

20 Feb 70

Mi

Well, I am here. I have been ~~here~~ in Vietnam for three days but ~~hours~~ have been moving around and processing in.

We landed in Japan, stayed there for two hours. Then landed in Cam Ranh Bay, stayed there about 36 hr., then to Beinh Hoa (Ben Hoa). From there to Song Ben, to Plantation, back to Beinh Hoa. I am now in Beinh Hoa, it is about twenty miles north of ~~Sigon~~ Saigon.

~~Don't~~ sense we left Fort Lewis we got only about 8 hrs. sleep in three days. We had to travel at night and process in the day.

It is real hot here night & day. This base is real big. It is both Air Force, and Army. Boy do the Air Force have it easy & nice.

I am with the 190<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter

② company. I have 3 days of processing ahead of me and then I will start work. I will start out refueling hel. I will be ~~back~~ driving a big fuel truck. I will be working 7 days a week, 8 hr. a day. ~~And~~ You wouldn't believe the South Vietnamese villages, they are just like dumps. Some parts of them are blown up. It is just like something you see in the movies. Dad would be a millionaire compared to the people over ~~here~~ here.

The big problem over here is water. Sometimes you don't get a shower for weeks, and you really need one over here.

If this looks sloppy it is because I am writing by candle light. We don't have a light in our room.

Well, I'll sign off now and try to get some sleep. All and all it isn't real bad over here, I kind of feel sorry for the people. Ma,

③ if you ever had to do what the  
S.V. women do you would drop dead. The  
do everything from K.P. to burning shit.  
Well, write soon and I'll write again  
soon.

Alison

20 Feb 70

Hi,

Well, I am here. I have been ~~here~~ in Vietnam for three days but ~~being~~ have been moving around and processing in.

We landed in Japan, stayed there for two hours. Then landed in Cam Pham Bay, staged there about 36 hr., then to Bein Hoa (Ben Wha). From there to Long Ben, to Plantation, back to Bein Hoa. I am now in Bein Hoa, it is about twenty miles north of ~~siagon~~ Saigon.

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Well, write soon and I'll write again soon.

Your son



Hi

22 Feb 70

Well here I am at my first day on the job. I just got through refueling my first helicopter (helicopter). This job I got (PdL) is easy and nice but you don't learn anything.

We are living on the Air Force side of the base. ~~and~~ The difference ~~to~~ between where they live and we live is like going from the rich part of town to the slums. They have all new buildings and all that and we have <sup>in</sup> just what we can ~~build~~ build.

It is impossible to stay clean over here. Once in a while we get running water. The rest of the time we take showers by putting ~~two~~ pails in water and dumping them over our heads.

It really isn't bad where I am, it <sup>(?)</sup> is just like going camping, you don't have running water and you ~~do~~ dirty all the time. The real difference is you don't have a beach to go to and you got ~~some~~ some one ~~thing~~ thing to kill you.

We got hit last week and are expected to get it within the next two ~~it~~ weeks.

Dad, ~~I~~ I am driving a fire speed desile truck. It is really cool and a little hard. I have to go and get my military license next week.

A few of the guys that I have talked to say I will ~~probably~~ probably go to Germany.

Ⓞ before I forget, I took out an allotment for \$150.00 a ~~month~~ month and you will

start receiving it in April. I am <sup>(3)</sup> also  
trying to get a money order ~~and~~ for  
\$150.00 and it should be coming <sup>in</sup> about  
two weeks.

Well, that is just about all I  
have to say. It is real hot and the  
mosquito's eat you alive at night.

We live in two to four ~~men~~ rooms,  
which the gyps before us built, there  
not too bad.

Well, so long for now and write  
soon.

Joe

P.S.

I took some pictures,  
when I get them developed  
I will send them to you.

190<sup>th</sup> Assault H.C.

22 Feb 70

Hi

Well here I am at my first day on the job. I just got through refueling my first helopeter (helicopter). This job I got (Pol) is easy and nice but you don't learn anything.

We are livin on the Air Force side of the base. ~~and~~ The difference ~~bet~~ between where they live and we live is like going from the rich part of town to the slums. They have all new buildings and all that and we have is just what we can ~~build~~ build.

It is impossible to stay clean over here. Once in a while we get running water. The rest of the time we take showers by putting ~~pals~~ pails in water and dumping them over our heads.

It really isn't bad where I am, it is just like going camping, you don't have running water and your ~~ed~~ dirty all the time. The real difference is you don't have a beach to go to and you got ~~smell~~ some one ~~tring~~ tring to kill you.

