm hoping he'll be ready when it comes
time to go out (but will it ever? Be ready?)
I may be going out after Poley & Albaugh,
in place of one, or with them. So
by the time you read this I may be
a combat vet, ready to join the ranks
of Dad & Bill.

As the time grows closer of course
I get nervous. I'll make it O.K. so

Don't worry.

I worry about how you'll take letters like this. I don't want these to scare you but I want to keep you informed of what goes on.

Hope you enjoyed tape #3. Started tape #4 & have some by radio dance for you now.

Any time you want to send mella toast & American cheese go ahead. That in the pkg really went fast. I love mella toast (not as much as you)

You is stepping on the tape you sent now. Am listening to it again

286 days to go

I love you & miss you terribly. Enclosed you will find something forwarded to me by Mom. It's an announcement of a new Beatles double album of 60 songs coming out Nov 2nd. Please send the \$13.00 to Eng & get the double set cause I want to have it when I get back. When you get it take care of it and tape it entirely & send the tape to me so I can have the music here. Don't

object to this please.

Stew & I've been talking & he'd like to help me look for a job in Calif when I get home. How would you like to live in Calif? He said if I couldn't find anything at least he & his kids, you & me could have maybe a 2 week Calif vacation. Anyone spending a year here, if he makes it deserves a vacation.

If I don't get Calif job how does the vacation sound? Stew is a Californian & knows lots of contacts & lots of places to go. He manages a Ford service garage & has about 40 people under him & has met many people in his work. Knows the Jerry Lewis & has for a few yrs.

He can show us a good time & maybe help me get a job & us settled if you'd like Calif. What do you think, my darling?

Je t'aime et je t'aime non cher Maît
Wish you don't forget I love you
immensely. I love you.

Forever eternally
Robert & Rehd

Nov 16 1968 Sat
Camp 6000, South Vietnam

Dear Mary,

Check out the return address on this letter carefully and don't read this any further till you do. Notice anything different? That's right! It is no longer 'PFC Kollar' but 'SP4 Kollar'. Was informed of the promotion today but haven't gotten the papers on it yet. Stew, me, & 2 or 3 others made it as of Nov 11th. Great job?

Little trouble today reading Rebel's alerts on personnel but will watch him close. He will get extra training cause he still has wires on the new line. Also extra training for me in picking up his alerts. He is hard to read.

Got your cute "top dog" card today. How did you enjoy "To Kill a Mockingbird"? Somehow the movie just didn't hit me right. Did you ever see parts 1 & 2 of Epics on TV? You mentioned that it would be on TV but don't remember you mentioning having seen it. Finished the 12 shot roll of color film you sent today.

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I can't remember what all I shot
but I didn't get the shots of the
mountains I wanted. I can
remember 9 shots taken. One
picture was a great shot of our
barracks with a formation of
5 choppers just above it.
Finished up the roll with a shot
of my area in the barracks so
that you can see how I live.

I have to mail that ~~roll~~ to you
along with a copy of the
101st Abn Div's magazine "Rendezvous
with Destiny" and a jipe
cartoon book "How to Live in
Vietnam for Less than 10¢ a Day".

Stated tape # 4 1/2 yrd.
yesterday with some recording
of radio Hanoi and today
a little of the sounds of
Herman Jr., our 4 1/2 weeks
old puppy the son of Sgt
Albaugh dog Herman. Albaugh
& Herman are in the identified
pictures. Took shot of Herman
Jr too. See soft, cuddly, cute as

a button & can cry like heck.
 soon. Hope your tapes reach me

Ok in the picture of my
 area I have my recorder so you
 can see it.

Guess that's all for tonight
 this is Sp/4 Robert signing off
 Je t'aime et je t'adore mon
 cher Marie. I love & miss you
 terribly. K to all in 7 pod
 Luck to you in Orangeville

Love eternally

Sp/4 Robert
 ♪ 000
 1

December 3 1968
Camp Evans, So UN.

Darling,

I was delighted to be able to hear the ~~most~~ best tape recording you have ever made. Practice ~~making~~ perfect is really showing on that tape. I enjoyed hearing what you had to say besides just hearing that wonderful voice of yours. Also I could hear the record player with Nancy Wilson, Sparky & the Gang, etc. On your previous tape I could not hear Glenn Garbrough. I glad you took my recording suggestion & was pleased with the results. I am awaiting that tape of Mc Kuen. If it comes out real good I may return Ciel Ma Chanon for a re-record as its hard to hear in spots. That all will of course depend on how the Mc Kuen tape sounds.

