11 Feb. 69

Dear Mom & Dad,

I received a letter from you, dad, & Mary. I'm fine and as good as could be. I probably could get a little more sleep at night.

We went on a patrol today. We walked almost three miles today. It took us a total of almost 7 hours. We had contact and I've been in my first fire fight. Let me tell you one thing, I don't like it when the sound comes and the bullets fly. We scared off or wounded one gook. We called in 30 rds of H.E. mortars and blew up the place where he ran to.

The trees here are very thick. There's almost two to three feet between trees. There is double canopy and we only see sunlight when it is high noon. The base of each tree has wings that spread about like a ducks web feet. There are as high as 6 feet or higher and spread out 5 to 10 feet from a tree.



They look something like the picture. Sorry I'm not an artist.

We are set in on top of a mountain.

I have to carry almost 60 pds on my back. Walk three or more miles and you feel dead until you hear a gun go off. Then you run like you're in the Olympics.

I hate it here. At night the jungle comes alive. You can hear the monkeys scream and play. Once in awhile you'll hear a tiger roar and we've been signs of elephants but I haven't seen one yet since I've been here. The black ants are anywhere from ½" to 1" long. Everymorning when I wake up and get up off the ground I have to take the leeches off my body. Sometimes you can't even feel them on you.

I shave once every 3 days and I won't get another bath or shower for another 30 days.

Right now I'm sitting out on a listening post trying to listen for Charlie and see if he is coming in.

We've got an LZ (Landing Zone) blown so that helicopters can bring us in supplys.

Thanks for the addresses. I don't know if I'll be able to write very many people because of the time but I'll try.

I'm glad to hear that everyone is fine. Mary wrote and asked me if I ate out of cans, we'll ask her

where I can get to a restaurant out here 10,000 miles from civilization? I cook my own ~~chow~~ chow and eat my C rations. I carry 4 canteens of water. I'm a heavy drinker when it comes to water.

I'm only 4 miles from the Laos border. And all this place is, is mountains and jungles. I'd rather fight down in the low lands in the rice paddys.

Somebody is almost always getting medivacked out with malaria everyday. The mosquitos are unbelievable.

Well that's enough about the rugged life. How's everything in the States. You're probably all snowed in by now. I heard that the east coast has been having lots of snow.

I've give anything to be there right now., sitting near a nice warm fireplace listening to some music. That sounds so peaceful.

I've been out of the States almost a month now. It hardly seems like it though. I feel as though I've been over here in Nam a year now.

I don't have your letters with me so I don't know what questions I'm suppose to answer.

I'll finish this letter tomorrow so that I can answer your letter I received.

I won't be able to get into a CAG unit for another three months. I might have run accross something a little better and that is to become an accolyte to a Chaplain. It's not definate yet. I still have to talk to a Chaplain.

I've given you a little end look of the scenery in the mountains. The rice paddys are usually long & wide and are flooded with water. It looks like a bleakend board with the dikes all around. They look real green too. Where the villages are there are mostly tropical trees such as coconuts and banana trees. The houses are built of elephant grass and bambo.

Oh! The jungles have Vines all over the place like those vines Tarzan swings on.

I'm going to write René and see if she'll write me. She probably won't want to write me though. I'll write Laura a letter when I get the time.

You all must be ~~excitin~~ excited about moving into the new church. How about sending me some picks of the church and some of the family too. I don't have a picture of anyone but Jeff & Pat and Carey. So send me some pictures.

I'm glad to hear everyone is fine and everyone's working. To Bad Butch is getting laid off.

You're probably wondering what my plans are when I come home next year. Here they are.

I'll come home for a few weeks visit and then back to Calif to be with Cindy. Steve Murray & I are going to rent an apartment together. Cindy and I will be getting married either next summer or early in the fall. It all depends. She will have completed her 2 years of college and will have her B.S degree.

I'm going to go to Fresno St. College for 1 more year and then transfer to Cal. Tech. and go to school there for 4 years. It's purely science & math and get my Masters & later my PhD. (I'm going all the way up the ladder!) Upon completion of graduation (J.P.L) Jet Propulsion Laboratories where Mr Fry works will pay me $900 to $1000 a month plus put me through school to get my PHD! So there it all is. Cindy will be working helping out as well as I'll be working some. We're not planning on having any kids until I'm at least 3 yrs. through school. Who knows, you might have more grandchildren before then. As far as church goes we're going to work with the youth. I'll probably become a deacon too.

That's about all the news for this letter. Thanks for writing me. Love, Larry (over)

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