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# Letters from Vietnam

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WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT

MAY 2018

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## Introduction

In the spring of 1968, I was ending my first year as a mathematics graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. My new wife, Judith Pomeroy, and I had moved to California in the fall of 1967. We rented an apartment in graduate student housing in nearby Albany, California and commuted to the campus, her for work in a demographics office, me to attend math classes. Berkeley was an epicenter of many of the events in the headlines at that time: the Vietnam War, the anti-war movement, the civil rights movement. We occasionally smelled the tear gas from confrontations in Sproul Plaza and adjacent Telegraph Avenue. The environment provided a crash course in the major political issues of the time.

In March or April 1968, Lyndon Johnson and the Selective Service System, the draft, changed the rules under which I had been eligible for student deferments. They needed more bodies for the war in Vietnam. Undergraduate and advanced grad students continued to be eligible for deferments, but first year and future grad students were no longer eligible for draft deferments. I had registered with the Anchorage Draft Board when I turned 18 as required. Within a few weeks of the change in student deferment rules, I received a letter from the Anchorage Draft Board instructing me to report for service with the US Army.

My brother volunteered for service in the Alaska National Guard. At that time, service in one of the state National Guards generally protected people from the risk of service in Vietnam. Unlike George W. Bush, my brother didn't have anyone pulling strings to get him in or to mitigate the obligations. The letter from the draft board forced me to consider my options. It was clear to me that US involvement in the Vietnam War was wrong. I didn't really consider following my brother's example and joining a National Guard. The idea of actually volunteering to serve in the military was repugnant to me. In my view there were only a few options: I could immigrate to Canada or Sweden, I could apply for conscientious objector status, I could refuse the draft and go to jail, or I could let them draft me. Although there were later amnesties which allowed draft dodgers to return from other countries, at the time it was a permanent renunciation of life in the US. I did not want to do that. Ironically, 50 years, later I willingly left the US to live in another country, but leaving to avoid the draft, with no possibility of returning was not something I was willing to consider. As an atheist, a request for conscientious objector status would not have been successful, and in fact, I did not object to all wars on principle, religious or other. I was unwilling to lie. The prospect of going to jail for draft dodging did not appeal to me. Furthermore, it would have meant financially abandoning

Judith, a responsibility I felt very strongly. Even as a student, I had income from a fellowship. There was another element to the decision as well. The draft system was designed to protect the kids of middle class families that could afford to send their sons to college. The burden of fighting US wars fell heavily on families with less opportunity. I felt like, if the US was going to send people off to fight wars, it was my responsibility to go, regardless of my personal opinion of whether we should be in that war.

I petitioned the Selective Service System for a change of draft board from Anchorage to Oakland, California. Meanwhile, in the US the world I had come to know seemed to be unraveling. Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4th. I had great hopes for Robert F. Kennedy who was campaigning for the presidency that year. But then, he was assassinated on June 6th. It seemed a great blow to me personally. In the midst of these events, my wife and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary on June 10th. It was not clear there would be another. On September 21st, 1968, I was inducted into the US Army at the Oakland Army induction center and nine months later, on July 15th, 1969, I was sent to Vietnam. My original intention was to just reproduce letters that I wrote to Judith while I was in Vietnam. On organizing them I discovered that with the exception of my first letter from Vietnam, the first two months are missing. In light of this, and maybe anyway, it might be useful to provide a little more background about our situation during that year. After induction at the notorious Oakland Army Induction center in September, I was sent to Ft. Lewis Washington for basic training. During this time Judith went east to spend the time with, first her parents briefly, and then with my parents for the duration of basic training. Most of the men in basic training with me were Mexican-American boys from the San Francisco Bay area. My age of 24 made me half a dozen years older than most of them. At the end of basic training, all of the men in my basic training group with 20/20 eyesight were assigned to the infantry. Those of us needing glasses were assigned to the artillery and sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for advanced training. Judith and I met in San Francisco, bought a 1967 beige Volkswagen beetle, (the only new car I ever owned) and drove to Lawton, Oklahoma where we spent six months. Judith got a job as a temporary teacher and classroom aide and I spent what was originally intended to be two months training as a "gun bunny", one of the men who load and fire artillery pieces. After two months, the Army's plan was to send me to Vietnam. If they had followed this plan, I would have returned from Vietnam with eight months left on my two year commitment as a draftee (enlistees had a three year active duty commitment, but draftees only two years). By volunteering for Non-Commissioned-Officer training, then flunking out, I managed to delay the departure to Vietnam. With this delayed departure date, I would return with only

three months remaining and qualify for a "drop", getting off active duty as soon as I got off the plane home from Vietnam.

At the end of our sojourn in Oklahoma, we drove back to San Francisco and rented an apartment in the Sunset. Judith enrolled in a fifth year teacher training program at San Francisco State University and I went to Vietnam. The moon landing was July 20th. My recollection is that I left on the 15th. The first letter was written on the 20th while I was in Cam Ranh Bay. I suspect what happened is that I left San Francisco on the 15th then flew to Vietnam on the 19th or 20th. I remember I had a couple of days working in a donut bakery at Ft Lewis before I got on a plane to Vietnam. I also remember two GIs holding me up for all the money I had while I was at Ft Lewis waiting for the flight to Cam Ranh Bay. As I recall they only got \$20 out of the mugging. In Vietnam, I was assigned to Battery D, 13th Artillery, 25th Infantry Division. For the first time in my short Army career, someone noticed that I had more education than the average draftee. Instead of putting me on one of the four 155 mm howitzers as indicated by my MOS, 13B10 (Military Operation Specialty), I was assigned to Fire Direction Control, a fifth section that was responsible for communicating with the people requesting artillery fire, calculating the gun elevations and deflections, and controlling the fire. While in Vietnam, I wrote to my wife Judith nearly every day. I wanted her to get a regular confirmation that I was still alive, even if it was a few days behind real time. She saved my letters. None of her letters to me survived the year. I could not remember what happened to them, but in one of my letters I comment that I had to burn them. They were considered a security risk. What follows are transcripts of the letters I sent from Vietnam. They are unedited except where noted with comments [in brackets].

Note: Pay at that time:

E-5	254.70
E-4	214.70
E-3	155.70



**July 1969**

20 July 69  
Sunday

Jud,

How have you been

So much has happened since I last talked to you that I don't know how to begin.

Business first —

Don't send anything more to that personal mail section address. I don't see that til I get to a unit then they forward anything they have to me.

I am fine — our flight was by way of Anchorage and Yokota, Japan to Cam Ranh Bay. I saw my brother and his wife for about half an hour at the airport.

I'm still at Cam Ranh Bay — should move on tonight but I don't know where — for yet. It's hard to believe there is a war going on here. It is much quieter than Fort Sill. Also a little hotter, but definitely bearable. CRB is very similar to some small fishing village in Alaska — all wood huts (now they are barracks) with board walks. As is typical of the army there is plenty of hi pressure running water — I don't think they bother to heat any of it. There are even electric water coolers around. The only evidences of the war are the barbed wire fences and the sandbags — everything is sandbagged or being sandbagged. Everywhere there are no buildings there is sand — apparently native to the area. CRB is located in a semi-arid desert practically. On the flat the sand is only interrupted occasionally by palm-leafy like low plants. However the hills near by are quite fertile looking, very green.

The flight down was very pleasant — the sort of flight in other and times one might recommend to people. First we flew over the mountain ranges of the western coast of Canada and Southe [sic] easter Alaska — S.E. Alaska is somewhat like I picture Norway Myriad bays and inlets and mountains rising up steeply form the sea.

Then out of Anchorage we flew over the Alaska Range with good view of Mt. McKinley. the peaks were all covered with snow and laced in among the clouds. Going into Yokata (A.F.B.) Japan there miles of postage stamp fields.

Then between Yokota and CRB we flew over a lot of little islands (Apparently Okinawa and neighbors) One had an immense coral lagoon at one end. The water isn

the lagoon was a brilliant blue-green so clear you could see the bottom (from 38,000 feet) The flight was 15 hrs (3-5-7) long. Whenever we flew over anything interesting the pilot would dip his wing on the appropriate side. It must have been a sight as we flew over the Pacific islands rolling from one side to the other. We were served four meals all told.

The guy sitting next to me played chess so we spent a good part of the time playing chess. He hadn't played in 7 or 8 years and so I beat him every game he kept getting harder to beat and I could not have kept it up much longer. He had no knowledge of strategy but was very keen at maneuvering (at least on our level). He also came from the Enl [unclear] Sta Bn at Fort Sill.

Many Vietnamese women work on this base in the mess halls and supply rooms. They are interesting in their consistency, they all wear different versions of the same sandal, (like mine without the strap around the heel — just a band across the toes and no thong between the toes) slacks made out of a black shiny material and a bamboo coolie type hat ([sketch]) That's not all they wear that just the part that is the same.

I haven't washed or shaved since Thursday Wednesday actually — but I plan to remedy that after dinner. It's not quite as bad as it sounds since we skipped Fri. At the moment here it is 4:00 PM Sunday In S.F. it is always about 10 hours later and 1 day earlier which would be about 2:00 AM Sunday. I'm not sure of the number of hours difference will try to find out. How is Reto [our pet Belgian Shepard plus maybe standard poodle] — I saw a book on Dogs which commented the habit of raising Cain when left alone is sometimes nigh impossible to break them of.

A comedian here was just commenting on the disposition of his uniform before he left home. With his greens he made wall-to-wall carpets in his dog's house, his ties went for curtains in same and his garrison caps (2) went to the dog's latrine — one to defecate in and one to cover it up with. It struck me as funny anyway. How about a game with a pawn to que never mind I just realized you can't answer till I get an address.

I was glad to hear that the Long's are taking good care of you. I imagine by the time I get back you will be so casual about driving on Bay area bridges and free way you won't even understand it upset you. (I realize it is more involved than that). I had to check my knife while I'm at C.R.B. I can get it back when I leave here.

Take care of yourself Jud and say hello to our families for me.

Love,  
William

P.S. Only three-six-two days and I'll be at home and a civilian again

22 Jul 69

Dear Jud,

Please excuse the pencil but I loaned out both of my pens. The pad I found.

To take care of business first — Enclosed you will find several items, a whole slew of junk in fact. Most of it is of no interest, I would just like you to file it away for me somewhere. The two papers wrapped in the letter are of interest to you one is a carbon of my gov't insurance. The other is the procedures for your getting me in an emergency. Put them where you can find them then read over the one from the Red Cross.

Next you said to say if I needed anything — so here goes

— 1 small bottle with a good lid (about aspirin sized — for a personal supply of malaria pills)

— a small but heavy duty plastic bag to put my wallet in — they make them in assorted sizes for freezers.

— 1 stem for my pipe — it broke in transit

That's all I can think of at the moment — thank you

Happiness is finding a pocket inside of a pocket on your jungle fatigues (For a total of 11 pockets on a shirt and pants).

Sadness is finding your pipe broken and your chess set in sadly debilitated condition. The chess set is still functional but somewhat worse for the wear which is more than can be said of the pipe. I am learning the hard way how to preserve things here. I now have my whole duffel bag lined with a plastic bag (thanks to you) but I didn't do this until everything was completely soaked. And unfortunately it is difficult to dry things thoroughly here.

In case you are wondering what you did to deserve two letters on one day — I have guard tonight (It's just a stateside type guard with billy clubs however)

I changed your allotment today. It won't take effect until Sept. I think your allotment check will then come to [the letter ends there, probably some pages are missing]

Love,  
William

P.S. Only three-six-two days and I'll be at home and a civilian again.

## **August and September 1969**

[August and September 1969 are missing]

## October 1969

8 Oct 69

My Little Girl,

Another day has passed. It was hot and very slow today. The kind of day when it seems like the whole world has slowed to a stop.

I gave one package of Sail to Woods, the cook. He's a short chubby guy and he has taken up smoking got cut down on eating. He was the one who suggested Sail to me in the first place. "Summer Place" is on the radio. It's very pretty.

I've been looking over my collection of photographs. It seem like you have a different hair style in every one. The picture of you family (minus your father) reminds me of the photographs of hippy families — a lot of strange looking individuals.

I guess that I have nothing more to say.

Take care of yourself and study hard (I should tell you that).

I love you,  
William

11 Oct 69  
9:30 PM  
Sat Evening

Dear Jud,

Got your letters today and it was like Christmas. It is hard to believe that all the items I have piled up around me came out of two envelopes.

The pictures are fantastic [sic]. It is painful to look at such beautiful country (not just because I am here). I especially like the one of you and Reto sitting down. You have your green purse strapped on (don't you go anywhere without a purse) and Reto has his red tongue hanging out. I think the army given me a much deeper appreciation of colors.

I'm keeping the two of you and the dog. I think I will enjoy them more than anybody else anyway.

Also the Feiffer cartoon was very pertinent.

Will try to answer your letters now. The photos of Vermont made me somewhat nostalgic also. I find I enjoyed that place much more than I realized at the time. It is sort of absurd your having to take an English test.

The work here is not bad. It is perhaps the most interesting job I have ever had (civilian included). It is certainly a routine though. The variations from day to day are not of the kind that are worth talking about. (Do you really care that we are going to shoot a prep for the 82nd Airborne tomorrow morning).

I don't really think it fair of you to describe these fancy pajamas and underwear to me. Are you attempting to drive me insane. (That doesn't mean you should refrain).

About the dining room door — there is a substance called wood putty, or some such variation with which you can fill the holes. What you do is fill the holes with it then start the screws in about half way. Then let it harden and finally tighten down the screws. If this fails — which it probably will sooner or later — the only solution is to move the hinge up or down an inch or so.

My dress set is doing fine. It is slightly debilitated by the moisture but it didn't do any permanent disabling damage.

I say again don't worry about getting letters off to me. I enjoy your letters when I get them. The only disadvantage is that when I'm not answering your letters mine



are somewhat colorless.

R&R doesn't seem so very far off now. This year is almost over.

I have a small piece of plywood I use for writing letters on and I have started taping pictures that I most enjoy to it. Now there are two.

Good night little girl. Just take care of yourself and don't worry about me. I am fine.

I love you,  
William

12 Oct

Dear Judith,

I am pleased by your reception to the poem I sent you. I had misgivings but I have the feeling that it was all right. It is rare that one finds something written by another which so effectively describes such deep feelings. But that poem (the parts that I understand) does much better than I could ever do.

Speaking of mail you have been doing quite well yourself. 2 letters yesterday and two today. Re the comments on a name. I think of you and refer to you in conversations more as "my wife" than anything else. Probably that is a product of spending so much time among people who don't know you.

In response to your question "was I really that careless." I can only say that it is a source of never-ending amazement to me that I could be so lucky (I can think of no better word for it) as to marry you. I really had no appreciation of the qualities that I now consider essential, but was totally ignorant of before had, to marriage.

If I were you I would wait until the clock arrived before paying for it — but I suppose they are waiting for the check before returning it.

It also bothered me the thought of returning to the States and being stationed in Okla. until Sept. It is an interesting comment on how the known, no matter how bad, is preferred to the unknown. Once you get used to the idea you realize that even if you stayed in S.F. it would be much better and we would only be separated for two months longer — not counting such things as leaves.

I wasn't aware that my stationary was so fragrant. I can think of only two possible explanations — for one Shep uses an excessive amount of smelly gunk (people are always telling him he smells like a French whore) and I write in the evenings when everyone takes a shower. Secondly the paper is kept in a small airtight can along with all of your letters. (I never noticed a fragrance to yours). Neither seem likely but I don't know what else it could be.

In case you are really wondering about it I will add as an incidental that I haven't even seen a female in 3 months and (believe it or not as you will) have no interest in seeing any except one. I still think you are the one exception to a generally useless lot. [??? I don't remember being so misogynist at that age.]

I'm afraid I can't help you much in the Christmas gift department. Did I mention I'm out of Hubbard's Boot Grease. There isn't anything else I want (I got a BMW cata-

logue in the mail a couple of days ago but I assume you're not referring to something along that line). Sorry I can't be of more help.

Think I will discuss the subject of poem etc. some more. It's easier to write, than to talk about I believe. [cut]

It grieves me that you can't believe me when I tell you how beautiful you are. For you are very beautiful.

I love you,  
William

P.S. [cut]

13 Oct 69

Dear Judith

Sorry to hear you are low today (meaning the 8th) but I guess it is inevitable some of the time.

You can always cut classes if they get too mundane, in case you've forgotten. It looks like \_\_\_\_\_ is being replaced. We got a new F.D.O. (Fire Direction Officer) today and I [sic] don't believe we are authorized two any more. The new(est) one, a Lt. Cooney, is much better (he's not a lifer). \_\_\_\_\_ is the first person I've ever met whom I believe is incapable of making it even in the army.

I have been feeling rather listless in the evenings lately. I can't seem to get interested in much of anything. The days are no problem. Shep and Backhaus are getting so they do very little any more (I don't blame them after nearly a year). It makes more work for me but I enjoy being busy.

After I finish I'm going to see if some of the new books we got in have any appeal. Shep has all the ones that held any promise.

Take care of yourself. I love you. I wish it weren't necessary to inflict this on you.

William

[undated]

Dear wife,

Another day gone down. I seem to be busy these days I never have time to kill. Several interesting things happened today. For one thing we are getting a couple of new people in FDC (Fire Direction Control) . They are back going to school now. Also apparently \_\_\_\_\_ is leaving us in Dec. He is going to be an F.O. (Forward Observer) which I wouldn't wish on even him (or the company that will get him).

Every day they come up with new things for me to do. They are attempting to make me look like a soldier, but they will have difficulties.

Reto is getting big isn't he. I sometimes get tired of the people around here—mostly I can understand them and it doesn't bother me. Geddes is the chronic complainer. He had KP [Kitchen Police] yesterday and he spent as much time in FDC talking about how unnecessary it was as he did washing pots.

The new mess Sargeant has improved food 100% and along with it he has made the KP's really work.

It is really a remarkable opportunity to study people. Everybody reacts differently.

The sky is a beautiful dark blue in your pictures of the Sierra Nevadas—a contrast to the washed out Oklahoma sky.

Incidentally please disregard my request for Schoenfield and note books—I wouldn't use them and it would just add to the pile of junk I already have. I have a copy of McLuhan's Understanding Media here. It came in our book supply. Also I noticed a copy of Letters to Philly. The variety is quite extensive. Last night I reread Raisin in the Sun [sic]. We also had a copy of Poe's tales and poems.

This Thursday will be the 1/4 pt That's [sic] a pretty good chunk. I expect you to be demonstrating in the streets for me tomorrow (the 15th).

I got a letter from Bill Knight yesterday. I have already lost one game to him.

Your favorite song "Go away little girl" is on the radio.

I almost forgot. I got your numerous papers in the mail today. Did you read Caen's scathing comments on Sunset. That was the first copy of the Guardian I have ever read.

Your revised plan for Cassette tape recorders sounds a little better. I am not sure they make recorders that will handle both cassettes and reel tapes. Also I am still

adamant about not really wanting one over here. I am sending away for more info on subject and will keep you posted. Shep is reading Malcolm X's autobiography. I suppose I should bring

I miss you  
William

15 October 69

Dear Judith,

I have a lot of separate things I want to mention tonight but will probably not remember any of them.

I got your package today — you never fail to come up with new and different things in every package. I had never had anything like either of the items (I don't know what they are). They were both good I like the chocolate chip things best I think. I put the can of fruit juice in the cooler (ice chest type) for about an hour before I drank it and it was precisely 32°. It really tasted great. Thank you.

Can you send me enough stamps (regular mail kind) to cover the cost of mailing a book (weight 1 lb. or under) to the U.S. I have no idea how much is necessary.

I got another letter from a chess playing friend of Steve's. Somehow lately I find it depressing to get letters from guys who are going on about there [sic] lives normally. But it is easy to ignore letters — especially from complete strangers. Maybe in a few days I will feel like answering them.

There is another song (besides Elvis) that is popular over here (i.e. played a lot of radio) with the line "any way you want me" in it. I also noticed the lyrics in that song from Mayall's album that you mentioned. I think the pleasures of monogamy are very much underplayed.

I'm going to burn old letters tomorrow. They are overrunning my storage capacity. (Anything like mail has to be burned — it is classified material over here).

As predicted I can't remember all the things I intended to mention.

If you really want to get me something for Christmas why don't you get me some beads at Stephen's. I am not hypocritical enough to wear a peace medal over here, but some beads might be nice.

I just read a book by Mitchener called America vs Merica in which he discussed the middle class ethics and youths' rebellion against it. The only one he left out is complacency and the book reeks of it. It is a 100 page rationalization which he tries to disguise by listening "sympathetically" to the "other side's" view point.

Our call sign changed from Bronco to Pendant marking off another period of time. It is amazing how many different means of marking the passing of time I find here. By days, weeks, months, fractions of years, by weekly malaria pills, by monthly pay

checks, by call signs, I even have a list of people who have to leave before me. In spite of it all the time passes.

Once again thank you for the package.

With all my love,  
William



16 Oct 69

My dear Judith,

Received two very nice letters from you today. I was busy and away from FDC almost all day and it was pleasant to come back and find your [sic] waiting for me.

I have been reading Race War. I just read a section on the Japanese in California. Putting them in camps during WWII was merely the culmination of a long history of discrimination. Did you ever wonder why there are so many Japanese landscapers, or fish markets. Its [sic] because in the early 1900's California passed laws excluding them from owning agricultural land anywhere in the state (Alien Land Acts of 1913 and 1920).

I guess I 'm very naive but it shocks me.

It is cool and pleasant outside tonight, but hot in the bunker. It would be nice night to sleep outside, but that just "isn't done you know". Tonight is the thirteenth week and tomorrow the end of the third month. That's a pretty good chunk to start with.

Marx Concept of Man sounds very interesting.

Re Hawaii I doubt that even on the least inhabited of the Hawaiian Islands we'll have trouble finding a movie or Baskin Robbins but we'll keep flexible. I expect us to learn how to surf while we are there also so you might look for ads for places that rent surf boards.

From the carton I have been getting I am getting the impression that the dog eats more than you do.

Re your Cassette recorder plans It appeals more than my ideas of what you had in mind. I could get you a nice Cassette recorder (Fisher RC70). See enclosed catalogue. I have a lot of other material but not in duplicate (except for enclosed) It's not descriptive but will give you a general idea. After I have looked at some of the other things I will send them on.

I am spared the hardship of seeing other couples.

I was quite busy today. I guess I say that everyday. Somehow there are always a full supply of things to be done. We got in 1200 projo [projectiles: ammunition] today.

I think we really must have been ready to settle down because even though I was only at 1107 Vicente for 2 weeks; it seems like that is the only place I've ever lived.

Good night. Take care of yourself

All my love,  
William

18 Oct 69

My Dear Judith,

I have been reading about the moratorium and, and troop pullout, and Vietnamization of the war. It might interest you to know that the talk about Vietnamization is not all eye wash. There has been an amazing change just since I've been here. When I first arrived one never heard about ARVN's (Army Republic S Vietnam) But now every operation our troops go on is a combined US & ARVN. There is even an ARVN artillery battery about a mile north of us. Of course I have no way of knowing whether that is typical throughout Vietnam or not.

So much for the war. Sounds like you are acquiring quite a menagerie. I hope it didn't interfere with your studying exam to be worriing [sic] about the dog.

Why is Hazel alone — I don't remember.

Re your pledging for the church. \$10/mo. sounds like a pretty good figure to me. I would be interested in knowing how they use the money.

I don't have the foggiest idea of exactly what we are getting in stereo.

It is strange to me to think of you going to classes and being a student. That seems like a long way off somehow. This place seems to have a strange effect on people — after you have been here for awhile you begin to feel as if you had always been here. Nothing else seems real.

Shep and I are building a model airplane (balsa wood type) it is really quite an undertaking.

I am beginning to hate the 1st Sargeant just like lifers back in the states. For awhile it was pleasant because although we were harassed I never got the feeling it was particularly malicious. Lately however the 1st Sargeant takes pleasure in tormenting people. You hear them (1st Sarge, XO, BC [Executive Officer, Battery Commander]) laughing among themselves at EM [Enlisted Men]. Yesterday (or day before) we were throwing sandbags up on the roof and they (same as above) sat and amused themselves watching and making comments to each other.

I realize I am not explaining it perhaps because I don't understand why it affects me like it does. It really tears me up inside to be so powerless.

Another time we were working and the 1st Sargeant walked by and as he went by

I just spit on the ground and looked away. It really surprised me because I immediately realized what a childish reaction it was. But that is the way it makes you feel. You want at the very least for them to know how you feel towards them — but it is hopeless because it only adds to their enjoyment.

