



# hotel asia

37. Scotts Road. Singapore 9.  
Tel: 378388 Cable: "Hotelsia"

206 Earn Street,  
Invercargill.  
16th June 1975.

Dear Bill,

One thing about staying in hotels, is that one can stock up on stationary!!!

Many thanks for your letter...the news about Ed came as a great surprise. I hadn't heard this, nor could any of my informants, so this afternoon, I checked out with the Auckland papers in the library and sure enough, there was a report, in the paper of May 1 that Ed was working with a medical team in Quang Tri. It was a rather loosely written article and I wonder now at the validity of it. Also on Saturday night, there was an interview on TV, with Ed's Mum and Dad and all they knew was...nothing, so after, I phoned them and told them what you had said, for which I think they were grateful.

I have a feeling that this is going to develop into a real old ramble, so excuse my meanderings....

I had a letter from Pat and so far, or at least when the letter was written, she hadn't written to the Bakers, so maybe a letter from you would be welcome. Their address...J.V.T. Baker

Main Road North  
Paraparaumu  
N.Z.

I also had a letter from Melba Badders and was delighted to get that...I think she will be writing to them. She was asking if I had any ideas, so I suggested that perhaps they might try writing in French or even Vietnamese..if you can write it. The Vietnamese can be funny as far as language goes and often have or rather had more respect for someone who spoke French, when they didn't speak Vietnamese..it is always worth a try.

Melba also asked for any addresses of Minh Quy people that I have, so I've sent those on to her. *If you want any - then let me know*

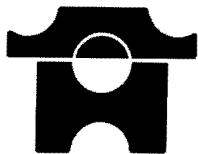
I had a letter from John...he doesn't say much, but I heard from Pat, that as well as his wife, he has 5 of her relatives with him... including his father-in-law who had to have his leg amputated, in Saigon ..Dick Matern did the job. A house had fallen on him, when he was on Phu Quoc Island. When he wrote to me, he was trying to get a job, with a construction company and was also trying to get into nursing school. I just wish that I could do something for him, with all the problems he having, with having to feed accommodate etc, such a large family.

His address, in case you haven't got it yet.

301 Blemhuber Avenue  
Marquette,  
Mich. 49855

I have had three letters from Barbara Svitlik and she has the same news, as Pat and Melba.

And I was delighted to get a letter from Senia, last week.... it was awful for a while, wondering what had happened to all the various members of our team..or perhaps, I should say..family..for in all the letters I have had, there is so much concern for other people. It is more like members of a family, writing to one another, asking for news. Anyway, Senia is back in Indonesia after having many of her paper



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37 Scotts Road, Singapore 9. Her address, in case you haven't got it...and Tel: 378388 Cable: "Hotelasia" please don't ask me to say it..

Senia Simandjantak,  
c/o Rev. S. Simandjantak,  
P.D. Sipahutar,  
Tarutung,  
Sumatra  
Indonesia.

She was asking for Phyllis address, so I shall be able to send that on now, as well as writing to her myself, for I had only her Stateside one and had the feeling that she was still in BK.

Bernadette writes and from what she says, things might be on the move,,, but first of all...

The former Saigon Ambassador left N.Z. for the greener fields of the U.S.A. about 10 days ago and it was announced, that the Yugoslav Embassy, was handling any matter pertaining to Vietnam. Since then, I have been trying to think of the most diplomatic words, I could use, when writing to them and also to our own Ministry of Foreign Affairs..to see what their attitude is...but so far I haven't had all that much success.

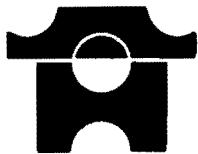
Anyway, Bernadette says that in Wellington, it was thought, that the Yugoslavs were just going to be looking after the Saigon Ambassador's house and cars etc...until Jack (Enwright) went and saw the Ambassador, who wanted to know the names of all those, who wanted to return to Vietnam!! B. heard all this from Skiff and one of the first things that she asked him was...had Jack inquired about Ed,, but of course Jack hadn't. Now everyone is flapping around up there, trying to find out what they can from F.A. before rushing off to make their appointments with the Yugoslavs.

I have written to one of the guys, who worked in the Saigon Embassy, privately to find out, to whom I should best write at F.A. and also dropped the bit that I got from Melba, about the possibility of channelling money, through Canada or N.Z. I thought it might bring some reaction.

The address of the Yugoslav Embassy, is 49 Hobson Street  
Wellington.  
just in case it is of some use.

I have also written to all the people I can think of, who might have had some news from Saigon, since the take-over and as well, to Sister Mary Lawrence, who is the N.Z. nun who was taken prisoner and held for about 7 weeks back in January. She is now back here after having been evacuated twice and seems to have ears in all sorts of places and is a bit of a character...quite capable of stirring up the shit, when the occasion warrants it!! I am hoping for some replies soon.

Old Jack baby, has been in a tizzy, for he heard that his girl friend had made it out to Guam and now he is putting pressure on to have Vietnamese families admitted here. The girl was a midwife in Binh Dinh and her husband a doctor, so it should be a cozy set-up!! This country has played the whole thing very cool..at one stage the Govt said they would take 50 families, but there was a foul up in communications with the U.N. Committee for Refugees, so nothing has happened, as yet. At another stage, they said they would take to families of Vietnamese already living here and when the students made their



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One would almost think that they did not want Vietnamese here...but public opinion has been getting rather hotted up on this issue, so we might see some action yet.