You might let me know what Mc Kuen, Cliff & Beatles albums you have with you so I can indicate some stuff I would really like to hear over.

Mom & Dad sent an Xmas pkg containing among other things a pre-recorded cassette that Mom wrote she

2

was going to return to the store cause
she hadn't heard of the artists & songs
on "Super Hits" & those she asked
about didn't seem impressed.

Well she sent it anyway & I can
understand her problem. The tape
is "soul" music which I never,
as you know, really never dug
nor bought. Most of these

songs & artists I do like however
Altha Franklin - RESPECT
Young Rascals - Good Lovin
Barbara Lewis - Baby in Jesus
Wilson Pickett - In the Midnight Hour
- Mustang Sally

Percy Sledge - When A Man Loves A Woman
That's just to name a few!

Really groovy - glad she had sent.

Can't wait for Doro tape you're
sending.

Today mostly goofed around
going around to laundry, PX, tailor
shop, APO, mess hall & doing details
At the tailor shop I had put on shirts
Sp 14 patches, CIB's, & some shirts needed
58th IPSS patches. Man in beautiful

now!

Now is much later & I've been talking to Sp/4 Martinez from Puerto Rico & he isn't too good in English but he helps me communicate somewhat in Spanish!

Nanas fudge in case I didn't mention it was GREAT & went fast.

Like your idea on few pictures at a time sent to me. Hope you can get that 5x7 best picture.

I'm getting a pkg together for you but may not mail it until I get tape #6 completed for you. I haven't even started #6 yet. So far contents are one 101 stable in mag. "Racigious With Destiny," a cartoon book How to Live in Vietnam For Less than

Than 10¢ a Day, a Combat Infantryman's badge for your picture board, a "Death from Above" airborne playing

card, another propaganda leaflet. By the time I get it ready to mail I may have some pictures too.

I mounted Dubuque departure picture in the green frame you sent across from our wedding picture so I'll write Mom & Dad to send you a copy of the group photo.

That Xmas card was one of 3 I was able to get my hands on + I don't think I'll get any more so I didn't get to send any to Lois & Bill, Joan, Nana, or my Dubuque buddies. Wish I could get more. How do you like them it?

Enclosed in pkg copy of e Barbero + color picture out of Milwaukee paper of sixty days guy gave me.

Do you know what?

5

yo te amo Maria. Je t'aime
et je t'adore mon cher Marie.
I love you madly!

Just thought: the best
tapes you & folks sent so
far were both on cheapies tapes!

When I was in field white
sand reminded me at nite
of the snow you're having.
Yerrrr.

Kotsa nuchs in Orangeville
Hon. I love you & miss you
terribly.

Love
Eternally

Paul
et Rebel

97 days here - 268 to go!

15 August Fri
Camp Ray
Republic of Vietnam

Dearest Mary

I have wonderful news for you tonight! If you will remember, my DEROS (date estimated return from overseas) date or the date I was scheduled to leave Vietnam was 28 Aug. Procedure used to be report to SERTS or Camp Ray 5 days prior to DEROS I was scheduled to arrive at SERTS 23 Aug. Then a policy change from 5 to 3 days came down & I was scheduled to leave Evans & arrive at SERTS 25 Aug.

Then a miracle happened. Everybody in the 101st who departed between 17 Aug & 30 Sept got a drop of several days from their tour & a new DEROS date. My new DEROS date is 23 Aug. On my new DEROS orders I was scheduled to leave here & arrive at SERTS on 19 Aug (4 days prior to DEROS! Now today in the daily bulletin a new policy change came down changing the 3 days prior to 5 days prior. Hence I leave the platoon on the 18th Aug & arrive the 23rd!



Here is a resumé of previous dates & changes to clarify.

Report to SERTS

DEROS

23 AUG.

28 AUG.

25 AUG.

28 AUG.

19 AUG.

23 AUG.

18 AUG.

23 AUG.

I only hope what Sparkes told me was true. He said so few people were DEROSing now that a guy can expect to be on his plane out of Nam about 24 hrs after he reports to SERTS. If that is still true (which I hope but doubt) there is a chance I might be on my way to the USA on 19 or 20 Aug! Isn't that fantastic, Honey

I'll certainly be happy if I beat this letter home but I don't think I will. Anyway you can expect to meet me 5 to 10 days earlier than planned. My mind reels at the thought of only 2 more days left in the platoon! Only Sat & Sun and I fly out of Evans on Mon.

The only work I did today was some art work



