16 May 69

Dear Mom & Dad, (1)

I got your peanut butter fudge. Boy was it good. I've still got over two lbs of it left. Thanks.

I got 4 days of good rest in a bed with sheets and air conditioning in the hospital. I had a heat stroke - getting to hot and passing out. It all happened in the middle of a fire fight.

I made a couple of friends with a couple of new guys about two weeks ago. They are dead now. I had to go to Dalang and identify their bodies at the mortuary. It was no fun. I had to escort the bodies to the plane and watch them board for the U.S. One of the bodies was my own plt. Commander, a second Leit. in the USMC. Died from a mortar exploding close to him. That is what this war is like. I hate it.

I won't be going on an R&R until August sometime. I've still got a couple of months yet before then. I'll be able to get 7 days rest. Two days traveling and

5 days rest in Australia at Sydney. I'll (2)
be sure to get lots of pictures of Australia
to show you.

I sent you an envelop of slides of
Saigon that I bought in the big
Air Force PX in DaNang when I was
there.

Our battalion has run into 2 Regiments
of NVA soldiers. We killed 3,000 of
them so far this week. We've lost over
300 men too.

I'm really glad to hear you had such
a good turnout in your new church.
Maybe someday I can stand in
that pulpit and give a testimony.
I sure do have one now!

Grandma wrote me a letter. I'll
write her when I finish this one.

Gary wrote and told me he'd be
home on the 26th of May. I sure wish
I could come home then.

Thanks about what you wrote
me about killing enemies — I see
the light and it sure eases my mind.
I still don't prefer to kill.

I never heard of Dr. McKee before.

No I haven't been seeing my chaplain. The only chaplain we have now is Catholic. And he & I don't see eye to eye. I'll be darn if I'll kiss the alter table and "Hail Mary" a hundred times. I can't stand his set memorized prayers - they mean nothing when he mumbles them and no one can even understand him. Scripture is never heard or read. Then he closes his service after he drinks some wine and a cracker for communion. Then everyone leaves and says boy I feel great I went to church and I feel like I'm clean and my sins forgiven. I said I feel terrible. I want to sing praises, read God's word and pray to my father and have a fellowship with Christ. This Catholic chaplain is always dressed up in white and goes around telling dirty stories and cussing on his time off when visiting with the men. So now there won't any ~~chaplain~~ chaplain for the rest of us. I continue with daily devotions when I am permitted with the time.

I listen to Pastor Nusbaum's services on tape. I can't send any tapes to you right now because I lost my microphone when I got medivaced to the hospital. I also lost my diary I kept every single day. I also lost all my gear, my addresses and all personal belongings that I had with me at the time except for my watch, ring and wallet.

Mom, I've got a ~~hemoroid~~ hemorrhoid just in the inside of my rectum. It bothers me when I make a head call or sit in certain positions. The corpsman gave me a pantocaine ointment to use on it. I guess its supose to make it shrink. It's as big as my thumbnail. What is it caused from? Will I need to have it removed? It burns and itches. I've also got a skin ulcer on my face. Remember when Gary & I were little and had all those sores over our faces and heads? Well it looks like that. It's not a ring worm though. I use the same ointment on that big sore just below my lower lip. Could it be caused

from bad nerves? My nerves are ⑤
bad. I have faith and there isn't
any fear. It's just noise, bullets
flying by my head, etc... How would
you're nerves be?

My vitamens got lost too. I hope you'll
send me some more of those iron
pills. I believe they helped me. Cindy
sent me another vaccination.

The doc says I'm strong enough
to go back out into the sun so
I'm waiting now for a helicopter to
take me to my company. They have
been into a fire fight all morning
so I couldn't get out to them.

The war is really getting bad here.
Hue is now the hottest spot of the
war. Hue is suppose to be over
run by the 19th of May. There are
over 2 Regiments of NVA soldiers
surrounded us. We've killed over
3,000 enemy this past week. They
have killed over 300 of us and
wounded? maybe 800 more of

us in the past week. Over half of my company has been wiped out now. The bad thing about it is that we aren't getting enough replacements.

Please continue praying for me and others around me.

Here's some ding-dong wedding news from Southern Calif.

Eileen Markham & Terry Kilman are getting married in July.

Linda Lawrence is getting married in August.

Rick Bennet and Bonnie Jones are getting married in Oct. or Nov.

Jim Shepard & Carroll Moore are getting married in Sept.

Allan Paire and his fiancee are getting married in Oct.

J.C. "Jay" Vaughn is marrying a Japanese girl from Okinawa who speaks 9 different languages!

Danny Polinski is getting

married this summer too. ①

I guess Andy Koch & Janet Query are getting married next Spring. That leaves everyone married in the church group except for Cindy & me and Mark Hammock & Kent Cape. Oh. Linda Ratenburg is expecting any time now!

That's all the news for now.

Love,

Larry

P.S. Tell the Witzes that I received the fudge that they sent me. Explain I don't have enough time to write and thank them. Thank them for me. Lar.

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