

24 JUNE - 64

WEDNESDAY

DEAR AUNT CLELIE AND UNCLE WORTH,

I WAS SURE GLAD TO GET YOUR LETTER AND ENJOYED READING IT VERY MUCH. I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN YOU A LITTLE SOONER, BUT I WAS WAITING TO GET SOME PICTURES THAT I COULD SEND YOU.

SOUNDS AS IF YOU'RE DOING AS WELL AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE WITH THE FROG POPULATION. I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WENT FROG GIGGING WITH YOU. YOUR INVITATION TO GO HUNTING OR FISHING IS ABOUT THE BEST THING I'VE HEARD IN THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS. I SHOULD BE HOME BY CHRISTMAS AND WE'RE SURE GOING TO TRY AND MAKE IT UP TO NORTH CAROLINA. IT'LL ALL DEPEND ON EXACTLY HOW MUCH LEAVE TIME I HAVE AND WHERE I'M GOING TO BE STATIONED NEXT.

I'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF

FLYING TIME AND HAVE BEEN FROM ONE END OF VIETNAM TO THE OTHER. I'M PRESENTLY STATIONED AT A PLACE BY THE NAME OF DANANG, WHICH IS ON THE COAST OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. I'M ABOUT 40 MINUTES FLYING TIME FROM NORTH VIETNAM AND 30 MINUTES TO LAOS. NICE PLACE TO BE, EH!

MY MISSION HERE IS TO FLY ESCORT FOR THE MARINE SQUADRON THAT'S ALSO LOCATED IN DANANG. THE MARINES DON'T HAVE ANY ARMED HELICOPTERS AND THE ARMY DOES — AND IT TAKES A HELICOPTER TO GIVE FIRE SUPPORT BECAUSE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THICK JUNGLE WE FLY OVER. A FIXED-WING AIRPLANE JUST CAN'T GET INTO THESE AREAS.

THE HELICOPTER I FLY IS MOUNTED WITH FOUR (4) 7.62 MACHINE GUNS AND SIXTEEN (16) 2.75 ROCKETS. A LOT OF FIRE POWER, IF USED PROPERLY.

III

THERE IS SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY I'VE EVER SEEN OVER HERE. THE MOUNTAINS GO AS HIGH AS 10,000 FEET AND ARE NEARLY ALL COVERED BY JUNGLE. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF STREAMS, RIVERS AND LAKES THAT HAVE NEVER EVEN SEEN A FISH HOOK. I'VE SEEN ~~THE~~ ELEPHANTS, DEER AND WILD OX, PLUS I'M SURE THERE ARE TIGERS, ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE. I'D GIVE ALMOST ANYTHING TO GO HUNTING OR FISHING OVER HERE, BUT THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY VIET CONG AROUND. IT PROBABLY WOULD TAKE TOO LONG FOR ME TO BECOME THE HUNTED IN THAT JUNGLE.

I'LL SEND YOU A PAIR OF PILOT TYPE SUN GLASSES IN A WEEK OR SO. I'LL BE GOING TO HONG KONG IN OCTOBER, SO I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT A PAIR OF FIELD GLASSES FOR YOU THEN.

THAT'S ABOUT ALL THE NEWS FROM THE FAR EAST. WRITE WHEN YOU CAN.

Love
Bayle

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