

Air born over Vietnam

27 January 1967 ¹⁰⁰⁰

My dear family -

"and the dawn leaps up like thunder across the China Sea" - That is the way this day started. We got it started much before dawn - we walked to the military base (about 10 blocks) through the dark streets of Hue - in an early morning fog had a good breakfast and some excellent coffee and I was in good shape to face the day and its events.

The university provided a VW bus and a small land rover - and we went on a tour of Hue and surrounding areas. We went to the market first - most of the fellows wanted to purchase conical hats - I wondered and saw food, clothing, household items for sale. Then we drove to the Citadel - and the walled "Imperial City" that is ancient Hue - very beautiful in this tropical way -

vegetation is taking over, but we saw the
kings and the aged women there, and
the other buildings for his mandarins and other
officials. There we drove to see the "old"
town - just on the side of a lovely hill
above the airport - across that was for
former opium and well, with in walls. ~~and~~
we got back to the hotel in time to pack &
check out - then to the military base for lunch
and then drive out to the air strip.

Our plane was late in coming in to
here and so far we have made two stops that
we are scheduled to land at Saigon in
about 30 minutes (1830). But - never real

this is a C-46 - I am sitting along
one side and there are passengers lining the
sides - civilians, U.S. military, Vietnamese military,
Vietnamese civilians - and down the middle of the
plane is supplies - an air craft repair stopped
down - boxes of supplies and other items -
being returned to Saigon for the plane
we have stopped in refueled plane - and

I am determined to get back to the city of [unclear] (3) and get a hot shower. I have been 3 days, since the hotel in [unclear] had only cold water and that only lasted a few minutes each morning before it was gone.

The team is tired and anxious to get back to Saigon - food and rest in some familiar surroundings. I guess the experience at the University of [unclear] left us all a little worn out and this for a couple of the team wouldn't go about as much surprise as they would take. It is interesting to see what how they act and react to conditions and needs that are so different from any job of their experience. I guess there is not a way that you can predict or anticipate their work until one actually has the experience. By and large though they are doing well and these references should help us understand each other.

Before leaving we arranged for the members of the team to return - probably on February 16-17 & 18th. I think that Howard set

③ and Vince Conway (assuming he is here then) ④
will go while Harry, Mel and Don go to see
Cartha at the same time. The next week (January
30th) we have our scheduled meetings with
the faculties of the University of Saigo
as the time up to Tet is already "booked"
and we are already scheduling days for the
period following Tet.

I'll write more about Tet later but you
probably know from reading that it is the
Lunar (Lunar) New Year and is the big holiday
here. Everything closes down and it is wrong
to try and conduct business with Vietnamese
during that time. A little like making appointments
on Christmas and New Year.

The last two letters to you I mailed from
Hue - I'd be interested in how long it takes
them to get home in comparison with
the letters I mail from Saigo.

I'll try to add to this after supper
today - when I meet the members of the team to whom
I'll send the letters. (I'll send the letters to
the post office tomorrow 10:15 AM)

2230 o'clock

⑤ Now I have just finished taking a shower - washing my hair and also washing out the underwear and socks I used on the trip to Hue. A shower is a fine thing and I have that feeling that one gets after a day at the beach - then coming in and taking a shower - tired but relaxed and ready to go to bed.

Our plane landed at 1900 - our dinner was at the airport and we were soon back at the hotel. I had dinner with Bob La Follette, Jim Singleton and a Dr. Tolle - the USAID advisor (education) to Ambassador Koren.

When I returned I found a letter from your mother, it is good to hear from her.

Let me say good night to each of you now - and with it all my love.

Dad.