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Well, that is just about all I have to say. It is real hot and the mosquito's eat you alive at night.

We live in two to four men rooms, which the group before us built, there not too bad.

Well, so long for now and write soon.

Joe

P.S.

I took some pictures, when I get them developed I will send them to you.

190th Assalt H.C.



24 Feb 70

M-i

Well I guess I am a truck ~~and~~ driver.  
It is a easy job so I think I'll stay  
with it unless I get sick of it. If I get  
sick of it I might go door ganner. I  
have a good chance for promotion because  
our sargent is a real good guy and he  
likes it if you do what you're told and don't  
lay around all day. Most of the ~~day~~ ~~day~~ ~~day~~  
driving a 2 1/2 ton truck. I only refuel about  
5 ships a day, the rest of the day we  
sit around and bullshit. We played a  
little ~~base~~ baseball yesterday and there  
are thousands of basketball courts, you  
can play night & day.

I have got one hell of a sunburn and a  
heat rash. I only sat in the sun for about

an hour.

Have you heard anything from Di?

How is Dave doing.

We live in three man rooms and it  
aint too bad. We have free movies  
every night outdoors.

Well, I got about fifteen minutes before  
I go home for the day so I'll sign off now.

Joe.

P.S.

I don't know if I can get to  
church on Sundays because I have  
to work. Will the ~~Lord~~ Lord forgive?  
after all I think I am pretty luck in  
getting where I am and not out in the  
jungle.

Note: zip code (96227)

24 Feb 70

Hi

Well I guess I am a truck ~~dr~~ driver. It is a easy job so I think I'll stay with it unless I get sick of it. If I get sick of it I might go door gunner. I have a good chance for permotion because our sargent is a real good guy and he likes it if you do what your told and don't lay around all day. Most of the ~~day~~ I am driving a 2-1/2 ton truck. I only refuel about 5 trips a day, the rest of the day we sit around and bullshit. We played a little ~~bad~~ baseball yesterday and there are thousands of basketball courts, you can play night & day.

I have got one hell of a sunburn and a heat rash. I only sat in the sun for about one hour.

Have you heard anything from Di? How is Dave doing?

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Well, I got about fifteen minutes before I go home for the day so I'll sign off now.

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Note: Zip code 96227



1 MARCH 70

99i

Well, we had a little action the night before last. We got hit with rockets. Seven Air Force guys were killed, they were less than a half a mile away. I'll tell you, it is an experience I'll never forget. I couldn't sleep last night because of the guns shooting at them.

Well, when I am not playing war it is alright here. Last night I went to the E.M. club and they had a real good band, we had a pretty good time.

I got my military drivers license the other day and I can drive up to and including 2 1/2 ton truck. The same day I had to drive to Long Bien and I got checked at the gate for my license. Before that I was leaving without a license and it is punishable with a \$100.00 fine and a <sup>article</sup> ~~article~~ 15.

They almost sent me to the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborn (out in the jungle) but my sargent told them he ~~was~~ needed me.

Bumer is our company (190<sup>th</sup> AHC) is moving out in June or Sept. Some say we will go back to the world, some say to 173<sup>rd</sup>, or ~~to~~ 1st Air Cav.

I have been playing a lot of basketball ~~at~~ in the day when there is nothing to do, which is most of the time, and at night. I got a real bad



blister on my foot from playing with my slippers  
on.

Well, how is everybody? I haven't received any  
mail yet because it takes about 8-10 days to  
go to the world and back.

Well, that is about all I can think of right  
now so I'll write again later and you do the  
same. I'll see you in about 355 days.

Joe

1 March 70

Hi

Well, we had a little action the night before last. We got hit with rockets. Seven Air Force guys were killed, they were less than a half a mile away. I'll tell you, it is an experience I'll never forget. I couldn't sleep lastnight because of the guns shooting at them.

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Joe

2 March 70

Hi

Just dropping you a note to tell you a few things ~~as~~ I forgot.

I have talk to a few guys from New York. One I talked to last night lives in Middletown and has been to Glens Falls lots of times. When I first came into the company I was talking to a guy in Personal and he lives in Albany and work in Glens Falls for a year. He said it was a <sup>place</sup> on the Quaker Road, some elect. place, Zeco or something like that. He said he spent of the summer up to the lake. I also talked to a guy last night who lives ~~down~~ down in the city (NYC) and goes to Putland, Vt. a lot and passed through Glens Falls a few times. Well, it is a small world isn't it.