The army has taught me to hate with a passion I wouldn't have thought I was capable of 18 mo. ago.

In civilian life it is very easy to avoid people who annoy you or at least ignore them.

I best drop the subject or I won't be able to sleep

Tomorrow I guess I'll go do a wash that is usually pretty satisfying.

I love you Jud. Sometimes it helps a great deal to know you are waiting for me. Take care of yourself.

All my love,  
William

P.S. Have Reto give you a kiss for me. I wouldn't trust anyone else.

19 Oct 69

Dear Judith,

Considering I couldn't get interested in doing anything tonight. It certainly is late now.

Thank you for the custom tags now I can send off for your Christmas present. I don't know when you will receive it.

I don't know what you are talking about — a problem that spelled something. It is interesting that you report the beginning of your rainy season just as we are seeing the last of the rains here. I was out looking at the stars tonight and trying to see if I could see the North Star when all of the sudden I realized (its [sic] trivial but I never thought about it before) that it is at an elevation of  $11^\circ$  (we are at  $11^\circ$  North latitude) and therefore certainly visible. That is reassuring — now all I have to do is find it. there are too many clouds tonight.

I am slowly getting through The Race War — Next attempt is McLuhan's book. There is discussion about changing shifts around. If they put me on nights I should get a lot of reading done. It doesn't matter to me very much although I think I prefer days.

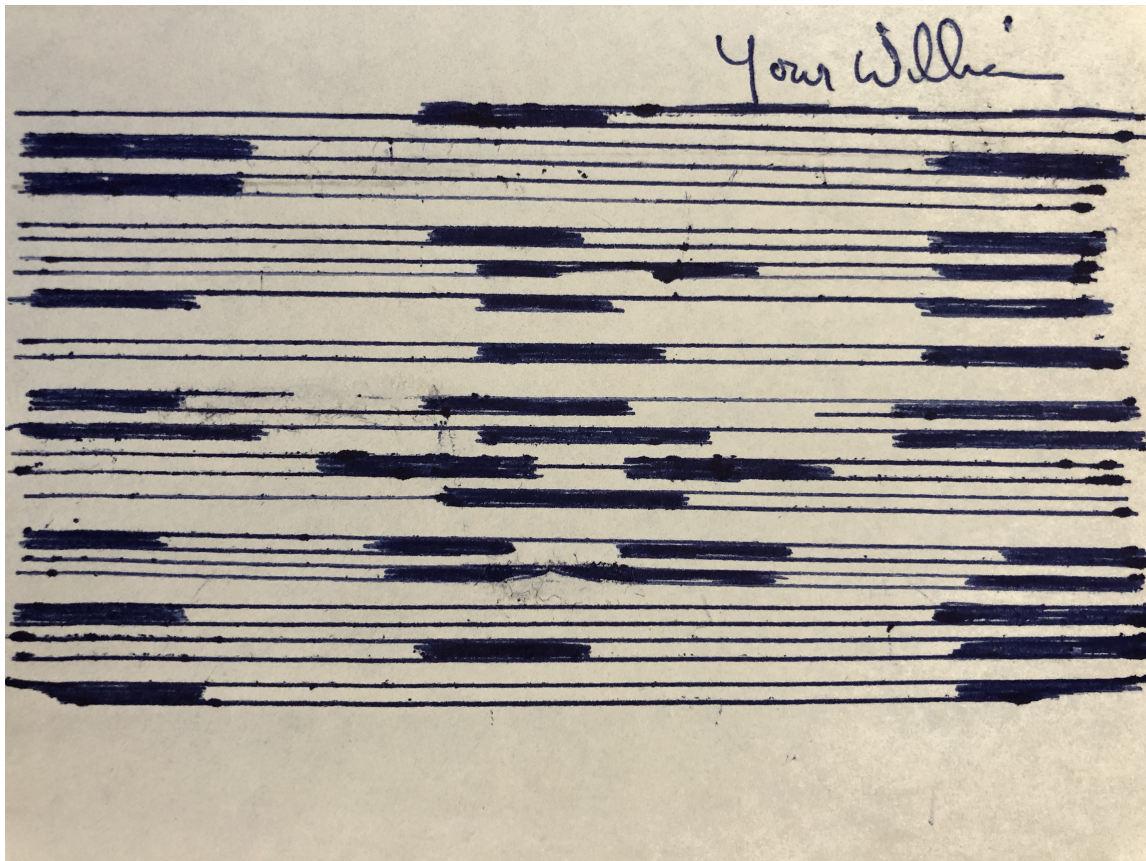
Nights are a little different — not much — and I think they want me to learn what there is to know about it.

There is a rumor now that one of the Malaria pills we take causes baldness and blindness a few years later. I don't put much stock in it (they use to say exactly the same thing about masturbation) but just in case I have given up that kind of pill. Malaria is unheard of around here anyway.

A pleasant place isn't it. Do you have difficulty reading my handwriting — I was just noticing that it has degenerated into a scrawl.

The radio just played "money can't buy me love" by the Beatles.

As an example of the nature of the distortion (a better word would be censorship perhaps) that news receives [sic] here. In the Stars and Stripes, an authorized unofficial newspaper, which is one of our major sources of news, the lead story on the moratorium implied that the anti war and pro-war demonstrators were about equally vociferous. And the accompanying photo was of some straight with signs "Win in Vietnam". I doubt the whole thing but won't know until the Time and Newsweek



stories arrive. The radio puts out the same kind of B.S. (Excuse the expression but can you think of a better one).

I figured out you are right with the five months to R&R [Rest and Recreation]. Actually 5-1/2. That doesn't seem like very long. It is nearly Nov. I'll be glad when this is over.

All my love,  
Your William

P.S. If after pondering above for a while you are unable to make anything of it — turn over for instructions.

Hold the paper up near your eyes and nearly horizontal — then look at the edge of it (try the left edge)

20 Oct 69

My Dear Judith,

I sometimes wonder if I am losing touch with reality. I feel like I am ceasing to exist outside of my own head. I talk to people but it's very superficial. Except for occasional conversations with Shep, I have the feeling nobody's living in the same world that I am. I'm getting very intolerant. I can't read anything with which I disagree, without "seeing red". You were always frightened by introspection and maybe you are right. When nearly all sensory inputs are shut off my mind naturally tunes in on itself.

I think highly introspective periods occasionally can be very educational. I got some interesting insights on myself by observing my reactions to the two new guy who came out here. My reactions surprised me. The first reaction, I decided, was a fear — precisely that of one group of immigrants for the immediately succeeding group — fear of losing my little niche that I have hacked out. The second was an uncertainty of how to classify them. I find that true of a lot of things — I can't relax until I have given something catch-all label. It is much easier than thinking.

That paper "The Guardian" you sent me was disturbing for the same reason. I had no preset label for it, so had to attempt to create one. "The Burb" is much easier.

So much for this evenings [sic] ego trip. Nothing much happens anywhere else to write about.

However I did receiver a letter and papers from you today. (Your letters are one of the few things which bring me back to earth — if only momentarily).

I won't try to dissuade you from smoking this year. It is a harmless pleasure [Oh how naive we were then].

My parents send me numerous Times (Anchorage Daily-type) with 3 and 4 inch headlines on Oil

It must be nice to live in a black and white world instead of a grey one, but not really — kind of dull.

This certainly turned out to be a bright letter didn't it. Don't worry — there's nothing wrong with me that a couple of days of sleeping with you, and going for walks and to the A&W or Baskin Robbins wouldn't cure.

At least it is almost Nov and then nearly Dec. And then there are only 3 mo until R&R (more than that has already passed. If it looks imminent for getting pulled out I will immediately put in for R&R. That way we will get both. As slow as the army is there will be ample time for R&R in the middle between being with drawn and actually living.

You be as happy as you can — I'm proud of how well you are doing.

I love you too

very much,

William



21 Oct 69

Little girl,

I love you.

Today has been a long day spent mostly filling sandbags. I think one of the new guys got an overdose of sun and heat — it was a hard day to start with. I did a wash this morning — I'll bet you have never had the experience of doing all your wash by hand.

Things have been quiet the last few days — we do hardly any shooting.

Today and this evening were extremely hot. It is just now (1130) cooling off. I don't think I really new [sic] what it was like to sweat before. It runs off of you in steady streams for hours on end.

Got a letter from parents today it was pretty nothing. I can understand why guys over here tend to not answer letters. It is really too much effort to write to people in the world. They live such a different life.

I had no conception of life here even after 10 months of preparation (?) for coming.

Had an argument with a new section chief (E-6). I called him a lifer and he pointed out that he is not a lifer but a professional soldier. He is right there is a difference. At least he is neither incompetent nor complacent and apathetic. There are merits in that.

That's about it — maybe tomorrow something will happen worth writing about, but it is not likely.

Take care of yourself little girl and I will take care of me and eventually we can trade jobs.

All my love,  
William

P.S. [cut]

22 Oct 69

Dear Judith,

Another day passes. Have decided to go to bed early tonight. I've been staying up to about one pretty consistently lately. The 1st Sargeant threatened to give me an art. 15 [Article 15 = Military equivalent of maybe a misdemeanor criminal infraction] next time he had to tell me to about my mustache. I cut it off (he wanted it trimmed). I won't hassle it for awhile. I'm glad has so little to do with anything. We're not exactly on the best of terms. It would be very depressing to me to be a first Sargeant — They have all been at it for some twenty odd years, and where have they gotten. They have about the same duties and responsibilities of a secretary. If a gun chief screws up he is relieved. But a 1st Sargeant isn't responsible for anything important enough to be relieved over.

The mosquitoes are unusually thick tonight but it is fairly cool so I guess one can't expect everything.

The only mail today wa a package from my parent — not to [sic] inspiring

You have been going to classes for a month already — the time does go. How are your contacts [lenses] behaving lately. Also isn't it about time you had your teeth looked at and cleaned. I can't remember when it was last done.

In the book I was reading last night (escapism) there was an old lady (aunt) who lived cloistered up in an old house shut off from everybody with an indeterminate [sic] number of cats and no food in the house except cat food. It reminded me of Kay, Mrs. Lower and you (I have visions of you economizing and living on Pard or Alpo).

I enjoyed the picture with your green purse in it. When I was CQ [in Charge of Quarters] at Ft. Sill and you came to get me. Corey and I would and watch for you and part of the description of the car (Beige VW, girl ddriving, Cal. plates etc) would be "does it have a green purse lying in the front seat?" "Yup" "Must be it then".

Good night wench.

I love you,  
William

23 Oct 69

Dearest Judith

Today has been a pretty good day. They are breaking me in running the FADAC [Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer], and it is new — also got a letter from you (slightly delayed) and a newspaper. It was very enjoyable to sit down and read a paper from cover to cover.

The article on Laos was kind of depressing; it sounds like they are already warming up the next world crisis, so they won't be caught with no war to fight. At least we don't have to worry about it (to be purely self interested in it.) I enclosed a picture Bachaus took of a guy you used to know — also the envelope of your letter (so you'll be more careful).

[cut]

I don't understand about the water and the roof of the car. Do you mean the sunroof is leaking or what exactly?

It looks like I'll be section chief in FDC in about a month barring unforeseen events like an ACL trained FDC man arriving.

I can't seem to find much to write about tonight.

Excessive authoritarianism is not a bad fault for a teacher. As we have discussed before you can always slack off.

We have beer in the field now Authorization 2 cans per man per day. I haven't indulged so far, and I doubt that I will. It is too heavily administered (only between 6 and 7, only in a particular bunker, has to be opened before you get it etc.) also they make a profit off of it which goes to some fund (for the battery) The profit off soda pop goes to the barbers — and I certainly have no desire to contribute to that fund.

The BC is easily impressed by education. One of our new FDC member is a graduate of Purdue and he reminds me of the Ebinger, Dulkings (the third guy was best example but I can't remember his name) crowd — if you recall that evening at (I can't remember their name either) Another name I can't remember is my hippy friend at Basic perhaps you recall his name. That has bothered me for awhile.

I must be senile.

All my love

Your senilic husband,  
William

24 Oct 69

Little girl,

It is late so will just write a short note. Recieved [sic] Schoenfield's book today thank you muchly.

Even though I had changed my mind about it I was glad to gt it. I have an adequate supply of customs forms now, thank you. It seems like I am always asking you for things — combined with all the things you send without being asked — it must keep you busy running around. I appreciate.

Our airplane is coming along nicely — about another week and it should be done.

I might consider taking a bible class next year but I make no promises.

One thing about the delay in mail — by the time you are just commenting on the month beginning we have a pretty good start on it. Pay day is coming up pretty soon. I guess it is time to remind you to pay Mr. Ong.

What would be the harm in getting bored over R&R. We'll have another month after that to get unbored. I have pretty well settled on an april [sic] R&R. I'll tkae it just before Geddes DERO's [Date Expected Return from Overseas] (late April).

Take care wench.

I love you,  
(and your cherry pie),  
William

25 Oct 69

My Dear Judith,

You won't believe this but I have already lost the stamps you sent me. I saw them when I opened the envelope but now I can't find them anywhere. It \_\_\_\_\_ me off. Could you try again. I hope you think the book was worth it when you finally get it.

About your house-sitting plan it sounds promising but I would like to know a lot more details before expressing an opinion.

Like — how old are the kids, what sex, how many. How long will they the parents be gone. Where do they live. When are they going. What do they expect of you (Both in time you spend there — you have quite a few commitments it seems, and in what you do, cook? wash?). Also what are they going to pay you?

At first I was thinking it was up to you and the questions were just things I would like to know. But the more I think about it the more I would to know about it before giving my approval, if that is necessary.

I remember Sam's little (teen-age?) brother, Billy, in North to Alaska. Why don't you take that charter to N.Y. I had been thinking about your going back for Christmas but was waiting to bring it up a little later (I'm expecting an unexpected windfall.) It didn't occur to me that you would have to arrange quite a ways in advance. I'm not suggesting — I'm telling you. The money won't even have to come out of savings (except may be momentarily). So go and reserve a seat no. (Be careful with those charter deals though).

It still makes me irate to lose those stamps.

Got a box of junk from my parent and a letter from my old man as well as your two letters.

I can never get the motivation to write anybody. I still haven't answered Jordan's friends.

I have the feeling that the army is aging me. Regardless of the nature of the experience one always comes away a little older, and I think the army, this year of it in particular, is no exception.

About the only thing I really have much time to do here is to think. I do quite a lot of that.

Take care.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I had a dream about being somewhere with you last night too. But you didn't get thrown out for being dumb.

26 Oct 69

Good evening Judith,

Today has been quite dead. Tonight is even deader. The rainy season is having a slight comeback — it poured for awhile. Prior to the rain the day had been a very steamy thick hot.

On the subject of tape recorders — I'm the one who doesn't really need a tape recorder. But I am beginning to realize that you have your own plans so will desist from further comment on the subject.

You are very funny with your comments on Redo's teeth (I'm the only one I know who gets specimens of teeth in the mail).

tonight is the end of the first 100 days. That is a start anyway. I put the wings and tail on our airplane tonight.

I haven't smoked my pipe for a long time now. It never occurs to me. I got a letter from y brother tonight. I guess I'll have to answer all of these people some day. (Meaning I probably never will). I am slowly working my way through Race War. The chapter on China is very interesting. For lack of anything else to write about I will send you another of Cohen's Poems. (I don't think this one is so personal to us).

Song

My lover Peterson

He named me Goldenmouth

I changed him to a bird

and he migrated South.

My lover Frederick

Wrote Sonnets to my breast

I changed him to a horse

and he galloped West.

My lover Levite

He named me Billerfeast

I changed him to a serpent



and he wriggled East.  
My lover I forget  
He named me death  
I changed him to a catfish  
and he swam North.  
My lover I imagine  
He cannot form a name  
I'll nestle in his fur  
and never be to blame.  
Take care little girl,

I love you,  
William

27 Oct 69

Dear Judith,

Tonight seems to be something of a party. It is strange. Shep is quite drunk. He's lying on his cot about to pass out. I am sitting on mine with our airplane between us. There has been a steady procession of people passing through. It is very humorous [sic].

Our F.D.O. is leaving tomorrow. He is to be in charge of a sector of CuChi's perimeter defense. ChChi bunker guard is where they send all of the enlisted duds and apparently they put officer duds in charge of them.

Received your African Heritage book. It looks interesting I'll show it to Shep tomorrow. Was talking to Meade a little earlier. He is getting married when he gets home. In some ways I miss having people around who are married. I have very little in common with anyone here. (Except Shep and I are both pretty radically inclined).

Also got your paper (Sunday Punch). Thank you for all of it. I appreciate it even when I forget to say much about it.

I seem to have even less to say tonight than my usual nothing.

I love you always  
Tempus fugit  
W<sup>m</sup>

28 Oct 69

Dear Judith,

Tonight I have a few things to write about if I don't forget what they are. I finished Segal's *The Race Way*. It's quite interesting.

He brings up several things that are fairly obvious but I never thought about it precisely that way. For instance the "coincidence" that all the prosperous nations are white and all the poor ones are colored (Japan the one exception). He explains the Sino-Soviet split in racial terms (for that matter he explains everything that has happened in the world in racial terms) usually he has an excellent case for it. The chapter on China was especially interesting.

I'm glad to see you've developed a blasé attitude toward tests. The fanaticism [sic] of Middlebury College women towards tests never appealed much.

One comment — you don't have to apologize or belittle your complaints. I don't kid myself that I am enduring any great hardships here. the biggest hardship we share and you know me well enough to know that it doesn't bother me [sic] do without plumbing and running water etc.

I have heard also rumors of a cease-fire that is supposed to be in effect. I'm afraid I don't see much evidence of it. We are direct support for an infantry battalion so all day long we get reports on their activities; they seem to be going out on daily operations just as they always have.

Am making another attempt to read McLuhan's book.

Oh, I almost forgot — thank you for the bread and fruit juice. The bread was good — what is it called. Everybody wants to know what these things are before they eat them and I never know what to tell them. I thought I was bad judging food by its appearance. It seems to me that appearance is a pertinent standard than name. Anyway everyone complimented you on it. I still have a little left for tomorrow night.

I was thinking it would be nice to be home for our anniversary. That's only a month and a half early — not too much to ask. I expect the division to pull out on April 26th (that way I will ETS)

I am beginning to realize its [sic] going to be interesting in FDC after everybody leaves. We will go from eight people (each capable of doing anything in FDC) down to a section of four people with two of them beginning to be thoroughly broken in. It

is all good time though.

It's beginning to get late.

Don't they allow dogs in SF State library — then you could study without worrying about Reto. Where is the library located in relation to something I might remember — like the administration building.

Take care of yourself.

I love you  
William

29 Oct 69

Dear Judith,

I'm writing early tonight because I'm tired. If I read I fall asleep but if I lie down and try to sleep I can't. I'm finally making a start on Understanding Media. I've decided to forge on without attempting to thoroughly understand it. [I think I missed that there was a pun here]

today was cloudy and it rained about 7 this evening. the monsoon season is going out strongly. Yesterday when we were resupplied, it was hot and sunny.

Has the car been performing faultlessly for you. I hope you take it on some of these trips to Pt. Reyes etc. It [sic] good for it to run once in a while.

It's too bad you can't bring it on R&R. Maybe we'll rent a VW if we need a car. The radio is playing Suzy Q by Creedence Clearwater. It's a good tune for some reason. Before too long we'll be half way to R&R. I think Nov, Dec (and maybe Jan) are going to go very rapidly for me. Every body I know here is leaving during those months.

I saw something (an article of clothing) I'm going to have to get you. It's in the latests Time magazine. It was was in nuylon but it must be possible to get it in other fabrics. It's probably just like your pajamas now that I think about it.

Did you see the article on the "forgotten Americans's [sic]" in Time.

There is an essay contest going on the radio, on the subject "My hopes for Americas [sic] future." Entries not to exceed 500 words. I would have difficultly exceed one word on that subject.

How many packs a day are you up to now (I'm not criticizing just curious).

I think what we are going to do is move to the Fairbanks areal In the winters I will teach of [sic] U of A and in the off quarter we will live up around 20 mi on the Perersville road. There are three parallel creeks up there. We will build a cabin on the ridge up above the middle one. When that becomes too civilized there will be other places to go.

On that note I will end. I am quite serious. I think you will like it.

I love you,  
William

30 Oct 69  
Thurs.

My Dear Judith,

How are you this evening, at the the end of another week )I've finally lost count). We received a literature resupply today and I have several interesting books — I'm reading Hesses's Narcissus and Golmund. His reflections on the role of women in a man's life are interesting especially since that is something I have pondered a good deal in the last couple of years. Narcissus is a monk and Goldmund is a casanova. I always find Hesse thought provoking.

I feel a little out of everything tonight. A combination of not getting any amil for three days reading most of the day, looking at a Reader's Digest account of Orson welles Invasion from Mars, and finally a science fiction program on the radio — all about Mayan temples, jewel thieves and five thousand year curses.

Now there is a radio adaption of the Cask of The Amontillado. Am I the only one who loses touch with reality so readily.

I got paid tonight — I can't decide whether to send you money this month or save it for Christmas. I suspect the latter. Please feel free to take an equivalent amount (\$30) out of savings.

I hope I hear from you tomorrow. I have myself pretty well trained but I still start to worry if it goes for too many days without mail.

Take care of yourself little girl. You are important to me.

All my love,  
William

## November 1969

1 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Good Evening. Sometimes I'm sorry I can't talk to you for I have things to say that I have difficulty writing about. I think that I am learning much about myself this year. I am coming to understand some of the conflicts that are inside me. That is the first step in resolving them.

You seem much closer to me in the letters (plural) I received today. To answer your question, I will give you plenty of advance notice on the stereo expenditures. Don't worry about the checking account until I tell you. There are two kinds of Malaria pills (large orange — once a week kind — quinine and small white daily ones Dapone) I still take the once a week kind.

I have the feeling from the lapse in letters and your comment about the tape that I messed a letter. The clippings were interesting — they confirmed things I already knew or believed. I usually turn off the news here. Between the censorship and the basic lack of anything to start with its [sic] a waste.

I finished Narcissus & Goldmund a few minutes ago. It is an amazing book. I think you would find it less repelling than Steppenwolfe. I'm looking forward to Demian.

The lifers decided our showers were unsightly so everybody had to tear them down. Now we are supposed to use a community shower (for the whole fire support base) Only its only open for a few hours in the afternoon. Its a pain. My parents wrote pleading for another letter and inquiring if I'd received their last package. Time is a very rare thing it seems. I'll write them maybe tonight though. the days are very busy. And I prefer to spend all my free hours reading.

A little while ago they gave us a fire mission on a grid only 280 meters from our battery center. The fire support base radius is about 150 meters so they wanted us to shoot 130 meters outside the wire. We're not allowed to shoot within 600 meters of friendly troops. I'm glad they didn't give it to someone else. It probably never would have been shot anyway. I [sic] beginning to feel pretty confident about taking over when every body leaves. We have a dog (variously called Fat Rat, Will, Scrotum) who I really like. She is dumb like Dickie but very good looking. She's having pups

before too long.

Take care

I love you,  
William



2 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

You are good to me. I really enjoy your letters. Did I say you don't write legibly — not likely.

Section chief in FDC is a Sp(5) position. They tell me I should get Sp/4 this month. Geddes will get E-5 as soon as everybody leaves and I should get it about a month later. I'm not too concerned — E-4 pay should take the pressure off you. MacAleer is right I have difficulty remembering people's names lately for some reason.

I don't understand Daryle & Darla \_\_\_\_? How bad is your finger. I assume you were jesting and it's really not broken.

I have a feeling I'm going to be deluged at Christmas time. I mailed a book to you yesterday. I stole 3 air mail stamps from somebody. If it makes it (Let me know if postage is due or anything) I will send you Hesse's *Narcissus and Goldmund*. I would really like you to read it. Shep is reading it now.

I have had the feeling lately that we haven't been communicating very effectively (it's difficult I realize) I am renewing my efforts to respond to your letters and not merely turn out monologues, which I am prone to do. ¶ The reason I made the comment about your recognizing me was because I didn't the first time I saw the picture.

I'm glad you are so pleased with the apartment and so busy generally. I don't think we could have stood a year of things as they were last year at this time. I think you should keep up the tradition of candlelight suppers. I've said before that I remember them very fondly and it is nice to think you still have them.

I wouldn't expect Reto to get along with miniature schnauzers. Reto is a dog.

April isn't so very far off. We are nearly through the fourth month. Things are going to be very hectic for me in the next few months then it will only be a month or so until R&R. If you think April is bad, I was originally planning on May. It still appalls me having all of May & June left after R&R.

