

SAIGON VIETNAM
18 JANUARY 1967
2130 O'clock

My Dear Family -

Tonight when we left the restaurant it was sprinkling - just a little but the just moisture of any kind that we have had since arriving. Speaking of the restaurant - tonight we ate "on the local market" - that is a phrase meaning that we did not go to an American establishment - but rather one of those run by people who make their home here. In any event we went to a place run by a Chinese man - I'm not sure what the name of the place is in Vietnamese - but the sign over the door in English (below the big Vietnamese sign) says Cher's Charlies - how about that Chuck! - I had sweet and sour pork and fried rice - and it was good. It is fine to have some change and variety in the diet and so I particularly appreciated going "on the local market" tonight.

All last night and through out today I have heard the concussion of the bombing of the "Iron Triangle" - dull + loud in the background and a sense of feeling the vibration in the ground. This places in the sky at night (to keep the VC from infiltrating into the air base on the outskirts of Saigon) and of course the many service men - vehicles + other activities - planes, helicopters, etc - that are the signs of a war going on.

Earlier in the week I stopped in at the 17th Field Hospital - in Cholon - a ~~subur~~ city next to Saigon - to check on additional shots, etc for the team. The doctors told me that they had between 300 - 400 patients go through their code day and that they were practicing surgery 24 hours a day. Many men are brought directly in - from battle fields within flying distance and this vastly improves patient care over what was done in WW II.

Today I had the last appointment with one of the Deans of the University of Saigon - tomorrow is our big meeting and then we can start direct contact lectures - tea members and faculty of ~~the~~ the university. In retrospect it is apparent that I should have come over at least two weeks before tea members & taken care of many other details.

Some one said they heard that a major blizzard had gone through the Dakotas + Minnesota - did it get to Wisconsin?
Thinking of you tonight - and sending my love.
Dad.