Well no action sense the last letter. We should get hit again pretty soon.

I drove to Long Bien again today. ~~It's~~



getting so I drive ~~you~~ quite a bit.

I am getting so I know what to do now so it is not so boring for me.

Tell Dave that my hazenut cousin plays pro basketball for the Detroit Pistons, his name is Dave Bing. He is ave. about 30 points a game. We also have a guy in the motor pool who plays short stop for ~~the~~ Kansas City (pro baseball).

O I got your letter today. I am glad you got a poodel. I'll let you spoil it. It will ~~prob~~ ~~prob~~ probable rule the house.

I am sorry to hear about Uncle Bidde but I thought he was going because he ~~had~~ had his attack when I was home.

Send the paper if you want, but if you think it is too much don't send it.

The only thing is I don't know how long our company is staying here. I herd we are disbanding in sept. Well so long for now  
Joe



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Joe

13 March 70

Hi

Well, I just completed my four days of in-country training. We ~~we~~ were trained how to fight in the jungle and all the stuff we had to jump off a 34 foot tower with a rope tied around us. It was a little scary but fun.

Well, how is every little thing? I got a letter from Judy, Robilant yesterday and Donna. I was glad to hear from them.

Before I go any further, don't believe believe what you read in the paper. It is not half a bad ~~that~~ as it says. If they say 20 killed figure about 200 less. We have only been hit once so don't ~~worry~~ worry.

How does Otto like Feetee? I'll let his nose is as big as she is.

So you don't like the idea of becoming a grandmother? How come you not going to tell grandma and grandpa?

I sent a \$200.00 money order, let me know when you get it.

You know that Sid I was telling you about from Middletown N.Y., ~~is~~ well he and I are pretty good friends now and



he was born 18 Dec. 49. What a coincidence.

We have a paper over called Stars & Stripes, and I read in there where there was a real bad accident in Saratoga Springs.

A bus turned over on the north way and three people were killed. That must of been pretty bad to make news over here.

It is real hot over here now. This month and next month are supposed to be the hottest. The dirt on the paper is from my arm, the water is just running right off me. After the hot season we have the monsoons & where it rains all the time.

I wrote to Martha and Randy of about two days after I got here and I haven't heard from them yet.

Well, that is about all I can think, I'll send some pictures when I get them developed.

My hair is getting long and I am trying to grow a stash. Tell everyone I said hi.

Joe

PS.

Did you put it in the paper that I am in Viet Nam? If you are going to I am in the 12<sup>th</sup> Group, 145<sup>th</sup> Aviation, 190<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Co., Bien Hoa, V. N.



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22 MARCH 70

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First of all I want to tell you to sign the income tax check and put it in the bank. Second of all, if you need any money, don't hesitate to take it out of my account and pay me back when you can.

Well, there is not much going on here. We lost a ship today for the first time in a long time. The co-pilot was killed and the A.C. (pilot) got his leg shot up. It is too bad because we had a record going for least accidents.

I got a new room mate and he has a stereo tape player, a T.V., and a big fan so it

is kind of ~~soon~~ ~~so~~ crowded here but real nice. I think just before I come home I will buy a stereo tape player and have it sent home.

I got a letter from Jim Robillard ~~last~~ today. If he enlists he is crazy. He can go into the reserves and still go to elect. school.

I also received the three day pass, I was ~~surprised~~ surprised to get it. It is not ~~so~~ ~~very~~ very often you get anything from the army.

Well, I meet a friend of Marty's here and he said he got a letter from him saying it is pretty rough where he is. He said he got his first kill the other day. I haven't heard from him yet, Randy eighter. Don't say anything about Marty, he probably doesn't want his mother to know.

Enclosed is a picture of me and a bunch of guys at the club. The kid on the far right is going to play pro baseball when he gets out.

Well, I'll sign off here.

Joe.

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Well, I'll sign off here.

Joe



26 March 70

Dave

Well kid, how is everything? Are you going to play little league? Speaking of baseball, I ~~do~~ know a guy who is going to play pro ball with the Kansas City Royals when he gets out. We got a letter from them the other day and they said they would send him a dozen ball so he could practice. I have ~~seen~~ ~~been~~ been throwing with him the last few nights. He can throw a softball faster than I can throw a baseball. When I get through ~~the~~ playing, my hand is real red and sore.