Take care of yourself wench. You are the only animal in the zoo that I worry about.

I love you  
W<sup>m</sup>

4 Nov 69

I love you. I saw a picture of some guy with his girl friend or wife sitting in his lap and it reminded me of you. It is painful to think about.

Things were very hectic from about 5:30 to 7:30 but then I got off, took a shower out under the stars and dried [sic] off with my towel which was still warm from hanging in the sun and it was pleasant.

I wasn't trying to coerce you into going East for Christmas, I realize you are well settled and the animal problem. I just wanted you to know that you could go if you wanted to. (And still can) I don't think you would find it the drag that it was last time, if you only went for a week or so. But it is up to you. I just want you to feel free to decide what you want to do. Money is no object. (When you are as poor as we are you have nothing to lose).

Now about your Daly City friends. It sounds all right (should you end up staying there). However the boy (or whatever he is) should be aware that your husband is a trained killer who regularly blows away undetermined numbers of people (I'm the one who gives the command to fire) and one more or less back in the world wouldn't mean anything. Weybridge Street was nice wasn't it. With the covered bridge and the dam up above it.

I have taken up reading your letters as soon as I get them instead of waiting until night. That way I get to enjoy them twice. It really makes more sense.

Take care of yourself wench.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

5 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Today has been a good day, I had K.P. (unexpectedly). It was enjoyable as a change. I always work out back washing pots & pans and hardly see anybody all day. I enjoy working alone much better. It has always been my lot to work on a crew of some sort. Then I got three (3) letters from you about noon.

Sorry you were having such a frustrating life last week. I think I'm the winner on it because I certainly got a lot of mail.

Every time you use the word "dipilatory" I think you must have piles or some other dread disease. It is only by conscious effort that I remember what it is you are talking about. It's really an ugly word I think. (We have different distastes in words).

Your hair is really long. It will probably be down to your waist by R & R. Thank you for the pictures — I will retain them.

Is my understanding correct that you injured your finger spanking the dog? Or did that merely aggravate a previous injury.. Did you go to a Doctor (I just figured out you must have).

Are you purposely being vague about the classmate whose husband problems are different (with an !).

No rush on the boot grease — one thing I have plenty of is time.

Don't worry about my getting in trouble for subversion. Everybody knows my political views and the regime is not unusually politically repressive. (Of course it has not really been pushed very far). I am reading a book on China and the mental climate there reminds me of the military — they seem to have more personal freedom though. It still doesn't sound very pleasant.

[cut]

I have been dreaming about you lately a lot it seems [cut]. It is always disappointing to wake up.

All my love  
Your husband  
William

6 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Slowly another month is dragging to a close. Today is Thurs and the end of another week but I have no idea which one any more. Its [sic] just as well.

Don't waster your time worriing [sic] about my doing without some of the small pleasures in life which you enjoy. I always enjoyed martyrdom more than you anyway.

I had to burn shit this morning (no other variant accurately captures the nature of the task). [Note: Latrines have empty ammo cases filled with diesel fuel under the seats. Regularly, someone has to pull the ammo cases out of the latrine and set them on fire, then refill them with diesel and replace them.] It was fairly profitable though because I arranged to get a watch. Doc (the battery medic) is going to pick it up for me tomorrow.

You are probably wondering what I am talking about it; [sic] its [sic] really quite simple. It affords one a rare opportunity to get outside the wire for a few minutes. The watch (I wanted one for the second hand — which is useful during preps etc) . is costing me 5 cartons of cigarettes (Cigarettes come in the supplementary ration packs and can be exchanged for watches cameras and radios from the civilians outside the wire).

You will be getting a couple of days off for Thanksgiving before too long. Bachaus is on a seven day leave. Shep is taking one as soon as Bachaus gets back. It is pretty easy to get a seven day leave in addition to the out of country R&R, but the catch is getting transportation. Leave travel is space Available (R&R travel gets a reserved seat) ad there is no space available to Hawaii (or even Australia). You can get to places like Hong Kong or Singapore though. Maybe if we're feeling rich next June, I'll take a leave to Hong Kong and you can fly over for a week.

On that day dream I'll say good night my love.

I think of you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

7 Nov 69

My Little Girl,

How are you this evening. The mail has started to bunch up again so I get two or three letters every three days or so. It's kind of pleasant that way, but it leaves me with very little to say in the interim periods. I got a poncho liner (a very light weight , quilt like blanket) and it [sic] much nicer than the heavy wool army blanket I have used thus far.

We just had a power failure. I was already to finish by candle light when the lights came back on. I have quite an accumulation of stereo literature, so as soon as I deem us solvent I will send away for some.

I had a very weird dream this morning — in which I was drifting around. It is all very fuzzy but it was strange. It seems like you wanted to settle down.

It is nearly Nov 15 it seems like about two days ago that it was Oct 15. Talking about the time passing doesn't seem to slow it up any. I am amazed at how well we are keeping in communication — not always but occasionally we still communicate. It is a very difficult thing to do, I think, to maintain such a long correspondence relying on previous shared experiences and hopes for future ones. When I got your first letters they meant very much to me and it saddened me to think that we would eventually grow a little apart, but so far it hasn't happened. I love you all the more for bearing with me thour this.

Yours,  
W<sup>m</sup>

8 Nov 69

Dear Wench,

Today was a pretty good day for mail — received a letter from you and a paper (Village Voice) from you, and three books by Sartre from parents. The Village Voice wasn't at all what I expected — it reminds me more of the New York Times (almost the New Yorker) than say the Barb [Berkley Barb]. Ads for Macy's and Gimball's. Your ad for an E-type was rather pointed. I know I am correct in reading the "fully-upholstered rear seat for the kids" as underlined and ignoring the "automatic transmission, power steering and air conditioning are optional".

If you have been paying \$40 for oil changes and lubes every 3000 miles It shouldn't be that expensive. However I am all for giving up the warranty. Just see that the oil is changed fairly regularly there can't be too much left on the warranty anyway.

I am convinced you ought to go back East for Christmas. That's where your mail will be addressed then. It sounds like you have settled on Kauai. Fine with me.

It is late so I best quit.

Take care of yourself

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

9 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

I'm only going to write a short letter tonight because I am tired and want to go to sleep early. It's too bad the dog can't go on the charter I suppose there's no way around it

I'm afraid I don't share your sympathetic attitude towards Nixon. I don't feel sorry for him on account of Hanoi's uncooperativeness because there is no reason what soever for Hanoi to cooperate.

I guess this is my day to pick bones with you because I have to take the pamphlet on giving you enclosed. I'm afraid most of what they are talking about doesn't mean much to me. (Which is my attempt at a polite way of saying I don't believe it — you know I could put it more succinctly, and crudely). I don't want them to tell me why I should give money in general, but I am interested in knowing how they intend to use any I do give them specifically.

Forgive the outburst, it is not aimed at you personally (maybe I'm the only one sensitive enough to worry about that).

I believe I have become fairly honest with myself in my attitudes about war, but I have not forfeited my right to be irritated by lifers politicians who talk about wanting to end wars but are unwilling to take any steps necessary for it. While I'm on the subject the whole concept of rules of war and negotiations strike me as contradictory. If the two sides can talk to each other there would be no fighting and if they are going to fight what is there to talk about. It seems like a very childish game for nations to play.

This morning everybody was gotten up early (usually they allow the guns to sleep in on Sun) for an expected "dignitary" who turned out to be Wallace. How can they do anything but alienate people like Shep (not just blacks but militant blacks) by expecting him to treat Wallace as an honored guest. Fortunately he didn't show (instead some editor of Sports Illustrated and a boxer showed up). It seems that hypocrisy bother me more than anything else at the moment. Break (a word used on the radio to indicate a total discontinuity in the transmission).

I am enjoying Troubled Sleep by Sartre. I wish you could read Narcissus & Goldmund it is an amazing book. I seem to be doing more reading than I have for several

years previously. I noticed Time cover is on California this week.

Take care wench I hope Christmas works out to your satisfaction.

I love you,

W<sup>m</sup>



10 Nov 69

My Dear Judith,

Do you mean a play by "the theater". What are you going to see? Your Thanksgiving sounds pleasant. I hope you don't decide you like such an active social life too much. (for now it is very good). You have always enjoyed the company of others more than I, and after these two years I think I will be ready to go into semi-seclusion.

I approve of your house-sitting job this time — I guess I trust you with a three year old and mongoloid I remember the hill on Portola that you are refferring [sic] to.

Your comments on the non-closed society that you live in raise mixed emotions in me. Part of me is flattered when other men take an interest in you — it confirms my opinion that I have good taste. I am proud of you. Another part of me would like to palace you in a glass cage on a pedestal. I realize an unreasoning jealousy is not healthy and so mostly I suppress that. It doesn't bother me at all the way it once did, an indication of the greater degree of security that I feel now.

Today was very slow. Until about three we didn't shoot at all. Most of the "action" that you refer to occurs at a range of about ch 7 [Charge 7 — 155 millimeter howitzers can use varying amounts of powder supplied in 7 packages] (10 kilometers or more). Very little of that could be called action. Most of our targets are bunkers or suspect VC locations. Just an aerial observer who is flying around and sees something he feels like shooting at.

I am reading Troubled Sleep by Sartre now. It is about a French man (an intellectual I suppose one would call him) in the french army during the early days of WWII. It is interesting — there is a sense in which there is really only one war. I just realized that Mathieu (the one I was referring to above) is really only one of several equally important (so far) protagonists and it is only my set which gave me the impression that the book is aobut him.

Good night wench. I think about you.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

11 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Enjoyed your card today. It was nice because it was a letter too. I look forward to the mail more every day.

You could spend these odd sums of money I send you for books, if you desired.

The colors are nice on the samples you sent me. Also the material feels nice. I forget all clothes are not the color and texture of jungle fatigues. I think I will like the clothes you are making ([cut]).

One of the guys who came in country with me got an R&R to Hawaii (he's single and that in itself is unusual — to get to Hawaii) starting on Christmas eve.

It makes me jealous even though I never considered taking R&R that early and still think its [sic] better to wait until later.

I finished Troubled Sleep tonight. It is the third novel in a trilogy and that explains why it seems somewhat disjointed. I will read the other two in proper sequence.

I have taken up showering at the public shower — it is really quite pleasant to shower under a steady powerful stream of water for a change. Such small things constitute pleasure.

Take care wench.

All my love,  
Your W<sup>m</sup>

12 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Good evening. I must be getting old because I seem to require a lot of sleep. Recieved [sic] a package from your parents today also a card from Kay. The day was stagnant until around 4:00 PM and then after that we always had two missions going on at once it seems.

The radio just said it is 10:55 — I thought I was awfully tired for it to be only 9:00 which my watch said. Tomorrow Shep will probably go on leave. I think I'm going to miss him after he Deros'. I am a lot closer to him than I have been to anybody since Holt. For a black bastard he's not such bad guy. I was going to send you Narcissus and Goldmund but he is keeping it so I won't (unless he gets a copy in Hong Kong) be able too [sic]. However I am sending you a package of junk. Just be forewarned so you don't expect anything when you get it. Just stuff I don't need here and you might want or be able to use.

It is interesting the insight you get into peoples' ideas of living conditions here from the packages they send you. Mixed in with things that are genuine pleasure to get are usually one or two items that either one has no way of using or is something that one already has a surplus of. (Powdered chocolate and candy are good examples from my Parents packages). You seem to to [sic] better than most (which is logical because you know me better and are more in touch with the scene — also home-made goods are a safer item than commercial ones).

There were a lot of chaplains running around today. One of them got a good slice of the cruder aspect of life (or speech anyway). I always tone my language down for women, but never got in the habit of it around preacher (probably because I never see much of them). I never even thought about it until it was mentioned afterwards by some one.

I doubt that I bothered him though. He is a lot more in touch with reality than some Army chaplains I have met or listened to.

Take care little girl

Tempus fugit,  
W<sup>m</sup>

13 Nov 69

Meine Liebchen,

Wie geht es? Things are really slow here. We didn't shoot all day. They still shoot at night though. Shep went on leave today.

That exhausts a recounting of the days events—for the remainder I will have to rely on my fertile imagination.

Tomorrow I'm expecting a deluge of mail from you since it has been two days without any now.

[cut]

It never occurred to me to switch from pen and ink sketches to oils, but you can be sure it will next time I get the chance. Were you planning on bringing your painting supplies on R&R?

Today is the end of another week the end of the month is not very far. Our B.C. is very young and inexperienced—he certainly doesn't inspire one with confidence in his ability. It doesn't matter much—I'm glad I'm not in the infantry with him in command though. Also we have a new chief of smoke who is both obnoxious and a lifer. Fortunately he doesn't have much to do with F.D.C.

When I first got here I could look forward to seeing the people that bothered me leave, but now I have to live with these people for the rest of my tour. (An interesting word for this).

They played Bobby Gentry's "Tallahatchee Bridge Song" this afternoon. It took me back to our New Hampshire phase.

I love you and think about you all the time.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

14 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Another completely dead day has passed. There seems to be very little correlation between your newspaper accounts of heavy activity and the situation over here. We always seem to be in the middle of a lull whenever you repeat something from the papers.

Was I ever domesticated? I hope to someday solve the conflict of being free at heart and having a family.

I realize I could never be free without you because you satisfy some very basic cravings of mine [cut]. Without you these cravings and the attendant frustration would interfere with anything I tried [sic] to do. This is a basic fact of my character which I didn't understand or at least didn't admit (to myself) when I was a little younger. I am becoming more honest with myself in general I believe.

Got a package from Kay today which included among other things a small plastic statue of Dickie [I think Dickie was a friendly golden retriever] it is really nice.

Your weekend on Portola sounded hectic. The generous part of me is happy that you are so busy and the selfish part of me is dissatisfied if you do anything but sit at home and "pine for your poor husband".

I thought I made it clear that the odd amounts of money I sent you each month were to be spent on you.

It seems that my date of rank for E-4 will be Dec 7: They have a rule that you can't be promoted in less than four months and the 7 of Nov was less than 4 months. So we will start the next decade off having a little bit more money (maybe — it seems like I am always expecting promotions that I don't get).

Tonight the B.C. tripped over one of the guy wires to one of our radio antennas and pulled it down on his head. Doc (the medic) put 5 stitches in it. That is the first casualty since I've been in the battery.

Tomorrow I have to write the Pomeroy's and Kay.

Take care wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

16 Nov 69

Meine Liebchen,

Received an interesting letter from you today. [cut]

If you expect to get any dishwashing out of me you best take into consideration that I only enjoy when I am scrubbing 15 gal. pots in a garbage can with a toilet brush under 100°sun.

I have a really cool picture of an up and coming New York singer named Lotti Golden sitting on a BMW. The bike sort of overwhelms her (she is a skinny girl with long hair oversized metal rimmed glasses and a black leather jacket) I believe I've developed the same kind of craving for a BMW that I used to disparage in my brother. He was always wanting some new toy.

Speaking of black leather jackets, Shep has a very wild blue leather jacket (not the Hell's angels zippered pockets style). I tried it on but somehow I could never see myself wearing something like that.

It would look nice on you, and maybe on Shep.

I just finished reading "A critical study of 20th century negro writers". It was kind of interesting although I'm not very keen on literary criticism. I had read most of the books he discussed.

I seem to have more and more difficulty writing. Perhaps my mind is stagnating. I wrote Kay and your parents last night thanking them for the packages. Do you get a holiday at Thanksgiving?

Take care of yourself.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>



Figure 1: Lotti Golden 1968 (GettyImages.com)

Little Girl,

Tonight is the end of the fourth month. Slowly we are getting there at least now it feels like we've made a start. Fat Rat had a puppy day before last. It is amazingly tiny. She only had one. People think she has some more inside that failed to be born. Tomorrow Geddes is taking her and the one healthy pup into CuChi to see a veterinarian.

I've been reading the Naked Ape by Desmond Morris. Didn't you read that somewhere recently. He gives one a really objective look at the human race. Some of his comments on sex and child rearing would probably interest you.

The cat is keeping me company at the moment. He is sort of a perpetual kitten — not playful but small and cute like one. He shows up for a few days then disappears for weeks at a time. He must be lonely because no one I've met has ever seen any other cats over here.

I was appalled at the church's choice of times also. If you give me their address I would gladly write them a letter of protest.

The toilet seat sounds fine for my parents — have you given any further consideration to the psychedelic model. I really can't understand your uncontrollable urges to run out and get a job at the least sign of any leisure. Maybe I do understand it — somewhat any way.

I don't know if I've lost any weight. I tend to doubt it. I haven't been eating much the last couple of days. The food hasn't been especially appealing and I haven't had much appetite, but that hasn't been significant. Everybody here gets a very distinctive tan. Burned from the waist up and pale below the waist. It is funny to look at a group of 10 or 15 guys taking showers Even blacks get noticeably darker above the waist.

The puppy sounds like one of the toys that you squeeze and it squeaks.

I don't think you should worry about the demonstrations encouraging Hanoi to wait it out. It seems clear to me that they decided on that policy long ago. There's no reason whatever for them to make concessions. It is merely a matter of Nixons [sic] bowing out at the rate that he feels is the best compromise between growing antiwar sentiment and the "save face" philosophy.



The thing that disturbs me about all the people coming over to being against the war is that it's for all the wrong reasons. I don't think there is any growing realization that the U.S. had no business here in the first place it is merely that nobody likes to lose. Vietnam was a mistake only in the sense that it is always a mistake to get into something you can't finish (or are unwilling to do what is necessary to finish — like sacrifice more lives). If we were suddenly to start "winning" this war, I think much most of the antiwar sentiment would evaporate.

Glad to hear you still wash and wax the car. You're the only girl I've met who had the proper respect for an automobile (you probably question whether I do).

Allison is a sort of tragic figure isn't she. Morris would probably say she is destined to unhappiness because she is too much out of phase with her basic biological tendencies — a problem shared by all people (to a lesser extent) at this point.

A trip to Helen's sounds good. I am not sure I would like to have you staying in a motel by yourself either. I am sorry you have abandoned going home for Christmas isn't there someway you could take Reto or leave him with somebody.

I believe I sent you our chess game last (I had forgotten about it).

When you think about the Army Reserve take into consideration that when I get out in July, my brother will have 3-1/2 more years of playing the armies [sic] games and living under the threat of being called up either for war in some foreign country or to put down one of the local wars. You will say that 3-1/2 years of gambling is better than the certainty of this way but I'm not convinced. Also is the fact that I have never been able to make you understand that I would have difficulty living with myself if I ever voluntarily did anything for the military. (I may someday believe I made a mistake even in coming in this way — under duress as it were). In any even this is one decision in our life that you had very little to do with. You are merely required to live with my decision. I think I appreciate the magnitude of that task.

Carry on little girl. You have done well so far.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

18 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Another day done gone. We shot almost all day today; it has picked up a little lately. By the time you get this there will be only one week left in Novemer.

It seems the mass exodus has begun. We got a call saying to send in Marek (the name won't mean anything to you) tomorrow. After him it will be a steady stream.

I recieved [sic] a package today. It is really enjoyable to recieve [sic] homemade goods after a diet of army food. Most people seem to send store boughten candy and cookies for which I don't have much appetite. The cookies are already gone I'm going to have a slice of bread after I finish writing and go to bed.

Fat Rat was alright — it was just milk inside which was hardening. Her one puppy doesn't use up enough milk. So now we are supposed to milk her periodically. She is really a nice dog kind of dumb but very likeable [sic]. Her pup is tiny (probably just average).

Its [sic] eleven o'clock so I'm going to quit and go to bed. Morris (Naked Ape) says that if a person requires artificial means to arouse him he's not getting enough sleep. I doubt that I've ever gotten enough sleep by that standard.

Take care most excellent baker of fine breads (as well as pies).

All my love,  
William

19 Nov 69

Meine Liebchen,

Today We are without lights again. I had dinner by candlelight. It was a really great steak and a can of beer so it was by far the most enjoyable meal I've had since I've been here. Periodically they put on a special meal. The only drawback was that we had a fire mission right in the middle so the steak was cold by the time I finished it. It was still good though. I spent most of the day fixing the tire on a trailer that is signed to FDC. Both tires have been fixed before but someone borrowed them and replaced them with flats.

I am all in favor of your going on peace marches. Don't know what gave you the idea I was upset about your last few letters — I wasn't aware of it.

I have been talking to Meade a lot lately. He is very similar to Bushman of ACC [?]. Not so resistant to the military as all, he is younger and he accepts things as they are. He is planning on going into the ministry.

I don't believe I do understand what a married woman without a husband feels like. I used to feel strange having a wife but that has become a habit and I doubt it was the same strangeness anyway.

Are you trying to acquire a complete [sic] library of marriage manuals. If so I can contribute some titles. I see ads for them all the time. You wouldn't believe some of the things they advertise in magazines — would you believe a genuine, life-size, inflatable girl, realistic in every (whatever that means) detail. Complete with a couple of wigs and several different costumes.

Stag movies were popular out here for about a week but the interest seems to have died. I saw a couple but they weren't very impressive. The worst (or best, crudest anyway) was similar to the cut you saw at that light show just showed more anatomy — the plot was the same. Ever since I've been here there has been talk of getting movies out here (regular movies I'm talking about now), but nothing ever seems to develop.

[cut] That [R&R] is only 162 days from now (figuring May 1st). that is only one month more than we have already been through. Say wouldn't you like to celebrate our anniversary on R&R. If we waited till then there would be no time left afterwards. It would be like getting married all over again with about a two week pause between

the honeymoon and the rest. That is the only day that it will bother me to miss. We haven't missed one so far which can't be said for any other day.

I know you won't want to wait until then. When does your school year end? I kind of dread having to come back to too much time after R&R. Think about it anyway.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

20 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Today was one of those days wehn it would have been better to stay in bed. Every thing possible has gone wrong. To top it all off I lost (it disappeared from FDC) a copy of one of Shep's books, that I was reading.

Today is Thursday and the end of another week (the 18th only 6 weeks to the half way pt.).

I have a case of athelete's [sic] foot or something similar that I can't seem to get rid of. It doesn't spread or get worse just doesn't go away. One of the new guys in FDC isn't working out so they are taking him out. That pus us back down to 4 people after the exodus. Two weeks ago we had 10. If I am repetitious it is because of the paucity of sensory input experienced here. The New Christi Ministrels [sic] are playing in CuChi so they have been keeping the battery up shooting all night long last night and tonight.

Since I haven't made any progress in the last 10 minutes I believe I will abandon the effort.

I had a lengthy dream about us this morning but I can't remember what it was about now. It's nice to dream about you anyway

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

23 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

It is unusually difficult to write you tonight. That is because after your last letter (it was really not the last but it remains the strongest impression I have) I associate you in my mind with all the things that are bothering me. It makes me feel like to talk to you I must first and rid myself of all the uncertainties I feel, and satisfactorily solve all the things wrong with the world, I suppose that is not really the case (if it is you are in for very little conversation from me).

I have a feeling I am going to feel like an old man when I finally get home.

It must be nice to have weather in the forties. We haven't seen a winter since 66-67. It was "cold" here yesterday morning — but not so bad it is worth putting a shirt on — probably low 70's. It hasn't been too hot lately but it certainly never gets cold.

About the second R&R. There is no such thing. What there is is a seven day leave, which is quite a different story. The most important difference is that there is no guaranteed travel anywhere. You just go down to Long Binh and fly standby to wherever you can. One could spend the whole leave in Long Binh. Space Available to Hawaii is rather rare. For some reason there was some available in Nov and Dec of this year but usually it is next to impossible to get to Hawaii on a leave. (On R&R everything is confirmed) On S/A, it is granted in order of time in country. R&R's are granted in order of time in country as well, but once you get an R&R transportation is no problem.

About the package — I didn't intend the package as anything special it was just stuff I had that didn't seem to quite warrant the trash can but I had no place to keep (Except for letters to Phillip). If you are judging the contents and value from the customs tag — don't. Shep mailed it in CuChi for me and just used his imagination on contents and value. I don't think anything was missing.

It disturbs me that the first time in my life I have a job with any responsibility has to be in the army.

Carry on little girl

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

24 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Recieved [sic] your Thanksgiving card. It was very refreshing I think I was about ready for some light-hearted mail. I forgot all about Thanksgiving.

It makes me feel bad to get cards and packages all of the time from you and never be able to send you anything. But your are nice to me anyway.

It is late so maybe I'll go to bed. Hope you had a good thanksgiving.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

Say hello to Reto for me. We have a another dog (a Chow) in FDC now we got a guy off the guns and the dog came with him.

