

34 Ethel Street
Invercargill
15th May 1975

Dear Sid,

What a hell of a mess
this business has made of so
many peoples lives - The world
tends to think that the casualties
are all to be found in Vietnam
but they are to be found every-
where. Perhaps the lucky ones
are those who have suffered
physical injury.

Your letter of 27/4 was waiting
for me when I got back from
Wellington a couple of days ago - you
have certainly been having your troubles.
I hope whatever decision Hong comes
to, it will be the right one for her - you
& particularly for Hong - such decisions
are not easy to make at any time &
not in a foreign environment. How are
you coping with Viddy - or has Grand-
mother taken over in that department.

she has written to the P.H.G. She is
most optimistic that one day even
Ed will be on the other end of the
phone - from either Saigon or Bangkok.
She is even talking of taking a
trip over there, when things settle
down. His father doesn't say very
much & I think doesn't share his
wife's enthusiasm - I only wish
I had had her optimism - &
that I am totally wrong in my
pessimistic view.

The only news re. communication
with the P.H.G. that I heard of came
from Warwick (ex S.T.) He said that
a US outfit had said that they
would see their mail for Ed
would be forwarded, by them to
the P.H.G. - but of course the P.H.G.
won't acknowledge the existence of
Ed - he alone say if he is alive or
dead. His ~~name~~ ^{name} came from him by
the N.Z. Embassy & as it was the
same old story I didn't take much
notice & now I am trying to place
around N.Z. to find Warwick, so that
I can make sure I have the story
straight - & to find out which

agency it is.

Today's clever idea was to write the home ^{ROME} & see if they have had any word of the bishop. One of the local priests is looking out the address for me - I wonder if anyone there has thought of doing that?

N.Z. has recognized the PRC - now it's a matter of waiting to see if they are going to recognize U.Z. & then wait & see how long they are going to be the Government.

I haven't heard from Pat since she left so I am anxious to know what K.H.F. is going to be doing. I can't see that they can just shut up shop - fine - but maybe they can. I would have thought that they would wait & make contact with the new Govt & see what their policy regarding foreigners is going to be - if they do in fact want foreigners to continue in their previous capacity or not. I have a faint hope - very faint - that if K.H.F. continues - & even if they (the PRC) doesn't want Americans - they might

find a NZer acceptable - though the
clever people in Wellington say there
is no likelihood that anyone who
has been there before, will be
able to return. Any news that you
may have on the subject will be
most welcome - Bill.

Then on my trip I met a lot of
the ex Qui Nhon & Hoaieu people - Bernadette
(I stayed with her) is wanting her mate
to get back anywhere in that part
of the world & had a job as a nurse
with a Japanese company paid up
but by the way things are going I
doubt that she will make it -
the job was in Laos. Peter Whig
married his little girl & they are back -

Dennis Montgomery's little wife Karen
was most unhappy as the time I
wrote & she hadn't heard from them
in weeks & had they been in Saigon &
contacted the NZ. Embassy - they would
have been brought here. I had dinner
with Marilyn Stoddart (ex Canadian)
- she is living with Richard Lovegrove
& both seem a lot happier than
they were a year ago - she was
asking for you. Bill got ill for to

N2. - I'll enclose his address -
at least his brothers, or ~~staff~~
has just brought himself a house.
He was ~~was~~ distressed on arrival
but seems to be settling down.

Jack - well he came out of ON with
the rest & was hoping to work at
Kien Hoa Hospital - did what he
could & then went on R & L to
Thailand & was supposed to
go on down to Singapore & then
N2 - but - he went back into
Laos & was reported to have
been evacuated to Guam, but
no one had heard anything of
him since this evacuation - no
one knows where he is. Officially
he is on leave - but there is a
concern that he might have
stayed in Laos - the last bit is
not for N2. publication.

I had a letter from Jean Vayon
- sent to the Embassy & which took
6 weeks to reach me - so that
stop also had the affair of a
job in Phnom Penh - that was
in early April & I don't know

where she is now. All my time in
Wellington & Christchurch - it was
Vietnam-talk.

I thought, by the end of May
I would feel like starting work
- but - peace the thought!!
I still have a lot of waiting to
do around the country so it might
be a few weeks before I turn
my hand to anything - in the
meantime the bank balance
gets sicker & sicker!! If
there is no way to go back, then
next year I think I shall try my
hand at Public Health - in
possibly Wellington & try & do
some university work as well,
though how this old brain may
pull go, being put into gear -
I don't know. I could get a
scholarship or bursary, but
would prefer to do it extra-
murally as I don't want to be
tied down for years & years.

For the immediate future - well I
met up with Betty Miller (ex SCF
Qui Nhon) & we had hopes of

getting jobs as chamber maids or
the like in Decemertown - on
senior reasons, but from the
message I got from her last
night that is "no go". Q.T.
seems to employ only frustration
- born drug addicts!!

At present I am teenage-sitting
while my husband & sister-in-law
are on holiday - didn't know till
now, just how much food a
teenage boy could consume in
any 24 hour period!! Daily I
read the "adventurous vacuum"
column in the papers & am
beginning to think that I shall
have to start misgiving myself
as a "tea lady" - or a "lady
cleaner" - the ones for a
"light house keepers" appeal -
but always seem to be in
places where there are no
light houses!! N.L. has its
unemployment too.

My writing gets worse &
worse - that is because I am

I'm glad that Phyllis got herself to Bangkok - & presume that Henry - & John too, with their relatives, would have left in the main vacation. John will have his problems, when he gets to the States - & Henry - did he hear any positive word of his wife??

Revia & Johnny were in Penang a short while ago - she had written from there to one of the NZ Red Cross team - I was most relieved to know that she was out.

After about 3 weeks of clearing & packing - I was getting more & more depressed about the whole business & thought I was going around the South - so I took off for Christchurch & Wellington - ~~where~~ found that most of the old Vietnam hands, that I met were also in the same state - which made me feel a whole lot better.

I went & stayed with Ed's folks - a most charming couple - his mother has been waiting to hear from a man but has ~~not~~ had no reply to any of the letters nor to any that

drinking too much sherry - W?.
has become a very warm & cheery
waiting company in the last few
years - Scotch etc, is beyond
my means, right now!!

The cold light of day & a
clean head.

before I forget - Skiff's address
c/o 139 Dixon St
Wellington.

Leonardette's c/o 10 Duoro St.

Newtown

Wellington

Both Lane some mail be
pleased to hear from you.

My efforts last night to find
Warwick didn't meet with
much success - but I had
some very nice chats!! This
morning I have sent off a
telegram & hope that it
will catch up with him
somewhere - will let you
know the outcome.

If you should be in Trench

with Kevy could you ask him
if he knows the name of
the publisher of the book

"The Barking Deer" - the author
is, I think Jonathan Kellin. It
was the one he gave to Mark Day &
I had just started to read it
when we came out - have failed
to track it down here & can
do nothing till I get the
name of the publisher - it is a
Canadian outfit, I think. Va-
very much.

Must off now & do the
weekend marketing - this
sneaking caper isn't bad
that it is cracked up to be!!

Best wishes - and be
anxious for news.
Manson