Well, what is new? There is not much going on over here. I get to play a lot of basketball and baseball. Most of the guys I play basketball with are colored but they are pretty good.

I am getting a pretty good tan and it is hotter than hell over here. It gets up to about 110° in the day.

I should have some pictures in a couple of days so I'll send them to you when I get them. Well, that is about all I have to say so, so long for now and write when you get a chance.

Your brother  
Joe,

Ma + Dad.

I got a letter from Dianne today and she sounded fine. She said they were having trouble with her car + Johns. She sold Johns for \$800.00 I'll bet John doesn't ~~even~~ <sup>even</sup> check the car over before he drives it. She said the battery went dead and her lights are all screwed up. You would think that John, being a pilot and everything, would know enough to check the car over every once in a while like he has to do to his plane. What would he do if he was up about 2,000 feet and he forgot to add oil.

Well, not much has been going on over here. I was going to extend for 6 months but they won't let me. Take money over here in



great and you don't spend much.

I got a letter from Randy yesterday and he is getting re-assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborn. He will be going up north where all the fighting <sup>is</sup> with only 3 1/2 months to go, isn't that rotten?

I had a day off Tuesday and just laid in bed most of the day.

O' would you send me some of that instant breakfast? I don't ~~eat~~ eat breakfast because it is so rotten. The most I have is a cup of coffee or some milk + fruit.

I get paid Monday so be expecting a money order pretty soon.

Well, that is all I can think of.

Joe



26 March 70

Dave,

Well kid, how is everything? Are you going to play little league? Speaking of baseball, I ~~to~~ know a guy who is going to play pro ball with the Kansas City Royals, when he gets out. He got a letter from them the other day and they said they would send him a dozen ball so he could practice. I have ~~beer ben~~ been throwing with him the last few nights. He can thow a softball faster than I can throw a baseball. When I get through ~~then~~ playing, my hand is real red and sore.

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31 March 20

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Well, I just got paid so be expecting a money order pretty soon. Today is my day off so I thought I would get caught up on some of my letters.

How was your trip to New Jersey? How is everyone down there?

I got a letter from Randy the other day and he is getting reassigned to 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. He will be sent up north where all hell breaks loose. It is too bad. ~~to~~

He is going to try and get to see me on his way home. I also got a letter from Marty and he said he is trying to get down here.

I finally got a letter from J.D. It took fifteen days to get here.

Well, I finally got the pictures and they are enclosed. The captions are on the back.

Remember that training I was telling you about, the tower and everything? Well here it is. This picture might be me, I don't know. It describes in the article what we did.

So Jim is gone ha. Well, I hope he makes out all right. About two days before ~~you~~ you told me that he was gone, I wrote and told him not to go. We should of went reserve. I wish I could have talked to him and tell him what it is like. I hope he don't think of if he comes over here that he won't have to go to the bush, because if they ~~was~~ need you there that is where you'll go.

Well, how is everybody? You really must be in love with that dog because that is all you talk about in your letters. I am glad you got it. It will give you something to do. My roommate's dog got ran over the other day, & she was a good dog



her name was Tamee.

I heard on the news you got a snow storm. Do you still have a lot of snow?

I got a feeling we aren't going to be here much longer. One company in our battalion is moving out next week. We should be here another three months anyway.

Well, that is about all I can think of so so long for now and write when you can.

Joe

P.S.

Put the pictures away so I can put them in a album.

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Joe

P.S.

Put the pictures away so I can put them in a album.

Ma & Dad,

I got a letter from Dianne today and she sounded fine. She said they were having trouble with her car & Johns. They sold Johns for \$800.00. I'll bet John doesn't ~~ever~~ even check the car over before he drives it. She said the battery went dead and her lights are all screwed up. You would think that John, being a pilot and everything, could know enough to check the car over every once in a while like he has to do to his plane. What would he do if he was up about 2000 feet and he forgot to add oil.

Well, not much has been going on over here. I was going to extend for 6 months but they won't let me. The money over here is great and you don't spend much.

I got a letter from Randy yesterday and he is getting re-assigned to the 101st Airborn. He will be going up north where all the fighting is with only 3-1/2 months to go, isn't that rotten?

I had a day off Tuesday and just laid in bed most of the day.

I would you send me some of that instant breakfast? I don't ~~get any~~ eat breakfast because it is so rotten. The most I have is a cup of coffee or some milk & fruit.

I get paid monday so be expecting a money order pretty soon.

Well, that is all I can think of.

Joe