25 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

[cut]

Once I start to thinking about an R&R I won't be able to stand it so I avoid the situation by not really believing it, or thinking of it as being in the distant future.

If we wait until April that would be about the 3/4 point and I think maybe I could stand coming bak here if it were for only 3 months. I think it will be more difficult to return after R&R than it was last July. For one thing it won't be an unknown experience I am returning to. I have seen too many people come back after taking an R&R at about the 7-5 pt, with a long stretch ahead. It is just individual psychology.

I'm sure we'll reach some kind of compromise.

Never noticed the BMW in the neighborhood — glad our neighbors have taste. Maybe we'll save our money and I can meet you in Hong Kong or Sinapore for our anniversayr.

Take care of yourself little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. [cut]



26 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

Tonight has been fairly enjoyable thanks to the paper you sent me. It was nice to sit down and read a Chronicle through from cover to cover.

I am becoming very ignorant of the news. I usually can't stand reading the Stars & Stripes because it is so slanted and selective.

In the daily Gator I found one comment that seems worth quoting. "Maybe he was right. Maybe I didn't know what I was talking about. All I knew was that I was tired. Tired of standing in line. Tired of looking for work. Tired of all the people in the world who had all the answers."

My supply of reading material is way up now. I have about two months of hard reading stockpiled. It is a comfortable feeling. Some more books came in today.

I'm going to give Shep your phone and address. Also I volunteered your services to take him to the airport if it is possible. He is aware that you have school and other commitments

. I would like for you to meet him. I feel much closer to him than anybody I have met lately. He keeps reminding me he will see my wife before I do. He will be passing through somewhere between the tenth and twentieth of December. It will seem lonely here without him. I noticed that when he was on leave. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. Geddes has K.P. Nice luck isn't it. This will be the second Thanksgiving I have spent away from you and totally immersed in the army.

The new dog in FDC (the artillery call him Mush and the infantry call him Husky) is a nice dog. He looks like he is mostly Chow but he is not at all bad tempered. He is the father of Fat Rat's pup. He woke me up this morning by pushing his nose in my face. He is a very light dog (for his size). He is pretty sturdy looking and appears much heavier than he is, perhaps because of his fur which is fine, thick and fair to middling long. Guess I have brought you up to date on everything here.

Have a happy Thanksgiving.

I love you muchly,

I miss you  
William

27 Nov 69

Dear Jud,

Well Thanksgiving day is over here. Just beginning for you. Somehow Thanksgiving deemed to attain a somewhat holiday like atmosphere, at times anyway. You probably can't understand what I mean without having experienced the rigid routine which usually prevails.

A few minutes ago I read some selections from a book called Put-Offs and Come-Ons. It is the same general idea as The Games People Play. I hope we have the good sense never to reduce to playing games.

It seems to take me longer and longer to write less and less every night. I have no idea what procedure is followed in removing wall paper.

I got a giant package from my brother tonight All variety of food in it.

A movie sounds good. I have been in the field for quite a stretch now. I have picked out the turntable I'm going to acquire.

Is the glass clock working or have you even gotten it back yet. Don't worry about having to go to school next summer. Just try to keep your winter quarter free. We'r going to spend that skiing (in Alaska maybe). Say I saw an add [sic] for another NY charter in the paper you sent me. Are you sure you can't arrange for Reto somehow. Maybe a different charter would take dogs. They have special boxes for them and places to put them. I want you to go. The car would be all right locked up in the garage. And the neighbor couple could pick up the mail and check on things periodically. I think it would be worth the trouble.

Good night wench.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

29 Nov 69

Dear Jud,

Tonight the massacre at My Lai seems to overshadow everything. It forces one to face the total wrongness of what we are doing.

Somehow I always seem to spend the time I mean to use writing, just lying and thinking. Perhaps the only time (it's necessary) to think is when I write to you.

I won't recognize 1107 Vicente when I return I can tell already. Just as you don't decide to recover our bed I will feel right at home. I plan to stay there until the ski season starts anyway. I don't remember Moss beach but we must have driven past it. that day we drove down that way.

[cut]

Would you believe that it is now 11:20 and I have been working on this letter for over 2 hrs. now.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

Maybe we will settle on an April R&R.

30 Nov 69

Dear Judith,

November comes to an end. Recieved [sic] your package today.

It is good — I'm afraid I'm going to have to veto fresh type moist products. The mold gets to them to [sic]fast. The two pieces of pie in the brittle plastic containers had already started to mold. The softer opaque plastic containers seal against the air better and the pie arrived intact. Things always tend to mold rapidly over here, but this is the first package that had already started when it was first opened. the cookies were really good.

We have been fairly busy the last week or so — also it has been quite cool. One has to sleep under covers consistently.

How often do you go through a case of dog food.

I am beginning to suffer from a cumulative lack of sleep so will close early.

Take care my little girl.

See you someday,  
William

## December 1969

1 Dec 69

My Dear Judith,

Wie geht es. It is strange because my days seem so busy but there is so little to write about. The paper work in FDC has increased about 1000

Our B.C.'s job is in jeopardy. Apparently other people agreed with my lack of confidence in him. We are having some sort of giant inspection tomorrow and if we aren't shaped up the B.D. goes. We got a new F.D.O. (I've seen quite a few in my short time here) a few days ago. He seems all right. He is a surfing addict from Virginia.

Riesman's book *The Lonely Crowd* is quite interesting. It deals with how man's character is affected by overall trends in society. I don't seem to have time to read very much every day.

I spent a good part of today unloading powder and projos. It was hot for a change.

The cookies you sent are really good. I'm sorry the pied didn't come through in better shape. I guess the climate is against it. I hope Shep and you meet when he passes through.

It is hard to believe it is already Dec. I hope the first half of next year passes as fast as the last half of this one. Soon we will be at the half way pt. On Dec 30 I have 200 days left.

It is rather late. Maybe I'll get a letter from you tomorrow. I saw the column in the Phoenix on Adoption but it didn't seem informative. You didn't by any chance see the first two in the series did you.

Good night my love.

You're beautiful,  
William

3 Dec 69

Dear Judith,

Sorry to have given you such a bad time. Maybe it is just as well to discuss this while we are separated. I usually just make things worse when I'm around. I envy you your ability to write so lucidly. I have great difficulty in putting my feelings into words.

In response to your objection that we haven't really been interacting with one another, I agree that that is true. I have felt that also. I'm not sure what that is so. I know I have never (before) really been able to relate to anyone else. You have made me aware that that is not necessarily the good thing I once rationalize it to be.

I want very much to relate to (perhaps a better word would be the phrase "to love and be loved by") you. I have often said that the reason I married you was that I trusted you. What I meant by that was that I felt that you were the only person I have ever met whom I could ever come even close to being honest with. Honesty entails exposing a great deal of tender spots (Incidentally it was my raving for a real relationship with another human being, which caused a lot of our problems before we were married. I think it is a sign of progress on my part, that while you mean a lot more to me I can take a more reasoned dispassionate view of situations and am not so dependent on a continuous superficial reassurance.

Now that I have given you two pages of proof of my egocentricity (for which I make no denials) I will attempt to answer your letter. I'm sorry you consider my refusal to go into the reserves a denunciation of our marriage and you. I don't agree (for reasons that we have discussed before). The phrase from a son "I can't be right for somebody else if I'm not right for me" comes to mind.

Your concern about my reasons for coming into the army is probably valid. I am very mixed up about exactly why I chose to come into the army (as opposed to going to jail which were the only two alternatives) but the extent to which masochistic-romanticist tendencies enter into it does probably indicate an irresponsibility toward you. However in the army at least I can still support you. During those few days on Mt Cobb (when I actually decided) that stood out as the only concrete fact in a miasma of possible arguments for each of the two courses.

You are such an integral part of my life that I no longer have any idea of how it would be otherwise. I never make any decisions without considering you. But I

realize that is a different thing from considering your feelings about decisions.

Your letter did not upset me. I'm glad you care enough to worry about it.

I used to wonder if I would ever care about anything. I care about you and want very much to have a "meaningful" relationship (I realize that's not one of your favorite expressions) with you. Therefore I welcome your attempts to straighten us (or me) out periodically. You should be quite expert at it eventually — you aren't bad now.

All my love,

W<sup>m</sup>

4 Dec 69

Dear Judith,

I must confess that I found it rather pleasant myself for our conversations to get back onto a less intense level.

Your Christmas card isn't bad. I guess it is sufficiently non-sectarian that you may use my name.

You have me pretty well talked into an April R&R. I won't say anything about March because it is too early and if I even admitted I was considering Mar you'd start on Feb.

Have you checked out the new Porsche 914/6. The traditional 911 still has more appeal but then who knows. The 914 wouldn't be any improvement over our VW.

I never seem to have time to get much reading done anymore.

There are a couple of things against a drop for school. First of all it would be over 90 day prior to my normal E.T.S. [End Term of Service]. Secondly I don't know whether the army is current enough to realize that a summer quarter is just like any other quarter.

Fat Rat's motherly instincts have petered out rather prematurely. She gets up and walk off with her pul dragging behind from one tit (teat?). the pup is pretty fat so he must not be suffering too much. He istaring to get noisy — but fortunately he sleeps (lives) on the other side.

Douglas, Brown, Meade, and Shepherd all eave in 9 days.

Take care,

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>



5 Dec 69

Dear Judith,

Yesterday was the end of the 20th week. Six more to the half way point. That's not bad considering the second half will be broken up by R&R. I never seem to have much free time anymore. I worked straight though today from 7 am until 9 pm.

I spent all afternoon working on our 577 (FDC's track). We sent it in because the engine had frozen up. They put a new engine in it but neglected a lot of the fine points like bolting the engine on, hooking up the radiator, installing fan belts and air cleaner. Also it came back with a few things broken which had worked fine before. It reminded me of the time the people put the clutch in for you and didn't bolt the transmission down afterwards. Then starting at 7 we got fire missions one right after the other. The lights wen out right at the start which add to the situation. I finally got around to taking a whoer a few minutes ago at about 10:30

I just called Shep racist because he only likes black girls. So he said he'd show me when he gets to San Francisco. He has about three days left in the field. You should recieve [sic] a package sometime between now and Christmas (I hope). That is your Christmas present so open it whenever you want to. It's late Good night

All my love,

Your W<sup>m</sup>

6 Dec 69

Dear Judith,

There are uppers and there are downers and your letter of today would have to classify as a downer, I'm afraid. FOr one thing the info about school was discouraging since I am pretty sure I can't get out of the army for school before Jun 26th (90 days prior to my normal ETS). I will look into it and see if there is any possibility.

Secondly, your plans for New Year's Eve didn't exactly turn me on when I first read it (it was the "bring your own" that dis-appealed). However upon reflection I decided it would be like the images conjured in my mind and so I will voice no objections.

Re the moving back to the East Bay. I don't think so. the idea of living in San Francisco appeals to me and my appetite was hardly sated by the two weeks I spent there last summer. Also I am tired of moving.

Also I'm not turned on by the prospect of your working (it tends to undermine one's masculinity). I imagine eventually I will have to knock you up to keep you at home (I'm kidding in case it isn't obvious).

So much for that.

I sent you a few dollars in the mail today. Do whatever you want with it. There's not enough to worry about saving. While we're on the subject of money we ought to reach a firm decision on stereo equipment. I have made a tenuous arrangement with Shep to buy some speakers from him. He bought them in Hong Kong two weeks ago and has since decided he wants bigger ones. They would be about \$60 (for the pair). I also have in mind a turntable for \$90 and a receiver [sic] (tuner-amplifier) for \$147. For a comparison of stateside prices you might investigate the prices of a Sansui 2000 receiver, Pioneer PL-41 turntable. We would probably get around \$500 worth of equipment of around \$300. I really don't know whether it's worth it or not. I don't believe in buying things that you don't want or aren't ready for just because they are bargains. What are your thoughts on this subject.

I washed some clothes two days ago and they haven't dried [sic] yet. I am usually too busy to hang them out. I finally got them hung up today then it rained so they are regressing.

To answer your question about looking for work in the East Bay, I would say no. I'll just commute to school.

I saw a picture of a really groovy dress. It is very similar to your leather mini dress, but it didn't have sides just metal rings holding the back and front together.

Also while we're [sic] [cut]

I better quit before it becomes unbearable.

I love you,  
William

8 Dec 69

Dear Judith,

I got so much mail today that I haven't even finished opening it yet. A paper two letters from you, and three packagers all huge. My parents packages contained a Christmas tre with all the trimmings including lights. It is kind of impressive since so unexpected. I haven't opened your package yet. I wouldn't get around to answering your letters so I decided to savor it for awhile.

One of your guns just fired without a projo and scared every body. they just forgot to one in (powder and projo are separate on thes guns). Nobody got hurt. There was just a big bright flash.

I noticed that my birth date was fairly early. That was inevitable I suppose. We had a paper here with the list and it was interesting to see everybody checking on there [sic] birthdate even though it meant absolutely nothing. One never tires of looking for new sources of wishful thinking I suppose. To me it seems like the first of the year is the turning point. From there it's not long until R&R and then it almost over. Did I tell you you may use my name on the Christmas card.

On the subject of alcohol (or drugs), I don't rally object to mind altering chemicals in themselves as much as I object to most of the reasons for using them. Primarily there [sic] use in social situations. I have a very well established "set" against drinking socially (the same thing would apply to blowing grass socially). However it bothers me not at all to drink wine with you; and I would like to try pot, in a personal setting not socially.

No, I don't drink coffee yet. I feel old enough that it seems safe to say I will probably never drink coffee. I feel quite old sometimes.

So, I didn't remind you about Mr. Ong [landlord?]. The first of the month sort of snuck up on me.

What are you planning to do wiht your taste for hotel breakfasts when we settle up to Petersville. I just glanced at the book before I sent it on to you.

I am not overly concerned with the setting for R&R but of course it will be nice to have beautiful country in the background.

I'm not so sure I would object to hairy legs as much as you think, but I agree it wouldn't go well with stockings.

[cut]

I would like to see "Easy Rider" sometime, maybe on R&R.

Good night Jud.

All my love,  
William

9 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

I really prefer to call you that if you have no objections. Everybody left today — Shepherd, Brown and Meade. It's strange — a kind of happy sad occasion to see people leave.

The tree my parents sent me is out in FDC. It's quite elaborate for here with lights and all. I have decided to save your package for a while (since it says til Christmas) I may not wait that long but will wait until I feel in particular need of a lift.

Don't worry about the savings acct too much. It is easy too [sic] replenish. I wouldn't plan too much on working in the summer if I were you. Don't worry about money — it is too mundane As long as you have enough to take care of you this year I am confident I can take care of you after July.

I don't think you are as naive or innocent looking as you once were. You are a woman now and you were a girl then. I think it gives more depth to your beauty. I couldn't have pictured you managing by yourself for a year — say four years ago when I first met you. I like to call you my little girl — and I think of you that way. But at the same time I'm glad you can be independent when it is required.

Good night little girl.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

10 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

You certainly seem would up in your letter of the 5th. I didn't notice it the first time I read it but when I read it again you seemed to be going 90 miles an hour.

You asked about food — if you insist on sending me food — dryer type foods work better than moist i.e. cookies instead of pie. For instance my brother's wife sent me some banana bread which was much dryer than yours (but not nearly as good) but it kept a lot better. I guess you can't have everything.

I guess I don't have to say anymore about where we live since you hadn't gotten my response to your first comments when you wrote this letter. I think you will get move amply during your lifetime without throwing any extras in.

I'm going to send you the Lonely Crowd when I finish it. It has a lot of very good explanations of why the American "character" is what it is. It also has some fairly pertinent encapsulations of precisely how we are (or perhaps were in your case) out of step with contemporary society. American society is "other-directed". I am "inner-directed" and you are "tradition-directed" with a strong indoctrination in the ways of "other-direction". You'll have to read to understand what I'm talking about.

I have about 15 books stacked up — ahead of me waiting to be read.

Maybe I would enjoy motorcycling across the bridge.

You should be getting off for Christmas pretty soon.

Tempus Fugit.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

11 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Well life is starting to fall into a routine again without Shep, Brown Meade Douglas or Gebhardt. In some ways it is more peaceful without all the people. Also FDC has been taken off the KP roster due to a shortage of personnel. It doesn't affect me much because I am exempt from KP now anyway (C/S on one shift [Chief of Section?]).

Bachaus leaves after Christmas so then we will be down to the bare minimum. It is nice to write on this paper after using typing paper for so long. Your parents sent this to me.

I just took a shower under the high pressure spigots. It makes you feel cleaner than the trickle technique. The community shower has been out of commission for a few days. We had steak and beer for dinner tonight.

We are getting a new F.D.O. tomorrow (the sixth I've seen I believe). The XO is leaving in about three weeks so one of our current F.D.O is taking his job. They must have a surplus of officers now.

I played Jenkins three games of chess last night and lost all three.

JENKINS IS CRAZY

I wrote that for his benefit he's watching me write this. He's a funny guy. He was a gun ape for 6 mos. Then they put him in FDC when we got hard up for people. He leaves in June (has to extend for 29 days) Today is the end of the 21st week. We're getting pretty close to the halfway pt.

I understand that after Dec 1 Jan they are giving 6 mo. drops. That would mean that anytime after Mar 25th I would ETS. It doesn't affect anything though.

Your package is huge I can't imagine what is in it unless you got a full size tape recorder. I'm going to send you some books after I get together enough that I am finished with. It goes slowly though.

Hope you have a good time on the trip to Helen's — you will be leaving shortly after you get this I suppose.

Good night

All my love,

$W^m$



13 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Today was rather calm, but this evening was quite hectic.

Not so hectic that I didn't have time for my usual three games of chess with Jenkins.

I got two letters from you — as well as the apple-banana bread and the chess magazines. The banana bread was good. The apple gave it an unusual taste. There was just about the right amount. We ate it all up.

I guess I better get serious about this letter as it is going on midnight.

About the My Lai massacre. You comment on how the military breeds the possibility for that sort of an incident. I think that is just half of the story. Our country breeds a superiority [sic] complex and the attendant disregard for the humanity in any other peoples.

I continually am reminded of how little respect most people have for Vietnamese. Many people seem to think that no matter what we do to this country — the people are better off (Implicit in this is that any change toward "Life in these United States" is an improvement).

Is the lake you refer to in Stern Grove? I have no objection to taking Reto to classes (He'll have to learn to ride a bike though).

Your reply to my reply was interesting. I was beginning to have qualms about how well received [sic] it would be.

I am hindered in answering your letter by not having any more than a vague recollection of what I said. However there are a few points I would like to comment on — [cut]

I still feel that we aren't on the same wave length re reserves — but I'm beginning to doubt that that will ever be resolved.

All I can assure you is that in any situation I will do what I feel is best for my family and myself (They are not really independent quantities at all).

Riesman's discussions (to change the subject) of "inner" and "other" directions are really interesting.

FDC is back on the KP roster (the guns threatened mutiny). However Geddes and I

are exempt and that leaves only three people to pull it. They will be getting it fairly frequently.

I talked to Shep on the phone yesterday. He still has not left from CuChi. He should be in the world by the time you get this anyway. Brown and Meade left this morning. They still have time left to do in the world (They ETS the day after I do). I can't think of any of the other things I intended to mention so I guess I will close.

Good night wench.

All my love  
William

P.S. You're tough.

14 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

How would you like to have a private for a husband again? I'm only kidding hopefully. However somebody screwed up today. Get comfortable as it is involved.

For a little background first we serve as a go between from the 2/14 Infantry and the 1/8 Arty. Every day the Infantry passes us their night locations and defensive targets (DT) around these locations. We pass these on the 1/8 Arty who is responsible for clearing all fire (artillery and air) in this part of the country. Well today around noon I called in (to 1/8) D Co 2/14 AP's (night locations) and DT's. Then about 6 PM 1/8 cleared a grid for artillery fire (another battery of 105's — not us) about 400 meters from them. They put a couple of volleys in there before it was checkfired. It shook some people up but nobody was hurt.

Now a PFC Fayles (?spelling) at 1/8 claims that I gave him the DT's but said I would pass the AP's later in the afternoon.

It looks like there might be an investigation. I know I gave him the AP's before the DT's during the same phone call and I know he got them because he read them all back (standard operating procedure).

So if my next letter is postmarked LBJ [Long Binh Jail] rest assured that I am innocent. We'll see what happens.

Today was a very lazy day up until this last incident. It was Sun and the guns slept in late.

There is a lot of good Janis Joplin on the radio these days. "One Good Man" is playing at the moment.

During the day I think of things I mean to tell you, but I forget them at night. SHep called again today he's suppose to leave in the morning.

I'm beginning to get impatient to open your/my package but I'm still holding out. I hope your package arrives by Christmas time. They mailed it on the 13th of Nov.

The banana bread was really great.

Are you planning on bringing Reto on R&R. At the rate the weather is going over here, I'm going to look forward to the warm climate of Hawaii. It is really cold (relatively) in the morning shaving and taking showers in the evening. It's pleasant

to sleep in though. The rainy season has ended fairly permanently,

For the last 2 hrs. Jenkins has been telling a lengthy narrative about some friend of his and some broad. It tends to interfere with writing.

How do you like long hair in guys. Maybe I'll let it grow after I get out. I've decided that I like your hair best the way it was for Linda (Schlosser's) wedding.

Take care of yourself wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

15 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Recieved [sic] an interesting letter from you today. I think I am going to put off answering it at least until tomorrow. I would like to cogitate for awhile, and anyway it is already 11:00 PM. It did not calm down enough in FDC to leave until after 10. Then I took a shower. It's been a long day. I spent most of the afternoon working on the 577 [tracked personnel carrier]. I'm really tired. I find myself looking forward to the mail more and more every day. The dead, hot days of last August and September seem very far away now. I can see where a year of FDC could definitely get to me. I'm looking forward to the end of this year. Somehow that seems like the turning pt. to me.

Fat Rat's pup is named Deefer. She is really funny, cute.

I will close with a comment on one of yours which I can't resist. You mention that [there] are problems are [sic] in creating an ideal marriage. I think for us that means the same thing as creating a marriage at all. I think it is in our natures that neither of us would tolerate anything else.

Heard "Good Lovin" the other day that will always be our song. As the song says "I got the fever, you got the cure".

Save some of that for me,  
W<sup>m</sup>

16 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

I will answer your letters in reverse order. Glad the package arrived in time I was afraid it might not. What do you mean by "one of the boys down the street" (i.e. what age?) [cut]

You have my permission to improve on the sofa, it certainly wasn't very satisfactory as it was.

It's not really that the war has stepped up that I have so much more to do. It is just that there are a lot less people to do it. We use to have 5 guys on days all well versed in how to do everything. Now we have 3 guys one is short and does a minimal amount the other is still fairly fresh off the guns and limited in what he knows how to do.

Mimi [sister-in-law] doesn't seem old enough to be going to college.

I think you ought to teach on the San Francisco side of the bay. I would like to stay in the same apartment at least for one academic year, if it is financially feasible. I don't imagine we would find it much cheaper in the East Bay anyway. Especially since Reto would keep us out of the village [UC Berkeley grad student housing in Albany].

I'm thinking of getting a TA and that plus the G.I. bill should be adequate.

Don't know what Shep was going to show me when he gets there. I can't figure out what you are referring to. I imagine he is going to pass through while you are at Helen's anyway.

Got a card from the Longs at Purdue today.

Before I reply to your letter of analysis in detail I would like to make one general comment. While I realize that marriage inherently entails changes on the part of both partners, I don't feel it is a blanket clearance to attempt to correct all "so-called" defects in one's partner. I think it is more a process of both partners adjusting to each other.

There are two general areas (quite different in nature) where I find myself quite resistant to change. The first is in the area of socialability [sic]. I just don't happen to believe in the value of knowing (and spending time) with people in general. It has

always been my nature to have only a few (usually one) close friends with whom I happen to have something in common at the time. I have never enjoyed large groups of people (3 couples is a large group — two is borderline). I find it superficial (a valid comment I feel in spite of my unusual thick-skinnedness) and feel it much more valuable to spend my spare time in other ways. Whatever the reasons for this (It predates any wounds I might have received [sic] except perhaps from my parents), it is part of my character. Now I realize you probably feel otherwise and my iconoclasm would tend to interfere with your pursuit of happiness. This is where we are going to have to adjust to one another. The point I would like to make here is that it is not a defect on my part (at least I don't recognize it as such).