I haven't heard from Jean Taylor for a while, so wonder if she has gone off to the Sudan as she was talking about in her last letter, which was dated 27/4...and which seemed to travel around the world in a bottle, before I got it.

Oh...I mentioned to Melba about Belinda...I wrote her a couple of times to her U.K. address, but have had no reply...but in the last letter I had from her, about Jan-Feb, she was on her way to take up a new job in Asia...so I must remember to write and see if anyone in Singapore knows where she is. The thing that she mentioned in that letter, was that around September, she thought she might be making a trip to North Vietnam, inspecting their midwifery services. If I can track her down, she might be a help...but on the other hand, those people up there might not thank her for such inquiries.

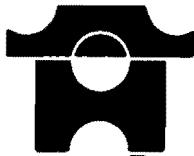
Seems like I spend all my life writing letters, but I did get around to writing to Scott, the other day...after seeing on telly, that Omaha..Nebraska, had been flattened by a tornado...poor Scott goes from one disaster area, to another. Also wrote to Pra Dham.

I mentioned Terese to Melba, but as you have already written to her..that doesn't matter. I do hope by now that there is some word of Kerry

Seeing as I am rambling on...I might as well make a job of it. Leaving out the Quang Tri report...I have always doubted that Ed and George remained in Kontum...if, in fact anyone remained there. We were told that the Vietnamese were told to leave..and they went south...then there was the report of the overflight of Kontum, supposedly by an American plane, which reported that the town and countryside appeared to be deserted. Now, as most of the Montagnards came from the northern parts of the province, I could believe, that they were told to return to their own lands and then, if these people took all the able-bodied men into their own forces, then I could believe, that with the major patient source gone...the lack of staff at the hospital...that Ed and George would have gone with the people...though how they would have made out for supplies etc, in order to work...I still haven't figured out yet. From say around Dak To etc..isn't there a road that goes to Quang Ngai, so that if they were caught up with there, they could easily have been taken to Q.N. and then further north still. If they did in fact go to Q.N. with all the Vietnamese, having moved out of there they only people there would have been Montagnards, who were supposed to have been in a sorry state. This latter bit, I think I got from Rmah Dock..the Ethnic Minorities Officer in Pleiku, some months ago.

Oh another letter I have received, was from John Roberts who was with USAID in Qui Nhon...poor old John sounds a right mess...he had been trying to get a Vietnamese girl out, as had Lou Borum (ex military) but neither of them had any success. The last John heard from Saigon was on April 25. I shall keep writing to John in case he hears anything.

For myself...well I still haven't got a job, though I have applied for one, as a District Nurse. here in Invercargill...this is a temporary position and if I got it...it would just suit me fine...it will give me a chance to save a bit a sorely needed cash, as well as time to really make up my mind what I want to do. I went for an interview, with the hospital matron, who had a clever idea..for her..and that was that I



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ago, I was on the verge of moving up to Wellington, but my blood pressure was playing up, so once again, I have fallen into the hands of a physician and things are settling down again. I feel that until they are settled, then I am better to stick around here.

Social Worker...God help everyone..the latter, was in Gore...a place just passed the last tombstone!! I think my lack of enthusiasm showed, so now I am not all that hopeful, of the other job. A couple of weeks ago, I was on the verge of moving up to Wellington, but my blood pressure was playing up, so once again, I have fallen into the hands of a physician and things are settling down again. I feel that until they are settled, then I am better to stick around here.

I moved back into the old house at the weekend.. all glorious Victoriana...the whole 9 rooms of it!!! I am just using a couple of rooms downstairs....and I don't think I shall be taking in boarders!!! It is a real barn of a place, but the rent is dead cheap, so who can growl. There have been the moments of trauma though...like not being able to find the flex for the fry-pan cooker..the toaster no longer seems to want to pop...while the coal range...it is just fine, with the energy crisis etc...BUT...tomorrow I have to clean out the flues and I think that is going to be quite an experience, to say the least!!

I have just been reading through your letter once again and another thought... If the Quakers are still there, then could you make any inquiries through their offices, about Ed, for he was very friendly with one of the blokes working in Quang Ngai...unfortunately I can't remember his name..even if I did know it. *but he had quite a sense of humour.*

And maybe I forgot to say the last time I wrote, but one of the local priests told me that there had been an article in a British Catholic paper, saying that all Bishops in South Vietnam were back in their own dioceses. I guess as far a Bishop Seitz goes..he could be anywhere from the north of Kontum province to the south of Darlac.

Now I must really stop this attack of verbal diarrhoea and try and prepare myself emotionally...and physically, ~~for~~ my assault on that flue tomorrow.

All best wishes and I send off any news as soon as I ~~have~~ it.

*Kennon*

And here come the P.S.'s....

My cousin here, is one of those D.X. people and his claim to fame is that he is the official B.B.C. representative in N.Z.... so I have asked him to keep his ears open, when monitoring any of our friend's broadcasts. Coz is blind and during the '39-'45 war listening to German radio and picked up a lot of information regarding prisoners.. he did the same thing in Korea and also in Vietnam...if I remember correctly, he taped these broadcasts and sent them to relatives in the States.

And Warwick Howe..from the S.T. and who was seconded to the Embassy in Saigon, is supposed to be getting a job, with the N.Z. Govt. in Tanzania... now I think you know everything..relevant and irrelevant!!!

*W.*