There is one other general area where it seems that most of our discussion (not a recent topic) has been unilateral. And this is religion. I don't feel that either of us has really accepted the obvious fact that you are a Christian and I am not. No amount of discussion is going to change this basic fact. Correct me if I'm wrong but I feel that so far it has always been assume we would adjust to you. (Your taking me to church with you is a little like [cut] — I don't mind going as a service to you but you are not getting the whole me). I don't know how we are going to resolve this but I would like to start back a little further than we have in the past. One comment of yours which lingers in my memory (which I might as well get off my chest along with the rest now) is your regretting I couldn't share your feelings about God this adding another dimension to our marriage. It doesn't have much to do with the situation — I will resist the temptation to continue.

Now to answer your letter. I don't really know why I am afraid of expressing myself. I have always been out of phase with my peers and when you are child in an "other directed" society that is a grievous sin. Now that I am older I realize that I was merely being brainwashed and I revel in being different from my peers. (One could make a good analogy with the situation of blacks in the U.S. [???]).

I'm not sure I could tell you what your greatest problem with me is and I'm not sure I agree with the choice of the word masochism (even though I used it first). That is more of a symptom than a disease.

Re the hurting each other — I agree we could both be more sensitive to each other. Of course I am willing to change in some ways. However I think you are aware that nothing, not even marriage, is going to work chameleon like changes in a person.

You are probably correct in surmising that I needed more time to grow before becoming a husband — on the other hand I think the experience has taught me a great deal that I don't see how I would have been exposed to otherwise (How does it feel

to have Buffy for a sibling).

I have already replied to your comments on interaction with other people.

I'm glad you understood what I had in mind about a person's having to be satisfied with himself first.

I would like to make one final comment on the whole subject. And that is that I think one should avoid the claustrophobic feeling that "My Gawd if such and such isn't the case then it is just impossible and we are already married and what am I going to do". An ideal marriage is not one composed of two ideal people but one composed of two people who have learned to live with each other and like it. Perhaps I am the one who has the easier time of marriage because you have the lesser number of personality quirks for me to adjust to. (How is that for turning the tables on you.) Deeper is walking on my letter.

While we are exchanging books you will have to read The Lonely Crowd when I finish.

I hope I haven't scared you with visions of my intractability, it is not my intention to be intractable.

I agree we have the potential for an ideal marriage. I am convinced I have the best of possible wives (I almost said brides) and if you don't believe that just ask any one who knows me at all well.

Good night my love  
W<sup>m</sup>

At this rate I'm going to have a lot of envelopes left over from your parents stationary.



17 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Today was a good day for mail. Got a letter from my brother. We seem to have found a common interest in the Petersville area. Also enjoyed your letter muchly.

I can't say I'm sorry your New Year's Eve party fizzled out, however I can't remember what you said about school that I said turned me off. One of the hazards of our current style of communication.

I don't know how enthused I am about getting out of here and starting school the same day and a week or two late at that.

I was kind of dubious about spending too much on stereo also. I haven't seen much in the line of cheaper systems. Mostly what you see here are component component [sic] systems which are fairly expensive.

Incidentally I am saving my "loot" for Christmas.

There is a slight difference between your switching to canned milk my starting to drink coffee. Also there is nothing what so ever motivating me to start drinking coffee.

All I drink now is 1/2 quart of filled — what ever that means) fresh milk for breakfast and water the rest of the day.

Do you realize in about five minutes the fifth month is coming to an end. One more and then it is all down hill.

Take care wench  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. You are not now and never will be as old as I. Also I beat Jenkins at a game of chess tonight.

19 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Just a short note tonight. I am really tired. Kind of a run down feeling the result of too many hectic, nerve wracking days and too little sleep. I'm going to just answer your letter and go to bed.

I agree on a couple of things like not spending much on a stereo and as you say about the school drop — three weeks isn't very significant right now. Although I know it will be then.

It is getting bad in FDC. You have the feeling about everything you do that somebody will attempt to hang you, I guess it keeps you careful anyway. We are direct support for a company of mechanized infantry now and they are a pain in the ass. They are always shooting in DTs and etc. Also the change the DT's at least 3 times before they get settled down for the night. I think my pen is trying to tell me something so I will quit. Thank you for informing of your upcoming busy week. Sometimes I start to worry if I down [sic] here from you for too long.

Take care wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

20 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Good evening — or morning since it is about 2 AM. You are probabaly in LA at the moment. Last night after going to bed so early I woke up at 3:30

I spent the whole evening playing chess or watching games. Lost 3 to Jenkins then beat another guy once.

If I continue playing Jenkins 3 games a night my chess should be amazingly improved by the tie I leave here.

Enclosed is yet another picture of me. I don0t really expect you to want them all but I have nothing else to do with them.

I have another book out here called The Body — I would like quote his closing comment from the chapter on breast feeding. "A satisfactory sight is of a well organized arrangement in which a pair of twins, both with their heads supported by their mother's hands, with their bodies gripped by her elbows, and their legs sticking out behind, are contentedly sucking one to each, at the pair of breasts before them."

They are playing a lot of christmas music now. It is sort of a waste.

I just today realized Christmas was so near. Next year maybe it will mean something.

Carry on Little Girl

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

21 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

I gathered from your last you don't think much of the idea of a motorcycle. Are you referring to the whole subject or some specific comment of mine.

I don't have any ideas on what to spend money on for both of us. I see no particular point in saving it for R&R.

The article from the Phoenix didn't make it. Incidentally I got letters from you mailed on the 7th and 16th both today. That's the first that got held up. Perhaps it is the Xmas rush.

You don't mention your problems with Reto so much anymore — is that because they've gone away or because you've adjusted to them. How often are you getting shots now.

Did you know that we are living in the "Age of Consumption". Man's primary function (in the U.S.) now is consumption rather than production. Your comment on Electric Toothbrushes reminded me of it.

Night before last I went to sleep early and got about 10 sleep I was really tired — last night I stayed up to 2: AM and I feel all rested up. Think I will compromise tonight.

Today is the shortest day of the year. It is a beautiful moon lit night out now. A great night to take a stroll with your arm around some fine piece [did I really talk like that]. Remember the night we walked/ran to the Hill's [a couple not a geographic feature].

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

22 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Well I almost beat Jenkins at chess again. I had him dead to rights (I Q, B, R to his lone King) and then I slipped up and he got a stalemate out of the deal.

Now I would like to suggest that we desist from hacking at each other via air mail. Forgive my obtuseness if I fail to see any connection between an idle comment of mine and "the whole mess we've just been talking about" (I don't even remember what a freeway looks like).

I felt it was fine at first when we both had things to bring out that perhaps are more easily brought up in writing. But I feel now that the conversation has passed the point where we can accomplish much via mail.

It seems to me that we both have enough problems this year without each other adding on to them.

I'm sorry if my comment was the "last straw".

What am I to when on the same day I get one letter

[blank half page]

It seems to me that we both have enough problems this year without each other adding on to them.

I'm sorry if my comment was the "straw that broke the camel's back".

Tomorrow a large part of the battery is going into CuChi to see the Bob Hope show. I had no desire to go at all so I'm staying in F.D.C. I'll be by myself since the rest of the day crew is going in. It should be pleasant — I'm always happier when working by myself anyway. I don't even know how to drive the 577 but I am becoming pretty expert at workin on the engine at least in its exterior aspects.

There seems to be a lot of tension in FDC now. Big Jenkins (the gun ape turned FDC chessplayer) doesn't get along with Lt Cooney at all and Little Jenkins (an FDC trained chemist) is having problems with everybody on nights. He was on days with me and he did all right (he is a little on the lazy side but he is alright. I chewed him out — can you picture that —one time because he was never around from 5 to 7 when we are pretty busy and he took it in stride).l The night crew is pretty heavy on collegiate types and seem to create factionalism. (They are kind of cliquey). Anyway

as soon as Bachaus leaves (2-3) days they, Lt Cooney, should put Jenkins (Little) back on days and it should alleviate some of the problems.

Lt. Cooney has turned somewhat lifer. When he first replace Huey he could do no wrong, but now everybody is having problems with him.

A lot of the difficulty is a phenomenon known as cabin fever — living too closely to people for extended periods of time.

When I get so I can consistently beat Big Jenkins at chess I will fell like I'm making progress. He's not that great — just a lot better than anybody else around here.

One final comment — what am I to think when on the same day I get a letter signed "your Old Lady" and a card signed "Jud who loves you". I chose to remember the latter and forget the former. Let's save the fights for when we can enjoy making up afterwards.

I love you little girl,  
Your W<sup>m</sup>

23 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Decided that the least I could do was send you some pictures I've had for several days. I don't care what you do with the one of me, but I would like the one of Fat Rat& Deefer back.

I'm tired tonight — I stayed up until about 2:30 or 3:00 last nite reading John and Mary. I don't know how it would work as a movie but it is really a great book. It is totally different from anything I have read before. Someday I'm going to get some books together and mail you a package — That will be in it.

Also found a copy of "The Atlantic" with a good article on the Oakland Seven. Day after tomorrow is Christmas — there will be a 24 hour ceasefire.

Today was kind of pleasant. Most of the battery went into CuChi for the Bob Hope show. It was very peaceful to not have them all around.

By now you must be back from Aunt Helen. Hope the car performed faultlessly. Incidentally you never comment on the Porsche 914. or have you seen one yet.

Carry on little girl. We're almost half way now.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

24 Dec 69

12 PM

Hello,

Well I just opened your package (more accurately I've been opening it for the last two hours). You really are amazing. To begin at the beginning the first thing I noticed was that the box was one of our storage boxes and the fudge was in your old sewing box. Also the whole package smelled of you (your perfume I mean). I didn't think I was ever too appreciative of perfumes but a familiar scent is better than pictures or arousing memories.

Your choice of books was great. Somehow I missed ever reading Walden Pond. I think I have more books here now than you have at home (Not possible — but it seems like it.) I have hardly been able to dabble in much of what was sent. I played a few cuts of the tape. Dylan is really great — I hadn't heard any of him for years it seems. Also it was pleasant just to hear the announcer's voice — Its amazing how attached I am to San Francisco.

I like the beads — they are just the type I would have picked out.

As yet I have been unable to get any sound out of the wooden recorder/flute device (not surprising since I'm not sure where to blow into it).

I could go on but the mosquitoes are getting impossible and it doesn't do justice to my feelings to try and list all the stuff you sent me. You must have spent a month getting it all together.

Thank you very much.

All my love,  
Your W<sup>m</sup>



25 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

For a Christmas day, today is rather solemn. It has more of a funeral aura to it than anything else. First thing that happened this morning, Captain Walker, our B.C., was relieved. His replacement is starting off on an ominous footing. The first thing he said to me was to get rid of the beads.

We are under a 30 hour cease fire which lends a kind of unreal silence to everything — even the radios are dead.

To look on the brighter side. I've been playing over your tapes. There are some really good tunes on it. Also heard Reto bark in the background once, and I heard your voice once surely the most pleasing sound I have heard in six months. The quality of reproduction is amazing — it's hard to believe — because the tape recorder is so small. You sounded just like yourself. I haven't finished listening to all of one tape even once.

Glad you made it down to L.A. safely. Hope the return trip is equally uneventful. Today is the end of the twenty third week.

I accept your apologies for the motorcycle outburst. I don't mind if you get things out of your system that way periodically. I have a feeling that I'm going to be less intimidated by your crying spells in the future, as well.

I finally got some sounds out of your wooden recorder.

Fromm's book looks interesting — I am going to be reading the book supply I have now long after I get out of here I have a feeling.

Today is the closest thing to a holiday that I have seen since I got here. I scarfed up another in the Sierra Club series — on the Cascades, Long's home country I believe. I'll send it on to you when I get a chance.

I wear my beads when I'm off duty, I guess. The army sucks

Thank you for a nice Christmas

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

26 Dec 69

Dear Jud,

Somehow it is always midnight by the time I get around to writing to you. Finally got a chance to play your second tape all the way through. I didn't realize you were so accomplished on a recorder — is yours like mine? Did you have music to follow score I mean.

Who is the Jane you refer to — Is that another of Helen's names — or perhaps the people down stairs.

Also I don't know what you are referring to about giving you a bad time — would I ever do a thing like that.

Seriously though I never do intentionally.

Would you believe I took another game away from Jenkins tonight.

Your candles are nice. Besides being decorative and smelling nice they are quite functional during the numerous power lapses.

It is very strange to hear Steve Jordan talking and a party in the background.

You sound very fragile and delicate. It is both pleasurable and painful to hear your voice.

I love you Jud,  
W<sup>m</sup>

31 Dec 69

Dear Judith,

Finally I'm getting sometime to write to you. Life is a little less well organized down here. For the first couple of days I had to work 24 hrs a day since Geddes stayed back at Patton to brief the new FDC there. It is like a vacation for FDC down here. Compared to Patton there is nothing for us to do. [Maybe this was written while at Dau Tieng?].

I don't have any objections to taking Reto on R&R.

I never accused you of making friends indiscriminately.

The remark about Buffy was a reference to your role as a guinea pig in marriing me. [sic].

I'm glad you got yourself a good coat — you are correct that I didn't like either of your others much.

[cut]

Tonight is New Year's Eve — Christmas already seems a long time ago. I'm usually pretty cynical about days like Christmas but you did a pretty good job of making it special this year.

I lost the "J" I've been carrying [sic] around in my pocket ever since the first day I got here I don't know how.

The personnel in FDC have finally calmed down. We have one F.D.O. who is really good. He has no lifer tendencies. The other F.D.O. is kind of a candyass but not bad otherwise. He's still too new to tell very much.

The new B.C. isn't too much of a problem so far — he's seem fairly easily intimidated. He is young, gung ho, and immature. He considers being a B.C. a big game. (It's pretty serious to some people — he has 4 court martials pending). Guess I better quit and get some sleep. I got paid today and will be sending you some cash in a few days. Hope you paid the rent.

Incidentally about R&R. You don't have to bring anything as far as I'm concerned. I settle for the standard model without any of the optional extras.

[cut]

Goodnight,

$W^m$

## January 1970

1 Jan 1970

Dear Wench

Lock up the broads and break out the booze cause the kid is coming home — this decade.

Sorry about the lapse in mail but I didn't write one night then last night I forgot to mail the letter I wrote.

R&R is beginning to look like it is at least in the foreseeable future.

I agree with your returning the money the neighbors gave you. Does every one think we're on welfare. I hope you remembered the rent. I always forget about until the first which is too late of course.

Incidentally it never occurred to me to send any pictures to my parents so you might send some on for them to look at.

I don't mind you blowing up at me periodically — mostly it just rolls off. I was just struck by the contrast of the two I recieved on the same day.

The mosquitoes are bad at night. We are in the middle of a 3 day cease fire which is being observed for some reason.

You should have seen this place last night at midnight. Eery fire support base in Vietnam must have popped hundreds of star clusters and parachute flares. Everywhere you looked the horizon was lit up in red white and green.

For some reason I am feeling basically dissatisfied lately maybe I'll try to do some serious reading for a change. All I really want to do is — what's the use. Usually I don't spend time thinking about it. Iv'e been really irritable all day for some reason. You're probably lucky you are not around.

Agnew is in Nam the radio just said.

I'm going to quit and read Walden Two.

Take care of yourself little girl.

I love you.  
W<sup>m</sup>

Snarl!!

2 Jan 69

Dear Judith,

Good evening. It's about 2:30 in the morning — I fell asleep early, but now it is pleasant because I am rested up and alert.

The money order man is supposed to be here tomorrow. I have quite a bit of money to send you this month. I made Sp/4 on 7 Nov so I have all this — Dec pay plus back pay from most of Nov. They claim I will go up for Sp/5 next month. Geddes is getting it this month but I don't have enough time as a Sp/4 yet. It will be about 3 mo. before you see any results of that.

The mosquitoes aren't as bad now as they are earlier in the evening.

Did I understand correctly that Linda Schlosser was going to be staying with your for a couple of days.

I think I will have had enough of camping out before we get to R&R. We'll stay in a hotel and eat hotel breakfasts. It isn't really so very far away any more. I'm going to have to put in for it before too long.

Geddes is going next month. FDC has finally settled down to more of a routine. Mainly there is no body left who is short.

Our lagoon out front is drying up. [This must have been at a place called Sugar Mill with a road running through the compound]. I went swimming in it when we first got here but it [sic] too shallow now. Got a card from Sandy's parents saying he is in Vung Tau. It sounds like he came over in Oct. He must be spending more than 3 yrs in the army.

Good night, wench.  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S: [cut]

3 Jan 70

Jud,

Would you believe I wrote you a letter last night but couldn't find it this morning of mail.

Last night was strange anyway I went to sleep early — around 8:00 and woke up at 2 AM for a couple of hours I am a good part of the way through Walden Two Have you ever read it.

The Money Order man didn't show up to day as he was supposed to — maybe tomorrow.

I am writing by the light of one of your candles — it is fine for reading but the high sides (they burn down in the center) make it difficult to write by.

You didn't explain what Gretchen and husband were doing in San Francisco.

At the moment I don't have any ideas for uses for blank tapes — save them and if I want then I'll ask for them. It has stopped raining and the mosquitoes are coming out. Between the mosquitoes and the candle its an uphill battle trying to write. I've just decided to switch to writing in the early evenings — right after dinner while its still light.

Good night — sorry I haven't been doing so well on the mail I'll try to get back into my old routine.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. [cut]



4 Jan 70

Dear Judith,

In keeping with my decision of last night, it is only 6:30 and I'm already writing to you.

You have been very good to me, I've been getting letters everyday for quite a while now.

I hope you weren't planning on getting more than 250 on the second you'll get some more but it won't be until the money order man shows up. He didn't make it today either but they say tomorrow.

This plac is like a vacation. We hardly ever shoot. We had a three day cease fire for New Year's and I couldn't even tell the difference.

The lube and oil is fine to keep up the needs of the car. Eventually it will need a tune-up (you can tell when you notice gas mileage and performance? start to degenerate) That's the only thing VW was giving it that its not getting now. You shouldn't have any trouble between now and next summer though. How many miles have you put on it total since I left. (I know I asked you once before). Also why don't you look in my NSF pamphlet and see if there are any clauses forbidding recieving NSF and GI bill simultaneously.

Your Making a Counter Culture and Jay arrived. Will start on them after Walden Two. These books (including Riesman's The Lonely Crowd) all seem to fit together.

I hope I misinterpreted your letter Did you say you had to go to the bank to get some money so you could get the laundry.

The new B.C. is a waste but then I've never seen a B.C who wasn't. He doesn't bother FDC much.

One of our new F.D.O's (all our FDO's are always new) seems to be a really great guy. He seems to be a reasonable mixture of caring enough to do his job and no lifer enough to get carried away by things.

I'm going to start getting together a package to send you.

I'm beginning to feel like I have less time than some other people. Last night it poured down rain again. Apparently the rainy season hasn't quite given up.

It's really going to be interesting to see what changes have been wrought in my wife

and apartment after a years absence. I hope I don't feel too much like a stranger.  
Reto will probably attack me.

Take care little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

5 Jan 69

Wench,

Another day done gone. Today was slow. Both of the 2 Jenkins were on detail today, but I just stick around FDC all day long. There's no much to do but somebody has to be here to listen to the radios. (One of the benefits of being section chief). I have ordered some parts for the generators and the 577. When they come in I will have some work to do.

I have difficulty writing letters that are personal anymore. Must indicate it is about time for an R&R. I don't like to feel like I'm losing touch with you even though it is inevitable to some degree.

FDC has changed a lot with all the new people. I like it less I think. It reminds me more of a fraternity now than a section. There are a few too many collegiate types. Also there is a lot more dissension amongst various people.

JENKINS IS CRAZY!!

NO IM NOT CRAZY PEOPLE NEVER ADMIT IT.

He doesn't believe I'll mail this so I'm going to quit and mail it right now to prove it.

Good night,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S Guess I'll continue I've been out looking at the stars I've decided during R&R you are going to have to see a shooting star if we have to stay out all night looking for one. I've seen three here. Two in the past twenty minutes.

I love you.  
W<sup>m</sup>

6 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

Would you please make excuses for me to all the people whom I owe letters. It is really a lot of hassle to write now. I never have time during the day and at night by candle light with the mosquitoes is not ideal.

(Of course as a secondary object you are now aware of the sacrifices I make to write you). Seriously I don't mind writing you but my natural disinclination to write others coupled with the adverse conditions makes for it never getting done.

I spent the afternoon outside the wire filling sand bags. It was enjoyable to get out and do something and get some sun for a change. Also it is interesting to talk to the civilians (or listen to others talk) who hang around whenever you are working. There are always millions of kids around.

Well the money order man finally showed up. But he didn't bring his machine this time so we have to wait for the money orders to come back from CuChi (you just give him the money). Supposedly we get them back on the 8th. So by the middle of the month you should get the rest of your money.

I'm sending you about \$200 more this month. After this it should settle down to about \$100 a month that I send you (Besides the \$250 allotment). I could get the allotment increased but the time it took effect I would be a Sp/5 and also two months before R&R. I will have to keep some money because it is required that one have \$200 or \$250 ash on hand before leaving the country for R&R. So will continue as it is unless you have objections.

So much for finances.

You would probably like it around here. You think you're small. Vietnamese women are really tee-tee.

[cut]

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

7 Jan 69

Dear Wench

I love you. Today was a really good day for mail for me. I hope you have started getting mail again. I got two letters from you plus your package. How did you know I had thought it would be nice to have some incense over here. I don't remember mentioning it. Would you believe I even figured out what the holder was before I unwrapped the incense sticks. Jenkins has already taken charge of the bread. He told me we would wait til later to eat our bread.

As regards resuming our chess game. I'm all for it. In some ways I'm better and in other ways I'm not. It seems like I play much better against Jenkins than others. Of course I always lost to him and beat others.

Sometimes I feel like we are making progress at getting this over with, then I realize we are just almost half way is all. At least R&R will bread up the last half, and it will be down hill whatever the psychological benefits of that are.

I felt much more nostalgic on Christmas eve. Somehow. I didn't even notice New Years eve.

Re the five year plan. I expect to return to school in Sept. If we are to go back East at all it would be between July and Sept. (i.e. Aug). Alaska will wait on school. I really don't know how much time I'll spend in school. It depends a lot on how it feels.

Re a stereo. I had attempted to pare it down as much as possible last time I gave you an estimate but will look at it again.

You were saying how you took up drinking canned milk, just because I did. Well I would like to observe that among the many changes in eating habits I have made since our betrothal, surely one of the most remarkable is a distaste for potatoes in any form. I once greatly relished them in all forms but now I don't like them at all. I hardly ever take any (maybe once a month) and don't eat them even then

If you don't think conversion to noodles is adequate demonstration of affection well then I guess you'll just never know.

Incidentally the other Prescott is up at Hampton now (did I already tell you about our battery being split) so if you always put FDC on the envelope it might save a couple of days if the mail clerk is ever in doubt.

FDC is back on all the detail rosters now, so it is a genuine benefit being sections chief — no KP, guard or anything. Mostly I feel like I do enough to earn the privilege.

This new crew in FDC tends to get on my nerves periodically. It is bad enough having to work so closely with people without everyone acting like this is just one big happy Hepburn 3rd floor South [freshman dorm at Middlebury College]. That is really what it reminds me of. Guys go around borrowing clothes. It doesn't appeal much.

Our two F.D.O.s are interesting characters. The older (in time in country — 2 mo.) is a sort of light hearted, happy go lucky guy who talks as if he is really good at everything, chess, guitar playing. But really isn't. That gives an unfair picture of him however. Lt T (Teresquersy [sic]) is the one who has the most influence in turning the place into a fraternity house.

The other FDO (1 mo in country), Lt Hughes is a B.M.O.C turned pussy (= candy ass if you're not familiar with that use of the term). When we moved everybody was limited to one duffel bag and one fuze can, but Lt Hughes brought 3 duffel bags and a suitcase. He has all kinds of junk that is really more trouble than it is worth. Like tennis shoes, civilian clothes, plus innumerable little neat leather cases containing things like a small tool kit and a special Buck knife sharpening kit. He reminds me a lot of Addison except his the football player type.

Every morning Husky, Will, and Deefer pick a different item of his to tear to shreds. It is really humorous. The morning after he got his new white tennis shoes (they came in the mail) it was found totally mutilated. It was no longer white and the back was all torn out. Another time they got his hat with his 2nd Lt bar on it. He is having trouble adjusting to having to share a bunk with an enlisted man.

Both of the F.D.Os feel slighted because they have to sleep in FDC while the 1st Sargent and the Chief of Firing Bty (E.M.s) sleep in the B.C.'s bunker.

Did I tell you I went swimming in our lagoon the other day. Nobody else would (It is a little bit scummy) but it felt good.

Geddes goes on R&RL at the end of this month and Jenkins goes next month. Before you know it it will be my turn.

Good night little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. You my number one taxi girl

9 Jan 70

9:45 AM

Dear Jud,

It is early — thought I would write you a short note before the convoy leaves with the mail. Had a very pleasant evening last night reading Rosyak's book and burning sandalwood and listening to my tape recorder. You take good care of me. I wish I could do as well by you.

Also started working on the Pumpkin bread. It arrived in excellent condition.

Had a couple of dreams last night, In the first one our B.C. was relieved for some unusual reason. In the other we were together (along with a lot of other people.

Well they just gave me a message for the B.C so I will have to quit.

Good morning my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

9 Jan 1970

Number one Baby San,

I have decided tonight to write letters to people. (Probably just my parents). The days seem to go by. I haven't fired a round in almost a week. They usually shoot once or twice at night. All I do is maintain the truck and generators.

Sorry the money is such a hassle for you.

How come you never send me any pictures of yourself. I suppose it is more difficult than here where there are always guys with polaroids running around try to burn up film.

It sounds like obedience class might do Reto some good. The picture you drew of Reto looks really vicious. I didn't realize his ears were so long or his nose so pointed. My parents commented on how Jane commented on how he won't let anyone near you. Maybe you better not bring him on R&R. It would be nice to be able to get near you then. (Just kidding).

There were some donut dollies (girls — american type — who work for the red cross) out here today and you should have seen Husky's reaction. He really looked ferocious. He probably didn't know what what they were. I had to hold him down. Mostly he was afraid. If Reto does as good a job of protecting you from women as

Husky does of running of women then I don't have anything to worry about.

On the tape you sound very helpless and frail. It is totally incongruous with your situation.

I love you very much,

Yours  
W<sup>m</sup>



10 Jan 70

My Most Excellent Baker of Pies,

How are you this evening. You must be getting close to semester break. I'm getting close to zip. However, I am one day shorter than the last time I wrote you.

One of the greatest pleasures over here is making friends with people on the radio. It is a very unusual kind of friendship because you never meet and can never really talk much. Even so after awhile you really begin to feel you know some guys. When we left Patton we left behind one set and now there are all different people. The move from Patton to here coming when it did was almost like transferring to a different battery. There are very few old people left, the place is new the people we shoot for are different even the type of shooting we do is different.

Have you ever seen a puzzle game made up of 7 pieces all constructed of cubes

([drawing of cubes]) I mainly drew them as an exercise in drawing cubes. Any way you can make all sorts of shapes out of them. It is really fascinating I have been woking on the for the past two or three days.

I'm glad you still remember me well enough to dream about.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

11 Jan 70

My Judith,

Finally I'm getting around to writing you. I already wrote letters to my parents and Sandy. He is in Vung Tau. I got two letters from Sandy one from my Parents and two from you. I must confess I'm not making much love either these days. The tune that I like is Dylan's "If I save you any time, then give it to me. I'll put it with mine". I'm not sure why it appeals but it does.

Re the cold weather in Fairbanks — I'll keep you warm. We'll go to bed in early Oct and stay there until late April.

It is interesting that you comment on the packing aspect of moving. I was reminded of our numerous moves when we were packing. Moving is the same anywhere I guess. If you were referring to the fudge in your Christmas Package — It was very good. I thought I already mentioned it.

My mother wrote about my old man. It seems like he is starting to get senile really bad. I don't know how much is real and how much is my old lady's imagination. I suspect it is fairly valid though. She said no ot discuss it with anybody just wanted someone to know. I guess it is inevitable the are both getting pretty old [At this point they were 60 and 63, doesn't seem old to me now. I am 73 in a few days]. My mother seems to take it pretty calmly. It's hard to say how they really are.

I haven't been in the lagoon since that first time. I I [sic]don't think there are any snakes around.

In case you are really wondering the FSB [Fire Support Base] is stock just like Patton, complete with Barbed wire and sand bag bunkers.

The people are really all right in FDC. I think I'm just getting on edge from the endless routine. We're building a new FDC (at the moment we're operating out of the track) and it should be better when we have more room.

Hey what is this Jane B.S.

It is really getting late so I will have to quit and say good night.

All my love as always  
William

P.S. Hope your monetary difficulties have straightened out.

13 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

It's morning. Decided I would write you a quick note and enclose yet more pictures of myself. Tell me the country in the background isn't prettier than anything at Patton. Lieutenant T took the pictures when I went swimming in the lagoon.

I have nothing further — we are pretty busy lately. Hope the additional money has reached you by now.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

13 Jan 70

Dear Judith,

I haven't really abandoned the idea of moving to Austria — just sort of forgotten about it lately. No, I have not put in for R&R yet, however it is getting pretty close to time to put in for it.

I'm not worried about being disappointed — overwhelmed maybe, [cut].

We've started building a new Bunker — both for FDC and personnel (I believe I mentioned we are working out of the track=. It will be a lot better — the one we're in now is rather cramped. Also it is enjoyable to have some real work to do. I am beginning to realize that I have an office job.

Will appreciate new photographs of you — if variety is the spice of life, an occasional new [cut] picture of you is adequate variety for me.

you,

Take care little girl — I love

W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I wish I had your dreams

14 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

Sorry your mail delivery hasn't been so good. I don't think its my fault — I've been writing pretty regularly. Probably you are just getting the first few days down here when I wasn't getting a letter off too regularly.

Jenkins and Lt. T. are sitting here carrying on in a pidgin dialect — a combination of Vietnamese-English — and French. All obscene.

From your letter you sound as if you are getting already for my return. Some times I begin to think its getting close — there are so many new people — then I remember that we're not even quite half way yet.

Some of the stuff you mentioned would be useful — I'd like gold rim glasses. I'll be about out of underwear by the time I return. I threw away all my T-shirts a long time ago (I didn't need them).

Also when you pack for R&R you'll have to bring some 'civilian' clothes for me.

I'm going to quit — there are a bunch of — sitting around — and there is no light anywhere else.

Take care — I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

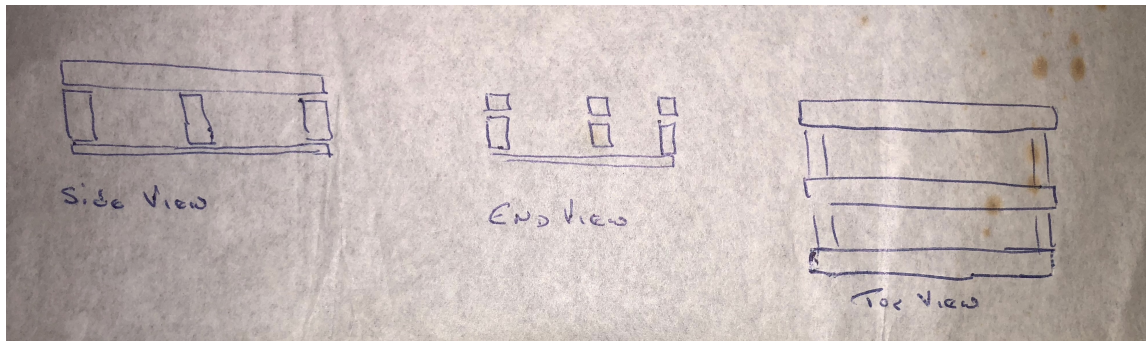


Figure 2: Bunker design.

15 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

Today I really worked. We started building our new bunker and made pretty good progress we have all the framing up and one layer of sandbags on the roof. It will probably be ready to move into tomorrow. It is constructed of 12"x12" beams and is possibly the sturdiest structure ever built.

We had to get a wrecker to lift the top beams up onto the supports.

I'm glad to hear that you still appreciate my writing regularly — I was beginning to feel it was no longer functional or something.

Re shooting stars — they are a very real phenomenon of meteorites burning up in the atmosphere. As far as you not being able to see them it seems dubious since they look just like stars (except they move) and you can see stars I recall. I think you've just never happened to be looking in the right place at the right at the right time.

Can't say I approve of Reto's biting you — I assumed he was just being playful and got carried away is that correct.

About the GI Bill. I get 1-1/2 months of bill for every month of service therefore 36 mos. of GI bill. It will wait so the best bet would be to use up NSF first.

I don't know about the drivers license it would be nice to be able to drive right away though.

It is getting quite late. Geddes had to go to CuChi overnight so I had to stay up and

shoot our nightly fire mission at about 1 AM. It's almost two now and I believe I'll go to bed.

Don't worry about me — it doesn't accomplish anything.

Thank you for your letters — I  
really enjoy hearing from you.

W<sup>m</sup>

16 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

Just a short note to "let you know I'm all right." It seems like this battery is degenerating into an endless series of personal conflicts. It is very tiring.

Spent the day working on our bunker. It is quite hot here.

Geddes is gone (going before E-5 board) so I am the 24 hr a day FADAC Operator. The only time we shoot is usually at about 1:30 AM I guess thats what I'm waiting for.

This place is really incredible.

I'm going to go to bed.

I am fine and I hope you are too. You better break me out of this place before I lose my mind though.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>



18 Jan 70

Dear Dear Jud,

Finally I am getting time to write. I got a letter from you last night that I hardly even got a chance to read much less answer. Its almost midnight now today seems to have been about a week long. The B.C. & XZ.O. really have it in for FDC for some reason. I am always sceptical [sic] of people who complain of being picked on but this time I think its a valid complaint. Today was really unbelievable, I won't bother to discuss most of it but the low point of the day was when they took Phil Jenkins out of FDC and sent him in as bunker guard in CuChi. It is involved to explain all the ramifications of it but suffice to say that we were already short of people and Jenkins was one of our best men.

I shouldn't have started talking about it — I was in much better humor after reading your letters.

I know I've been sounding a bit remote lately. I think it's mainly because of the monotony here. I feel devoid of anything to write about. Are you aware we broke the half way point on Fri. I guess I mentioned it. Your letters are really great — they are much appreciated. One final comment re the above — you better plan on living with E-4 pay for the duration. With the B.C. we've got now an E-5 promotion for me seems a little dubious. Sorry about not writing much — you'll have to bear with me til we finish building.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I'm not planning on writing any checks. Your comment on reto cracked me up. Shep would of appreciated it as he took great pride in being black and big.

19 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

Would you believe that I am writing by moon light. It is a really beautiful night out,. I got yet another excellent letter from you. Almost the only mail there was for anyone today. For once I am all cleaned up and relaxed and it is still early. We finished part fo the bunker and materials for the other half just arrived late today so we quitr early. I didn't realize how cramped I had been feeling . We have been living in a bunker constructed of culvert halves. Every one slept in a little cubicle just wide enough for one cot.

[Sketch]

Last night I moved into our new bunker — it was really pleasant.

I have a picture my parent wanted sent on to you.

Re your and your professors comments on Math — ts never too late. I will think about your question and write you a coherent resonse when i get a chance. Its been a long time.

Don't waste too much time worrying about the car insurance. It doesn't do anything to worry about things over which you have no control. There are a few patches of clouds so my light gets shut off occasionally.

Re your comments on R&R. I don't care how much we spend either — if you start with 5 bills and I start with 200 or 250 we will probably have plenty.

Did you know there are only 32 people here who leave before I do. It just means there are a lot of people with a lot of time left. Did it ever occur to you what a fantastic winter we must be missing in Vermont. ON that note I will close.

Don't forget how to make cherry pies while I am gone.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

21 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

I just have time for a short note. This place is really bad now. Our F.D.O. are daily threatened with being relieved.

Why don't you send me some of your address stickies to save on addressing envelopes (Just kidding).

We got our personnel bunker framed in yesterday. Now its just another three or four days of filling sand bags.

I never really get off duty anymore — we generally spend evening planning (arguing= about the next days activities.

I'll be good at building bunkers after this. Maybe we'll build a bunker up above Petersville somewhere. We could stand off the world.

I'll try to write a longer letter tonight. Good morning.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

21 Jan 70

7:00 PM

Dear Judith,

For once I'm going to try and write you early. I am really tired tonight. Tomorrow we start sandbagging the personnel half of our bunker and I'm really not looking forward to it.

Compared to most days today was fairly uneventful. I am beginning to get tired both mentally and physically of this whole scene. We have been working hard trying to do a lot and it gets tiresome to have people jump on you. Of course if we never made mistakes, they couldn't jump on us.

It's going to get worse before it gets better though. Geddes is going on R&R and that always means less sleep. I told you they sent big Jenkins into CuChi to be bunker guard. Also they told little Jenkins he couldn't RTO anymore. People don't like his mannerisms on the radio. I didn't like them that much either but he was better than nothing — and he was just beginning to get to the point where he knew how to do everything.

However as they say "It don't mean nothing". Besides which there are only 178 days of it left.

Its another beautiful noonlit night — one of the few benefits of the place. It sounds like you and Reto get along pretty well in spite of some of your problems.

Well I took a shower and got cleaned up for the first time in several days so I gell a little better.

You comment that I'm beginning to sound a little remote. I'm beginning to feel a little remote. I wouldn't worry too much about my not liking you anymore.

We're going to have to have kitchen on R&R so I can eat some of your cooking again. Maybe it won't be practical though.

Carry on little girl.

To my No. 1 baker of Cherry Pies

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

23 Jan 70

My Dear Judith,

Got a very nice card from you last night. But I didn't get to write so will try to do better tonight. I don't know where the evening goes. It seems like before I know it every night it is midnight.

Also received your box of brownies and the book. the brownies were good I only had a couple then the night shift finished them off. I'm going to try to start reading again tonight I haven't read anything for about 3 weeks. That may be why I feel so listless or something.

Time to take a shower will call you back later (I wish).

I find it hard to believe you could hurt yourself falling on your derriere — must be you landed on the remainder of your tail. In any event I'm glad you're better. the only trouble with your address stickers is that they remind me of letters from my mother as she is the only I ever knew to use those before.

Got a letter from my Old Man and he sounded pretty much himself — maybe my mother was exaggerating it is hard to tell what goes on there from letters.

It hardly seems fair of you to criticize me for not eating and make claims for gaining weight yourself without sending me some proof. [cut]

Your description of the Jordans reminded me of the song "Pleasant Valley Sunday" (Mr. Green, he's so serene, got a TV in every room... charcoal burning everywhere). I don't know what I (wew) want out of life but the Mr Green scene doesn't appeal much. (Of course compared to our present straits anything would look good).

I'm not sure what my measurements are — you could try about 31 but I won't guarantee anything — sorry.

I'm working on the second smaller candle you sent me.

Good night waif. tomorrow I'm going to talk to the 1st Sargeant about putting in for R&R. It's only a little over 2 mos off.

Take care little girl,  
W<sup>m</sup>

24 Jan 70

Dear Judith,

First of all I have spent a little time thinking about your question of why  $4\sqrt{3} = .75$  works and I believe I can produce a mathematically sound argument showing that it does work. It isn't very elegant I admit (see enclosure) On thinking it over I'm not very sure it answers your question or even has much to do with your question. However it does show that a decimal expansion exists (by giving a method for constructing one) and that is what you are really doing during long division.

I received two (2) letters from you today and it was really nice.

I'm glad you'r making progress with Reto he must be really big. I was looking at a picture of the two of you from your Yosemite trip and he was big then. Incidentally for some reason you very sensual in that picture. I don't know what it is — your hair is all messed up and you are squinting into the sun but something about it [cut]

What does Mr Ong think about your tearing the wallpaper off (Incidentally it will be time to pay him when you get this — as if you need reminding after all these months).

It sounds like they are cancelling our SP packs (they were our source of cigarettes, soap, razor blades, writing paper, envelopes etc) I'm not sure what we are going to do for supplies. I'll let you know if I need anything and can't obtain it locally.

Re the list — assuming you have a copy of what you sent me just add a pair of sandals. As for boots I guess I'll bring a pair from here.

Did you get a vacuum — I get a little out of date? Don't remember a Cressman.

I love you,  
William

Let  $a, b, q_i$  be ~~integers~~ positive integers  
 given  $a, b$   $a < b$  (It is easy to reduce any  
 other case to that of  $a < b$ )  
 find an expansion s.t.  $\frac{a}{b} = q_1 q_2 \dots q_n$  (i.e.  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{10^i}$ )

We assume Euclid's algorithm

(given  $a, b$   $b \neq 0$   $\exists q, r$   $r < b$   
 s.t.  $a = q \cdot b + r$ )

If you can't ~~proof~~ prove that tell me and I'll write  
 out a proof of it.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } \frac{a}{b} &= \frac{1}{10} \left( \frac{10a}{b} \right) \quad \text{find } q_1, r_1 \text{ s.t. } 10a = q_1 b + r_1 \\ &= \frac{1}{10} \left( q_1 \frac{b}{b} + \frac{r_1}{b} \right) \quad r_1 < b \\ &= \frac{q_1}{10} + \frac{1}{10} \left( \frac{r_1}{b} \right) \\ &= \frac{q_1}{10} + \frac{1}{100} \left( \frac{10r_1}{b} \right) \quad \text{find } q_2, r_2 \text{ s.t. } 10r_1 = q_2 b + r_2 \\ &= \frac{q_1}{10} + \frac{q_2}{100} + \frac{1}{100} \left( \frac{r_2}{b} \right) \quad r_2 < b \\ &= \frac{q_1}{10} + \frac{q_2}{100} + \frac{1}{1000} \left( \frac{10r_2}{b} \right) \end{aligned}$$

etc. The process can be carried on indefinitely  
 (but must repeat eventually as there are only finitely  
 many different  $r_i$ 's  $< b$ )

25 Jan 70

11 PM

Judith,

As the pine scented candle smoke mingles with the sandalwood incense I take pen in hand to — (I couldn't produce a respectable ending to that sentence).

You mentioned my coming to San Francisco instead of your going to Hawaii. I had considered that, Why don't you tell me what the full fare round trip — reserved seat price is from Hawaii to S.F. As far as simple monetary considerations, I'll bet it would more than make up for the fare differential to be at home and no renting cars or anything. I don't know why I never considered it seriously before — it certainly appeals to go home to our own bed, and car and kitchen (in their order of appeal). It would also be a lot easier on you I imagine no packing or getting rid of Reto. I'll have to consider it seriously. Also find out how often there are flights please.

Tomorrow Geddes goes on R&R. Then it's my turn next. Am looking forward to the package and also the photos which are supposed to be forthcoming.

I love you,

W<sup>m</sup>



27 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

Will just write you a short note to let you know I'm alright. Yesterday Lt T dropped a beam on my foot. It wasn't even bad enough to have doc look at, but it was pretty sore last night and I didn't feel like writeing [sic]. It looks like I'm going to lose the nail on my big toe.

Will is sleeping on my cot — we are going to have to arrive at some kind of agreement here before too long.

Got a Christmas card from Alison today as well as a letter from you. You're about as good as I am at remembering to enclose things.

The harassment level has dropped off a little. They don't seem to be as down on FDC as they once were

You seem to be whipping right along on the apt. I got the paper and poster yesterday. Am looking forward to the next food box

This month is almost over already — it seems to have gone unusually fast.

It's getting late — so will say good night and kick Will out of my bed — I can think of other females I would rather have waiting in bed for me — take care of yourself

—

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

28 Jan 70

Judith,

Well it is late and I'm still in FDC. We worked till almost 9:00 inside the bunker it is getting pretty near done. We are down to four people in FDC, quite a change from 10 like when I first came in country. It's only temporary Geddes is on R&Rl and another guy is shamming in CuChi.

Sorry you haven't been getting mail from me. Hope it has picked up by now. I generally try to get a letter mailed every day but don't make it sometimes.

Re the time certificate if you think our savings will be adequate without it go ahead and extend it for a year. I really don't have much of an idea of how much money we have anywhere anymore.

Out of curiosity why are you staying over night with Fran. Is it purely social or is Steve going off somewhere. (On thinking about it it seems obvious he must be).

Would you believe that my Scientific American subscription finally caught up with me. I recieved 5 issues today (Aug - Dec).

Don't let things get you down (as you told me not very long ago). The personalities of the people I have to work with are what gets to me usually.

The only thing they don't harass me about now so much is my mustache and sideburns. I guess it might be a change to wear some of your knit shirts. I probably won't even recognize myself on R&R much less you.

Got a letter from my parents today also. That Maytag ad was fairly humorous.

Good night waif.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

29 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

I guess that really should be 30 Jan as it is well after midnight. It seems like I am on nights lately. There is only one guy left of the regular night crew. tomorrow one of our FDO has to go in (he got a bad reaction to a smallpox vaccination).

I didn't get any mail from you today but I guess I shouldn't have expected any as I got a letter yesterday. It seems like it has been longer than that though.

We moved FDC from the track into the bunker today. It is kind of pleasant to have a little room for a change.

It is very difficult to write, without answering letters.

One good thing about working nights is that I'm getting ample opportunity to read the SciAm.. It's different but I really prefer days.

I think it could be that I'm getting fed up with writing as a means of communicating with you. It leaves a lot to be desired.

I'm getting fed up with everyone here and I think everyone else feels the same way.

Take care of yourself waif —

I think of you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

30 Jan 70

Dear Judith,

I hope you are all right. I haven't heard from you for three days now. That is pretty rare.

Everybody is out in FDC arguing about complete bullshit. Lt T is OCS and Lt H is ROTC and they are arguing about how tough OCS is and how much of man T is for going the "hard" way. The people here really get to me.

This morning was pleasant — I got up about 9:30 (after going to bed at 5:30) and at first I felt really bad but I got busy and got a lot of little things done that I was getting behind on due to the building. We're almost through building — about two more days should finish all the major construction.

I bought a hat to you today (To be delivered after payday — as I'm broke) I don't know when I'll get it to you though. It is the standard hat that almost all females here wear. I think they are fairly tough looking

I had better hear from you tomorrow, or else I will have to come looking for you personally. I get lonesome without you waif.

Good night,  
W<sup>m</sup>

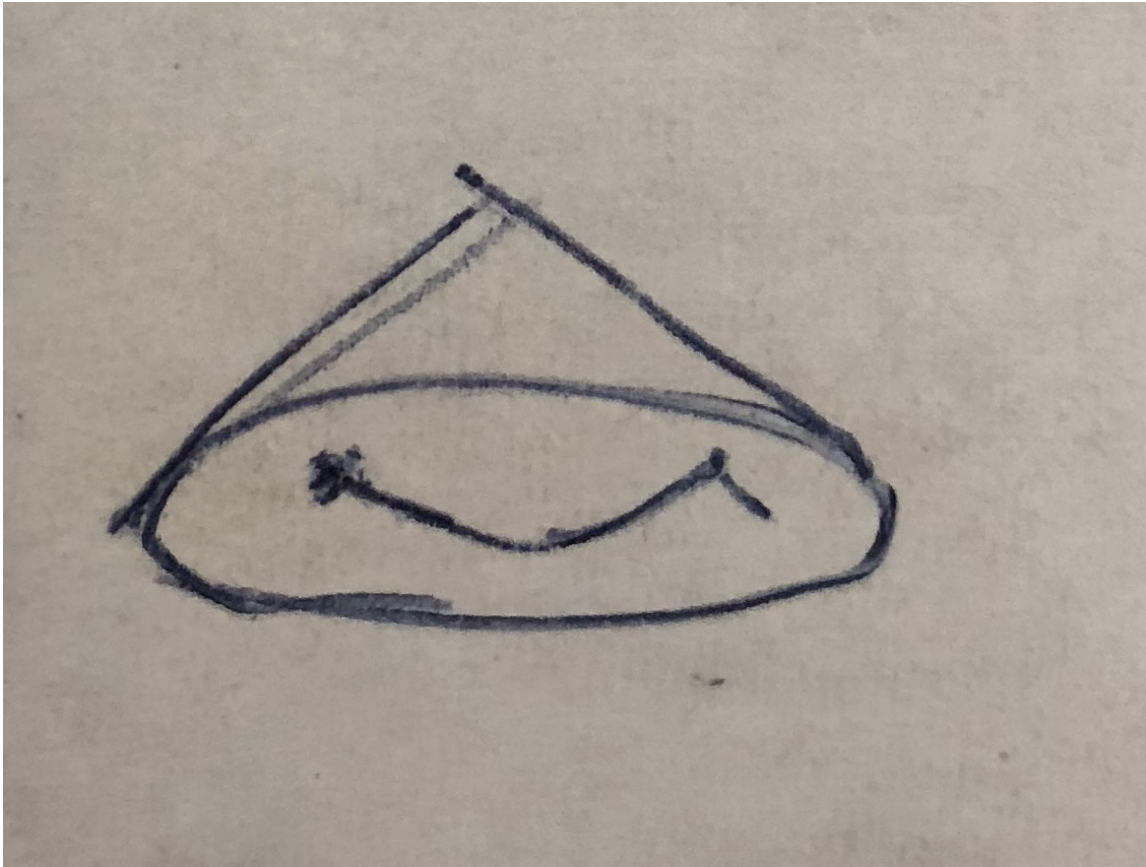


Figure 4: Vietnamese hat sketch.

31 Jan 70

Dear Jud,

How do you like my pen — pretty sexy huh. It is 2:30 AM — there is really no good reason for my being up still but here I am.

Today was a pretty good day I got paid last night, and sent off for your money order today. Maybe you'll get it a little earlier this month. Also picked up your hat. Also we have started on a new month. As of three hours ago. Pretty soon it will be Valentines day. I guess I should concoct a vValentines card with this pen. Maybe later.

Fat Rat has taken up sleeping in my bed on a permanent basis

Well it seems that this letter is doomed as it gets later and later.

Maybe tomorrow I will write you a real letter.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

## February 1970

1 Feb 70

Dear Jud,

I was glad to hear from you. when I first read your letter of today you sounded kind of distant — however on reading it over again I've decided that must have just been because I was too rushed. You should know better than to get upset just because a letter returned. It is nice to think you still worry about me.

I was beginning to wonder if Reto would ever grow out of the obnoxious puppy stage. Maybe I'll bring Will back You mentioned wanting a female next time.

I get the impression that I missed a letter from you. For instance you told me that Reto went out by himself and hadn't returned. Then in the next letter I get you are glad to have him back and talk about his ordeal.

Lt T is having problems with some girl friend back in the world. It is pleasant to be past that stage (not that we don't have problems but they are of a different nature).

Tonight I feel organized for the first time in weeks. I got out my correspondence can and collected all my unanswered mail together to be burned tomorrow. Also rediscovered your book Springs of love. that was a pleasant surprise.

My toe is getting ack so it looks about like it did right after the beam fell on it. (Just a blue nail) the swelling has gone down.

Maybe I'll end with a quote from Rainer Maria Rilke

Love consists in this:

That Two Solitudes

Protect And Touch and

Greet Each Other

Good night,

It won't be long now,  
W<sup>m</sup>

3 Feb 70

(Barely)

Dear Jud,

I didn't get a chance to write you last night but the money order man came today so I got that off on today's convoy. You'd probably rather get money from me anyway (i'm not kidding).

I got a couple of really good letters from you today. It was nice it seems like it has been a long time since i have really hear much from you. I see I was correct in missing a letter about Reto.

I can't say I think much of Don Myers in too many ways but I will admit that he had a rather amazing place to live up above warren like he was. Would you believe that I took some potatoes for dinner not 1 hour after reading your suggestion. They looked good for some reason — doubtful that I'll make a habit of it. I'm really just about the proper weight now. I don't think you have to worry about my getting busted. I'll try to keep you on E-4 pay at least.

Where is the Serramonte you were talking about. Am enclosing my W-2 forms I'll let you hassle with it — if you have trouble or don't feel like messing with it Just put everything in an envelope and sent it to me and I [sic] attempt it. I heard rumors that they eliminated the card form.

This month is February and then there is just March until R&R. Jan went by really rapidly. Things have started to level off in FDC. Everybody is beginning to develop proficiency and it runs more smoothly. Nobody jumps on us much anymore.

I just inherited a large can of tuna fish. Too bad you can't open us some beer and make a couple of tuna fish sandwiches some afternoon

Some day maybe — I love you Jud. Be careful for me.

W<sup>m</sup>



5 Feb 70

Dear Jud,

Well it is the end of another week (the 28th I believe). I recieved your package last night. It was quite a package that tape of the stones is really great. It has all of their great tunes on it.

The food came through in perfect condition. The "Toffee Bars" are all gone (I got some of them) I still have the bread. Thank you very much. I think I was in need of a package — I was really looking forward to opening it last night.

I have finally gotten together a package for you. It is all wrapped and addressed so next time someone goes to Cu Chi I'll get them to mail it.

I'm going to end now I'll write a longer letter tonight after I get some mail maybe.

Take care.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

From Roszak's The Making of a Counter Culture "But you twenty five... there are forty or fifty years ahead (if the bomb doesn't fail) and they must be shared with home and family and be buoyed up by a dependable subsistence, or that future will be a gray waste and the consciousness of life you want to expand will shrink and become bleak. So how do you grow up? where is the life-sustaining receptacle that can nourish and protect good citizenship?"

6 Feb 70

Dear Jud,

Good evening. Hope you aren't getting upset due to a lack of mail. I mean well but sometimes I don't get around to writing. Last night I meant to write you but I fell asleep early and got all screwed up. I woke up at 2:30 AM and was awake off and on the rest of the night. Geddes came back today. I'm glad. I didn't really trust the night crew without him. The FDO is pretty competent but he hasn't been here long and fairly frequently he runs across things he hasn't seen before. Like just now for instance, he just figured out that a time fuze requires a twenty meter height of burst (It don't mean nothing). Anyway I didn't intend to start on that B.S.

As you probably are aware Tet started last night. One really gets a different impression of it from here. In the background there is well-known apprehension about the war this time of year. But what one notices about it more is the air of holiday festivities. As I've probably mentioned we have a street through the middle of the battery that is pretty heavily traveled by civilians. It was very refreshing today to see everyone in their new clothes. Sometimes I feel really jealous of some of the civilians as they come through on their Hondas — complete families, or a young couple walks past. Some people seem to live their lives in spite of all the obstacles we put in their path.

Your choice of hotels sounds fine. ON further thought about it I've decided I don't want to come to S.F. — why deprive you of the chance to see Hawaii and why waste the time involved in my flying to S.F. Your time is not rationed quite as closely as mine.

You will meet me at Fort Debussy R&R center in Honolulu. From there we'll go to Kauai if that's the plan. Have you considered taking a boat to Kauai (I don't know anything about the geometry of the situation but it seems like a boat ride would be pleasant.)

What is the matter with the quilt? If you want an electric blanket it's alright with me. What will you do if we don't have electricity?

I don't know of anything I want at the P-X. Your babysitting money is yours to do with as you please. We should have plenty of money without dipping into yours. I think often it is over with you will be glad there is not so much time left. From everyone I talk to it is harder to return here after R&R than to come the first time.

Because you know what to expect it is no longer novel just more of the same. Good night Jud, See you soon,

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

7 Feb 70

Dear Jud,

Hope you've received your check now We are a little out of phase on R&R. About the time you are reacting to my thoughts on a S.F. R&R. I am getting your communications on Kauai.

About going to SF. I am not worried at all about getting trouble only about getting caught and missing part of R&R. I'll think about it and give you a definite answer in plenty of time. Just stay flexible.

Re household insurance you might as well pay it and make sure they know where we are living. As I read further in your letter it sounds fine if you mail me the Time certificate check and the bill both.

Incidentally I observed your inverse logic about buying a stereo because it would be insured.

I could get a Minolta SR.T 101 F/1.4 (Is that the same thing) for \$139.75 plus insurance and shipping. The batteries in my tape recorder are shot. I'll have to go down to Commo to get some more tomorrow. My pace of writing is slowed to a near standstill. I spent the morning cleaning up the track. Somehow all this talk of R&R makes it seem closer. There are all sorts of rumors floating around like a drop of five days for every month you've spent in country after Jan 70. That would get me out 35 days early on June 12. Another one is that the 150 day drop is being reduced to 90 days. I'm one of the few people who would still ETS without any extension [Note: Anyone returning from Vietnam with 150 days or less of service remaining is allowed to immediately end term of service without serving the remaining time state side.]. Another is the 150 day drop is being changed to 180 days. the only certain thing is that I will get out of here by 17 July.

Finished Roszaks book last night. He talks a lot about things that are bothering me but he doesn't know the answers any better than I do.

His comments on science were really interesting. I'm still not a converted astrologist but he certainly provoked one's thoughts.

Good night most excellent baker of cherry pies.

I love you muchly,  
W<sup>m</sup>

8 Feb 70

My Dear Jud,

I have trouble keeping up with your activities. It all sort of blurs together and then once you get lost you get really lost. For instance you say you are working at Orss, but I can't recall anything about that.

Reference R&R I have no control over the scheduling in any detail we both should know about 2 wks ahead of time, when I will arrive in Hawaii and when I will have to depart. It wouldn't be too cool if I get to Hawaii at 3:30 and then the only flight out is at 2:30. I

I just got interrupted Will finish later.

Much later — like the next day (Mon 1:30) I'm getting really fed up. I haec lost my sense of values and I no longer know whether we (FDC) are really being fucked with (no milder expression would suffice) or whether it is all my imagination — all I know is I'm tired, tried of doing absurd things for agsurd reasons and then getting chewed out for not doing them right (?).

On top of it all Fat Rat has taken up biting civilians as a full time occupation and I'm going to shoot her in the head before long if she doesn't quit it.

I must really be bad off because it is incredible some of the minor details that get on my nerves.

Try and find out all the different possible times at which I could get flight out of Honolulu and that will be the deciding factor about where we spend R&R.

I'm going to quit now. You should be glad you're not around not. I know I'm not fit to live with.

To the one constant thing in a \_\_\_\_\_ existence.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

10 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

Wie geh es? Ich bin müde per as usual. Everyday I get one day shorter and that is about the only thing good that happens. Today is the end of the 32nd mo. of our marriage. I feel (and believe) that I am very much older than all the people around me.

I just layed [sic] down for a second and discovered how tired I am. Got your package today. The coffee can techniquel seems to keep food in pretty good copndition you must be drinking a lot of coffee these days.

It must be quite humid here because about an hour after I opened the cookies they (the few remaining crumbs) were soggy. Most of them get eaten up right away though. It is strange that one does notr notice the humidity otherwise.

Also got the kilt? I'm going to take a shower and try it out after a while.

Thank you for the Valentines package. I have a package for you if I can ever get it mailed. The tell me I am going up for 5 next time they have a board. If I get it it will mean a little more money for you. The Airplane's Somebody To Love is playing. I put new batterys (ies) in and my little recorder really turns out some sounds — you wouldn't believe how good the reproduction is.

Anyway back to the monetary situation as I understand it. I have to have \$350 in cahs on me when I leave for R&R. Before R&R I will get two more paychecks (Feb & March). Since my share of the check was about \$120 last month I guess I'll keep most of the next two. Supposedly I will make E-5 effective about 7 Feb in which case there will be a lot of back pay on my Mar. check. We'll see at least if you don't get much money (over and above the \$250) you will know why.

I will quit now — the coleman is running out of gas and it is getting hard to write.

I love you always,  
W<sup>m</sup>

11 Feb 70

Dear Wench,

Du bist ein schönste madchen und ich liebe dich. Today was a good day for mail — I recieved two letters from you and one from my mother. Also the long awaited photos. You look really tough in long hair. The picture of you sitting on the couch under the collage with your skirt halfway up your thigh especially turns me on.

I spent the last hour organizing my photographs I have around 40 of them. More than I realized. Evening are sort of backwards these days. I start by sleeping for a couple of hours then take a shower then stay up til 1 or 2.

I'm not at all sure of what I would do with a "beautiful shirt" with french cuffs but if you think I need one I won't disagree.

I would go along with the picking each others clothes. Since you seem to have already taken over picking my clothes. I have only to gain and nothing to lose.

Would you like me to request R&R for 12-19 April. I was going to try for 5-12 but if it would be more convenient to your teaching I'll switch. Let me know pretty soon.

Geddes leaves the 29th of April and I would like to be back before he leaves (but if I'm not it doesn't matter — I'm sure I'm not as indispensable as I think).

The valentines package arrived way early. The other probably took longer because it was insured (Why I don't know).

Have another picture someone took and gave to me I don't want them so I send them on to you.

Have spent the last few days building screen doors. I'm getting pretty good at it.

Our bunker is completely done except for small finishing touches.

Good night

Yours,  
W<sup>m</sup>

13 Feb 70

Morning

Dear Wench,

Decided to write you a quick letter before the convoy leaves. Your package/letter arrived yesterday. The picture of Teddy and Mimi and friends i really wild. Concerning the household insurance — I'm going to write and bring them up to date on where we live. Right now the policy wouldn't even cover us if anything happened.

Some lifer is about to arrive so I will be interrupted for a few minutes.

They just had a spiel on the radio about not using air mail envelopes on free letters, from here to the world. It is humorous [sic] because all the envelopes one gets over here (even in Army issue SP packs) are air mail.

My toenail came off yesterday — it surprised me. Lately I have been really tired at night. (Than's why I'm writing now instead of last night.)

Marx concept of man goes very slowly as a consequence. It is surprising how appropriate to this time his ideas are I didn't think work was so alienating back when he was writing. Biut he was writing about the factory England. Now work is alienating in different ways.

I sometimes get the feeling I'm the only (or at least) one in FDC without any really bad hangups. (I realize I'm not without hangups but compared to people around here it seems like I am):

It would herd to put together a group of people with more personality problems. Lt T notices everybody elses and spends a lot of time talking to me about others (he is really responsible for everything and has to worry about it.), but I can observe him also. Sometime I will talk about him — his father has really screwed him up.

Just to give you an idea I will list the people and there [sic] problems (very briefly, inaccurately and probably unfairly.

Lt T[ereskerz] Egotism - a reaction to a long standing inferiority complex.

Lt H[ughes] Narcissism - Totally out of touch with things around him — also he is the ideal consumer (I mentioned all his little boxes of gadgets)

Hardin - he has to reassure himself of his worth by all the places he has been and the fraternity he belong to at Purdue!!



Jenkins - a little boy -very sensitive to slight intended or otherwise and prone to going off and pouting if slighted.

Geddes - Very opinionated naive and headstrong.

I'm losing interest in this analysis (probably not as much as you have in reading it). I have developed a lot more interest in observing people and trying to understand them since I've been in the army.

Well it is about time to go to work. I will write more tonight.

Take care little girl,

W<sup>m</sup>

13 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

In about 30 minutes it will be the 14th. Happy Valentines day.

I wonder how Mr. Ong like the growing colony of dogs at 1107 Vicente. Did I mention I considered bringing Will back to the world, but decided it was impractical for multitudinous reasons.

I can make R&R anytime you want. How about early May. Seriously just give me a date when you will be through student teaching — and I'll request R&R for after that. They don't always give you what you request but if it is too early I'll just turn it down and try the next month.

Glad you like your master teacher better this time around. I don't imagine you will have as much trouble this time as you did last time for a lot of obvious reasons.

Your suggestion about sending photos to my parents to be forwarded to you is not a bad idea. Unfortunately I just sent one to you last night but I'll keep it in mind for the future.

It's getting late and I wanted to get to bed earlier tonight but it doesn't seem to be in the cards.

Did I mention that you looked quite tough with your hair long. Can't wait to get my hands on that. Whenever R&R is it will be nice, if it is early it will be nice and if it's late there's just that much less time to do afterward.

Take care wench. You did good so far.

With love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

14 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

Tonight start out kind of screwed up I was tired and dirty and fed up. But I went to sleep and then about midnight I got up the energy to take a shower. Now I am all cleaned up and on the radio they are playing a commentary of music of the 60s and it is fantastic. They play all the great old tunes. They just played Rollover Beethoven by Chuck Berry. Also it just ended but evidently it is a regular Sat. night feature so maybe I'll look forward to it every week.

This place is getting to be a hassle. It's hard to describe exactly what I mean but everything that happens has to be hassled over. It is very tiring.

Today was the off day for mail for me, I should get some tomorrow. I have a picture of Lt. T that is kind of cool that I'm going to send to my parent to be forwarded to you.

It is really an experience to take a shower every night with the wind. Everyday in this place the afternoon seems to get hotter and the shower gets colder.

It's just one of the bene's as they say. We have started switching people around on different shifts. It will be good to get a little change of scenery.

Will quit for now and write my parents. The only trouble with your plan for pictures is that it requires I write my parents occasionally.

Good night little girl.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

15 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

In an attempt to solve the problem of being so tired in the evening I started this evening off by sleeping for 3 hrs. (It usually happens anyway so I just made it a policy). Its ten oclock (11 actually) and I just got up and took a shower.

At least as busy as you are time should be going by rapidly for you. You said something when you said it will be different next year,

Where did you get the sexy paper. As far and ER and R goes — Disregard I don't have anything to add to my previous comments.

You certainly are good for my morale R&R does seem fairly close nowq. And there won't be much time left after R&R. A psychologist could find a lot of material for study on the passing of time over there. It is a psychological phenomenon more than anything else.

Life here is settling into a routine much like it was at Patton when we first arrived. There is plenty of work left to do but all the heavy building is over. Poole and I built some great screen doors a couple of day ago. This bunker is almost completely mosquito proof.

I'm not making much progress so I'm going to write to our household insurance co.

Take care little girl — I like your modification of the happiness quote.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

16 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

Tonight is a really cheerful night around this place. I thought married couples had a monopoly on having fights. Personally I don't care enough about anything or anybody over here to get very upset but evidently some people don't feel that way. Geddes is upset about something and he is pouting. Lt. T has gotten to the point where he is always seething mad all the time.. Mostly he keeps it to himself but it is obvious nevertheless. I think the pressure is getting to him Lt. T that is. The B.C. rides him pretty badly and although he has no lifer tendencies it is in his personal makeup that it really bothers him.

As far as Geddes goes he has just been here too long and some of the worse (a value judgement on my part) of his character are coming out.

The section reminds me of your office at Berkeley. Everybody seems to have some kind of hangup. It is a point in Lt Hughes favor that nothing much bothers him really. He is too concerned about himself to worry about what is going on around him.

So much for the emotional problems of F.D.C. There are some very humorous moments here some times. Like yesterday when the B.C. spent the whole morning holding section chiefs meetings to determine how many hats there are in the battery.

This morning the BC had a meeting and said a general was coming and no one was to do anything but clean the rest of the day. Since this morning we had been given about 3 days work to be completed by 6 PM, I asked him if we could work on that. He said to put one man to cleaning and leave two (I have three counting myself) working up malfunctions (the three day project). Immediately after I got back to FDC the telephone rang and the chief of smoke said we had to make a trash run. That takes two people leaving one in FDC and no one two [sic] work on malfunctions (one person can't do it). The trivia back in the states didn't seem so senseless because there was really nothing else to do. But it really seems insane to have to stop work on things that will have to be done to attend useless formations or similar B.S.

Fat Rat is on the prowl looking for chicklets. They come in the SP packs and Will really thrives on them (Incidentally in case you haven't figured it out Will = Fat Rat = Scrotum). She can even get them out of the boxes. I gave her about three and then

cut her off and she sat looking at me with what I believe is referred to as "a very soulful expression."

The mail seems to have settle into a pattern of two letters every other day.

I just looked at a Battery roster and there are only 23 people to leave before I do.

It is amazing how much older Teddy looks that the other guy in the picture you sent me. Tonight begins the last day of the seventh month.

One thing about having no one on speaking terms with anyone else it is much quieter.

Will close with a quote from Goethe taken from the little book you sent me.

"The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers, and cities; but to know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden."

I don't concur with the first clause but I like the second.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

22 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

It is Sun morning. I'm going to try to get a letter written and on this morning's convoy. Recieved the Happiness Book and Income tax forms. I'll look it over tonight.

Sometimes it surprises me how similarly we think (even at a distance of 12000 mi). Not 3 days after I finally decide to go ahead and get stereo you write and suggest it. I didn't know we have \$3000 in the bank — if that's the cased and you really want to get rid of it why don't we trade the VW on Porsche (just kidding).

You have the technique correct if the Jordans want the camera just tell me and I'll write a check for it. It will probably be mailed either to you or to them I'll see. Also you might if you get a chance look at a Fisher 120 (FM radio, phonograph and speakers) somewhere. (I realize how much free time you have). If it looks all right I'll go ahead and get it.

I remember that like very well. Thank you for the airline schedule — with that many flights a day I shouldn't have any trouble getting out of Honolulu. I'm going to put in for R&R for 10 April and will see what happens.

I'll write you a longer letter tonight.

All my love always,  
W<sup>m</sup>

22 Feb 70

Dear Judith,

Good evening. I had all kinds of ambitions for tonight but Jenkins came out from CuChi to spend the night so I ended up playing chess for the better part of the evening. At least I'll get a letter off to you.

I put in for R&R for the 10th of April. I will have nine months in country so I should get it with out any trouble. It is difficult to believe it is finally close enough to start requesting. I am beginning to feel short. Somehow the time seems to go.

After R&R I'm going to go on nights for the remainder. It is starting to get bad on days. All the harassment of stateside with none of the benefits. I had a run in with the XO yesterday. He wanted me to give the guns a fake fire mission, which I did under protest then he wanted me to tell them some other B.S. (the object of which was to make them believe it was for real). I told him it was a lie and he would have to give me a direct order before I did it. So he gave me a direct order and I did it. Then he came down to FDC (with an E-6 for a witness) and gave me three more direct orders (2 regarding personal appearance and one regarding some work we had to do on the bunker). He is about the most two-faced person I have ever met. He will come in one time and be as nasty as possible over some minor detail then a few minutes later he will want to borrow my Pacex catalog and you would think he was a long-lost buddy of mine — He disgusts me. I can't even stay in the same room with him anymore. The E-6 is another one that I have trouble with. The morale in the battery is about as low as I have ever seen it.

I've slowed down to about zero  
so will give it up and go to bed I still have to take a shower. Good night my love.

W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I have found your Valentines day present but will have to wait for R&R to get it for you. There is not exactly a surplus of Jantzen dealers in the local area.



25 Feb 70

2:00 AM

Dear Woman,

Have decided that regardless of the time I have to write you a letter tonight. I never seem to get time really sit down. so I decided top say up tonight and take tomorrow off. i.e. do as little as possible. First of all. I don't remember if I mentioned it but I wrote to our insurance co. (household type). Also sent off the income tax. The only change I made was to correct the address to our current one. (and therefore change the "same" underneath) If you had read the fine print closely enough you would have discovered that you didn't need my signature (because I'm over here) But I was just as glad of a chance to look at it anyway. If you will send me the necessary copy of your W-2 form I will write Oklahoma and get some form and get your 3.92 back.

Saw a cartoon where some guy is talking to his fianc's parents and the father is saying "Other than the fact that you 'dig her bod' is there any other reason why you should be allowed to marry my daughter". I'm glad your father never asked me that.

Now will attempt to answer your letters of today. I get two letters every other day.

I realize it is not practical to bring Fat Rat home but never the less I would like to. I have really gotten attached to her lately. After Phil Jenkins left, I started taking care of her (mainly seeing that she gets fed). Most people think she is dufus because she doesn't behave like most dogs (she rarely barks and won't eat if other dogs are around).

How many miles has it been on the car since VW gave it one of the minor tuneups (I believe it is the type check up scheduled for every 6000 miles in the maintenance schedule.) If it is approaching 6000 it would be a good idea to get one. I can't remember the maintenance intervals very well.

It is very difficult to tell the seasons here. Especially when confined to a FSB. The main difference is the frequency of the rain It goes from daily during the wet season to monthly during the dry season.

I feel pretty lucky with our marriage also. I think it has great potential.

I have no objections to Reto using my Serape. After all he has my wife why not my Serape.

Reference R&R I'm really not going to care very much what our surroundings are. I don't remember what the world is like well enough to know what I want. I would like to have hotel breakfasts with you and eat out a few times and buy you some clothes and have at least one cherry pie and that about sums up my plans for R&R ([cut]).

My whim at the moment is that you will go to Hawaii, meet me in Honolulu and we will go to Kauai from there.

As for the August bit. I believe we will take an extended and leisurely auto trip through the U.S. and Canada.

It is getting late and who knows what tomorrow will bring so I had better get a little sleep.

Good night little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

26 Feb 70

1:00 AM

Dear Jud,

It certainly feels good to take a shower and get cleaned up. I have to wait til the moon comes up fo it to get light enough. It is amazingly dark until then.

Tonight we have 3 guns (out of four) down i.e. not shooting. And our Bn doesn't know about it. The BC is taking quite a chance by not reporting it, but I guess is gambling he will be able to get them back up.

Also we got our old FADAC back today. It probably doesn't mean much to you but is one of the small pleasures in life to have a FADAC you like. Some books came in today and I scarfed up on a few good ones. My next project is to get a shipment of books off to you.

Nothing much is new here. —Tomorrow I should get mail. Good night little girl.

Thinking of you,

W<sup>m</sup>

27 Feb 70

Dear Woman,

For some reason I always have an unconscious tendency to put July on the Date. Finally got around to packing up some books to send you. I packed tow boxes. One (fairly flat box) contains, mostly, books I think you might be interested in. The other (nearly square box) is just miscellaneous books that I wanted to get out of the way and couldn't see throwing out. I will mail them next chance I get but who knows when that will be.

Recieved your letter of a week ago today. What comment on children did you have that you decided was better cut out. I really haven't been avoiding answering your queries on the subject. It's just that on the rare times when I get a chance to write and length I don't remember. Also I don't really have much to say on the subject. I don't feel at all assured of what I or we are going to do. I don't mind talking about it though.

I will order the camera as soon as I can find the catalogue again. The one I had looked at belonged to someone else and they don't know where it is now. I can always get another though. I'm glad you got a watch you like. I had thought of getting you one.

I guess I've told everybody but you that we are going East in August. As I figure it now we will take a leisurely auto trip across the country lasting a month (+?) probably traveling through Canada in one directions. How does that sound to you. You were wondering what to do the the \$3000. Don't try to read any meaning into my not commenting on things. It just means that I didn't get enough time to answer and forgot about it by the time I did get some time. If I disapprove of anything you come up with I'll let you know — you won't have to read between the lines.

You ask if all the pictures look the same. On the contrary I have trouble convincing people they are all pictures of the same person. I enjoy the pictures more than you could realize. It will be nice not to have to rely on pictures but now they are great. You look amazingly tough standing in the bright snow gazing off. I notice you are waring your hair behind your ears mostly now. I didn't like it before but it looks appealing now.

Good night little girl,

Love W<sup>m</sup>

## March 1970

2 mar 70

Dear Judith,

Won't write at any length tonight as there is not much to say and I want to get to bed early.

I just figured out that the only way to get that camera is to have it mailed to me here. They only sell to APO addresses. Guess I'll order it and if we're lucky I'll have it in time to give it to you on R&R.

Do you have any interest in a good camera — if we were to get one the most likely candidate would be a Yashika 35. It's fairly versatile and takes really great pictures. But is not too far out for our tastes. It costs about \$65. I'm not really recommending getting a camera — I've thought about it and I don't have much interest in it. It's too bad you are running into difficulty on the credential.

I also was under the impression you would be able to get it direct from S.F. State. How much longer would it take to get a Masters? Then you would be able to teach anywhere without any problem wouldn't you.

What am I to think one time you write and tell me about how much money we have rotting in the bank and next you worry about something to live on for a couple of measley months.

The Berkeley application is due May 15th. I'll get working on it shortly (I have it). If you will send me NSF's address I'll inquire into getting it cranked up again.

One of the main problems with planning for our future is that even though I am married and 25 (merely) and have 17 years of schooling behind me, I still have no really concrete ideas about what I want to do with my life. I think we should keep in mind spending a few years in Austria. Maybe after I decide what to do, we will find a way to do it in Austria.

Good night for now little girl. With a good woman like you beside me I have confidence that we will have a good life — whatever it may be.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

4 Mar 70

Dear Jud,

Good evening. To take care of business matters first, I have some bad news for your camera purchasing friends whoever they may be. I discovered when I started to fill out the order — disregard. I started to say there was no way I could get the camera to the world by mail. But then I found it in another catalogue which will ship to the U.S. So I sent the order blank off. I enclosed a check for \$127.45 which covers the cost of camera, postage, and insurance. You will have to pay a duty on it (It should be about 12% or \$18). Don't even start to expect it for 6 to 8 weeks.

Now to answer your letter of yesterday — I'm sorry I upset you. I think we are both getting pretty fed up with our separation and are extra sensitive. I know I am getting more and more and moody and irritable every day. I have to avoid people most of the time now. I was probably feeling down when I wrote you, but I didn't to write off the last three years as anything.

How is R&R going to fit in with your school schedule? Are you just going to cut for a week or what? If you were to be in San Francisco that week would it be any easier? (I wouldn't let you free to do very much but I might consider giving up an hour sometime during the week in which to take care of business).

As Phil would say we (He & I) got a package from "our wife" yesterday. (That's you). He is always telling me how he is going to spend two weeks in S.F. with you waiting for me. (He extended so now he DEROS's on July 3). I just point out that after I get my 20 day drop I'll beat him out of here (He can't take a drop — he wouldn't ETS).

One's Deros is always subject to last minute adjustments — I've seen people leave anywhere from 20 days early to 2 days late (When the NG's left there was a shortage of planes and some people missed there DEROS slightly). Thank you for the cookies and date things. "We" are looking forward to the arrival of the banana bread (I presumed the bread you mentioned was destined for here). Your banana bread is really special

I love you very much,  
W<sup>m</sup>

7 Mar 70

3:30 Afternoon

Dear Wife,

Decided for variety to write you in the afternoon. Hopefully everything is done for the day. Last night I crashed early — I played Jenkins the usual three games of chess (even beat him once. Then I layed down for a couple of minutes and woke up at 6:00 this morning.

Reference dyeing your hair, I would veto that if you left it up to me.

To continue. It didn't work very well trying to write in the afternoon. I have gotten four letters from you in the last two days so I'm behind. Before I start answering them though — I got R&R for 10 April through 16 April. Also it had occurred to me that you might like to see Hawaii so we will be going there. They should mail you some copies of my orders — when you get those you should know when I will be getting to Hawaii, so you can plan your arrival accordingly. You will need the orders also to get the special fare. Try to arrange it so you arrive shortly after I do (If the orders are explicit enough — you see them before I do). But in any event don't get there so far ahead you have to worry about a place to stay. When I get to Honolulu I have to go to Fort DeRussy for about twenty minutes. If you are already there that is where we will meet. If you haven't arrived yet I'll meet your plane at the airport.

Your package arrived today. the candle holders and candles are really beautiful — they are good to use here. Maybe I'll bring them on R&R. Thank you for the resupply on incense. I hadn't even used up the first supply yet so I decided I was being too parsimonious with it. Tonight all of FDC is permeated with sandalwood.

Glad you are all set for anything now — I don't know what you are referring to being all set for — but if it is R&R . . . (I was going to make some nasty remark but decided to forgo it). I am getting really psyched up for R&R.

You are about as good as I am at remembering to enclose things. (There were no photos in the letter referring to them).

I will need some civilian clothes (a pair of pants and a shirt) for the trip from Long Binh to Honolulu. Either you can send me some or I will purchase a cheap set in the PX for the trip — the former course would seem more sensible to me.

I just reread your account of your experiences with the neighbors. I don't think you



are getting short-tempered — I'm amazed you didn't just let go and tell them to leave your dog alone and get out. I wish I could take care of things like that for you. The deadline for UC application is May 15 for Fall quarter (April 5th is for summer quarter). Will write NSF shortly.

On the stereo equip — the only trouble with buying good speakers is that if you start out buying components the minimum you can spend is around \$300-400 which is more than I am really interested in. We'll discuss that over R&R.

As you say where ever you get a job we'll work out the transportation problem. If you have choices go by where you would prefer to teach first and then if all else is equal you can consider transportation.

I have negative knowledge (that expression comes from talking on the radios too much) of what a Heathkit catalogue contains.

R&R makes it seem like we are finally making some progress at finishing this year. When I first got here the thought of R&R didn't entice me as much as ETSing. However now the idea of seeing you and getting away from here for whatever length of time really appeals.

It won't be long now.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

9 Mar 70

Dear Wife,

It is 6:00 in the morning and I thought I would take advantage of my new schedule to write a letter before breakfast. The BC came in yesterday and found one of the F.D.O.s chart operating. So our shifts have been rearranged so that we have three people up at all times. — with only 5 guys in FDC (Not counting FDOs) that makes for 14 or 15 hrs a day. I now start work at 5 AM and get off at 8 PM. Other people work similar shift just starting and ending at all different times. It is kind of screwed up because I haven't been getting out of here until around 10 anyway lately.

I just read Time Magazine's review of Labriskie Pt. and they were pretty hard on it also.

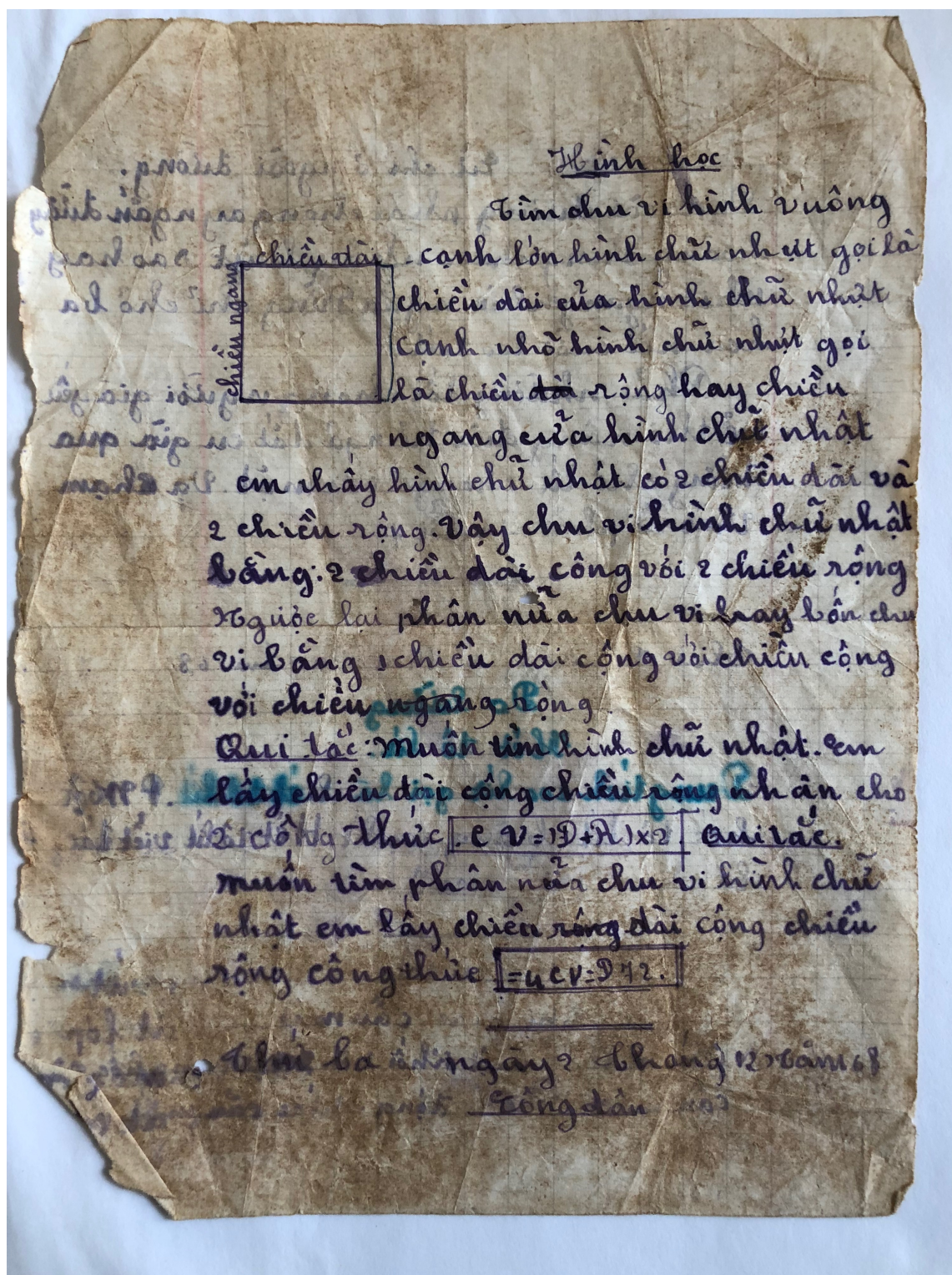
We have a lot of movie going to catch up on when I return. Got a letter from my brother yesterday and he is trying a vacation (I had trouble finding the word — R&R came to mind first, then "leave" — I've been in the army too long) starting the 3rd or 4th of August. I told him we were pretty flexible.

It is nearly breakfast time so I will quit. Just wanted to get a short letter on the convoy and let you know I still think about you.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. Lately I have found myself daydreaming about you a lot, and imaging what it will be like to be together again. It is only 32 days now. We will meet on the anniversary of the 34th month of our marriage.

[Note: The following two-sided page was found in the collection. I have no recollection of where it came from]





Chỉ ở ngoài đường.  
 Di ngoài đường phải chong ay ngắn dưới  
 hoàng Dung nhúm nháy, huyết sao hay  
 nhìn ngang nhìn giữa. Dung chỉ chỗ ba  
 hoa nói cười teo toét.  
 Phải nhường lời cho người già già  
 trẻ thơ nằng đũa trẻ ngả dất cụ già qua  
 đường chỉ lời cho người lạ mặt. Và Chạm  
 vào ai phải xin lỗi.  
 Ngày 04 tháng 12 năm 68.  
 Đo lường  
 Hết tờ lít.  
 Dung tích 100 lít gọi là chiếc lít. Một  
 lít hết tờ lít bằng 100 lít. Hết tờ lít viết tắt  
 là 1 lít = 100 lít.  
 Quan sát vào phần  
 khi gác cần mắt  
 Cần mắt là một khối tròn, đặt trong góc sân  
 cần mắt có thể di động, được cần mắt.

175  
 Figure 6: Vietnamese text - reverse.

13 Mar 70

Friday morning

Dear Judith,

Am going to try to get a letter on the convoy this morning. This morning has started off completely in accordance with the day and date.

I have been informed that the BC has put me in for 5, so maybe you'll have a little more money after R&R. If I don't fail the board.

Found a piece of paper with some attractive Vietnamese script written on it — thought you might enjoy looking at it.

It has been three days since I got any mail from you — so I am expecting a haul today. Started reading a book called. Downtown today — about urban problems. It is interesting. Hopefully I will have a better understanding of the problems of cities when I finish.

The road is open so I will try and mail this.

Good bye.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

14 Mar 70

Dear Judith,

After a fairly lengthy spell without any mail (four days I believe) I got three letters from you today. Will try to answer them tonight.

I am writing on a table I built the other day. Finally starting to get my life organized tolerably. I spent most of the earlier part of the evening playing tapes. I just fire up a couple of incense, crank up my kerosene lantern, put on a tap and then I'm all set. All I would need is my little girl sitting on my lap and I'd be perfectly happy.

It was good to hear from you. I was beginning to think you had given up writing (sometimes I feel like giving up writing until after R&R).

Reference the trip in August. The only camping equipment that I feel we need besides sleeping bags is a stove. Why don't you try and pick up a PRIMUS stove. It is compact in the extreme and quite adequate for heating up a quick meal. I [sic] weather and time allow a more elaborate meal — I would rather build a fire.

I have no objection to spending some time at Lake Hortonia. Feel free to make any promises/plans for the trip that you want to. Just don't make it so definite we can't change it if we want to.

I'm planning on bringing on R&R the recorder and tapes, the two candle holders & candles, and the valentine shower towel. That will be about the extent of it. I don't know when you will receive the orders but it should be plenty of time in advance. I just inquired and discovered that you should have them now. Hope they tell you what time I get there. It might be convenient if you made reservation for Kawaii ahead of time. I hope the jacket you got for me is warm — I have gotten pretty accustomed to being warm. In the daytime here it is always 90° in the shade and over 120° in the direct sun.

I figured you must have gotten the wig away from Reto pretty rapidly. You were discussing it pretty calmly.

My plan for the drive back East follows (if I already told you just skip the next paragraph):

We will drive through Oregon, Wash, Idaho and Montana. From there through Canada to the Northern tip of Maine, then down the Coast. Returning we will take a more direct route (we'll probably be tired) perhaps through New York (upstate)

and Iowa — I wouldn't mind seeing Allison again. We can visit Lorie if you want to — I'm indifferent.

How are the tires on the car holding up?

I don't know whether I have all the Berkeley stuff but I do have a single page reapplication form. I recall something about needing transcripts of some kind. I'll look at it again later.

I'm glad you are willing to stay flexible for a couple of years more anyway.

[cut]

I love you and I really can't comprehend that we will be together again in less than a month.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

15 Mar 70

Dear Judith,

It looks like I'm going to CuChi tomorrow. I have to go for the E-5 board. I should be shining boots and stuff but can't get up for it. I have one pair of boots that is in fairly good condition. It must be my turn to sham for awhile, like Geddes did when we were building this place. When I get back from this R&R won't be very far off.

Don't worry about the pie — if I think you have time to make one (which is probably) I will be glad to buy you all the ingredients necessary and you can just throw them away when we leave — it is called splurging.

The camera is no problem; it worked out easily. I'll order the Yashica for us when I get back. (Also your refund from Okla.)

I'm going to quit and get things together for tomorrow. Good night little girl.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>



18 Mar 70

2 AM

My Little Woman,

Good morning — I always intend that my next letter will be written at a time when I have plenty of time so I can spend some time on it, but it always ends up being tucked into a few minutes somewhere.

We have to go to CuChi again tomorrow. Hopefully it won't be a wasted trip this time.

When I read your story of the telegram and everything the first time I didn't immediately recall what Ortho Novum was. I thought may [sic] it was a brand of Acid or something. It is nice to know you still worry about me occasionally.

I don't recall what my philosophy of sleep is. You seem to be invoking it as a reference fairly regularly lately.

A middle way between too mundane a first year and one that would be overwhelming sounds fine. You shouldn't have any trouble getting a job. You are less easily discouraged than I.

Today is the beginning of the 9th month. It is exactly three weeks until I leave the field for R&R. I think of all manner of things I want to write to you during the course of the day but can never recall them when I write.

We have gotten a total of three new people in during the past week. One is a recruit — new in country the other two are transfers from the 1st Div. which is pulling out. In order to go with the Division you had to have less than 60 days left. Once again there is the usual talk about the 25th Div being pulled out. Maybe it will be on May 18th. Then I would have spent enough time over here to ETS and I would be within 60 days of my normal DEROS and within 150 days of my normal ETS [Note: ETS = End term of service, i.e. end of active duty in military. DEROS = Date Estimated Return from Overseas. Implicit here is that if you return from Vietnam with less than 150 days til ETS, you can get a "drop" and not have to serve the remaining time.]

With that evidence of my loss of touch with reality I'll close.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. After R&R we'll be nearly down to where we can count weeks (i.e.ten or less).

20 March 70

Dear Woman,

It is about time I wrote you a letter. I have been in CuChi for two nights now, and have had about all I can take. However to mention only hard facts. I went up before the E-5 board last night and I believe I passed without any trouble. So we'll get a little more money for the remainder. I also bought a camera today. They had the one I was considering in the PX here — I wrote a check for \$50. I figured you could cover that without any notice — hope it doesn't inconvenience you. This way I'll give it to you on R&R and you can take it home. Your package with clothes and milkshakes arrived yesterday. So now I'm all set for R&R. I haven't tried the pants on yet — will do that when I get back to the field tonight. Last night I saw a movie the first in 8+ months. (Hell's Belle's). It wasn't exactly an all time great flick but I enjoyed it — Lots of bikes (mostly triumphs) and a few broads, neither of which you see much of at the Sugar Mill. I have been here so long that the Vietnamese women are starting to look good — they say that is how you can tell you've been here too long.

I only have about 18 days before I come in for R&R. I'm glad of that. I tried o call you yesterday morning — it would have been about 6 PM Wed where you are. Nobody was home. It didn't bother me too much because I know I'll see you in just three weeks. (I can remember when 3 weeks would have seemed like a long separation). Will quit now and write more tonight.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

21 Mar 70

Early (very)

Dear Judith,

I seem to keep getting farther and farther behind in letter writing so I determined to answer your last two letters tonight regardless of how late it got.

You apologize for the typewriter but it is a lot easier to read, on the red paper I mean (I don't have any problem reading your handwriting). The combination of red paper and the dim light I generally have is not good.

Did you know that you are daffy and I love you.

I tried my bell bottoms on tonight and they will do admirably — I might have trouble recognizing myself in those clothes. I just discovered from the second letter that I am supposed to add a tie to the outfit. Are you sure you remember who you married?

I don't think Reto appreciates how much it enhances the pleasure of tearing up nylons to start while you're wearing them.

I better get some sleep — my thought train is getting frustrating.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

22 Mar 70

Sunday

Dear Wench,

I didn't realize until you said so that R&R began on a Fri 3 weeks from last. Le me know as soon as you get the orders.

They made quite a few changes in FDC while I was gone — Painting the ceiling and making new charts. Our Fadad is dodwn and it looks like we're going to be without it for a while.

I thought the Naked Ape was really cool also. I'm giving Geddes slacks to Jenkins now that yours have arrived. So you don't have to worry about being insulted.

If I'm no mistaken benign growths are not cancers.

You have my permission to make a terry cloth robe.

It was strange — when I opened the clothes you sent me, I saw the T-shirt and I didn't know what I was going to do with it. I never wear Tee shirts now and I had forgotten that people normally wear them. It was a weird sensation.

Got a Middlebury Magazine yesterday — I'll send it on to you when I get a chance.

I enjoyed the several trips to CuChi. Traveling over the same road several times in succession you begin to notice more detail than you see at first. When we left CuChi Fri it was about 5 o'clock and all of the Mama Sans who work inside CuChi were just going home. They are trucked out to the gate in Army trucks and they are met there by there [sic] husbands usually on 3-wheeled Vespa vans. So right at the gate there is a sea of Mama Sans all wearing conical hats and one side of the street is packed for about three blocks with motor scooters parked 3 deep. Then on the coming out the schools were just getting out, so all the children were walking home carrying their books.

Maybe I'll get you some black slacks and an Ao Dai before I leave Then you would have a complete outfit. The Ao Dai here is for women about like a suit is for men back in the world. consists of a close fitting blouse with full arm length sleeves (no collar or cuffs or any frills like that) attached to the blouse is an ankle length skirt which is slit to the waist on both sides — it isn't as drastic as it sounds because it is always worn over black slacks. The basic color is white but for special occasions

they come in all manner of wild prints.

Will quit for now. I have to put some water in the track and then it will be breakfast time. It looks like I'm going to end up signing for the 577 when Geddes leaves.

Only 19 days to go.

Take care of yourself little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

25 Mar 70

Dear Judith,

Tonight I am determined to spend some time writing you. Lately it is always a last minute affair.

I spent most of the evening talking to Lt. T. He has a lot of problems (not personal — but personality). It is interesting. He is very aware of but that is only the beginning. His father created most of his problems.

A lot happens here that I never get around to telling you about. In some ways it is too bad because I like for you to know what I'm doing. In the past month or so we have had to completely revise our techniques of doing things. Like mainly our methods of applying meteorological corrections. Once upon a time we let the FADAC take care of it all. But now everything has to be done manually. There is a lot of fairly involved theory involved in the met data. It has occupied a good part of my time for about a month just figuring out what is going on and converting theories into practical ways of doing things. It is interesting and probably good for me — keeps my mind from stagnating completely. Lt T. is coming along pretty well — He started out with no very solid grounding in anything more complex than a surfboard, but now he keeps right up and it takes less and less time to explain changes (changes occur either because we find an easier way to do things or the lifers find more for us to do — both of which occur fairly frequently so far). Tomorrow hopefully will be slow. Things have definitely not been slow lately.

I can't remember whether you are going to bring my sandals on R&R but would appreciate them if you have room.

I think we will rent a Dune Buggy for transportation for the week.

Today is the end of the 36th week, 16 to go. Phil came back out to the field today. The extraneous lines in the last sentence are because I am falling asleep, which probably tells me something.

Take care of yourself for a couple more weeks then I'll take care of you for awhile.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

27 Mar 70

Dear Judith,

Got your letter today with information about R&R — it's hard to believe it is only two weeks from today. Yes you can meet me at the airport — it is my understanding that we have to go to Fort DeRussy for a few minutes after that but you will come with me.

In case your plane is late what is your flight no. and airline. If for some reason you aren't there when I get to the airport I'll come back to the airport (from Fort DeRussy) and wait for your plane. Your plans sound great it will be good to have details taken care of. Staying in Honolulu for a couple of nights is fine.

Lt. Hughs is across the room. He is on nights now and I don't have much to do with him — for some reason he disgusts me now. He is very similar to Dana (Brigham) I think. I think I've been around these people too long.

We got the FADAC back today and it looks like it is going to work.

Some lifers from Divarty were out here evaluating us the other day and one of them definitely knew what he was talking about. He was an expert on FADACs.

I am reading a book by Albert Lithuli — his autobiography. He is a political figure in Africa. Previously I knew very little about Africa — hopefully this will enlighten me somewhat. See you in 14 days.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>



27 Mar 70

6:30 PM

Dear Wife,

Good evening. Will write early. Every day I get a very enjoyable letter from you.

It sounds like you ought to train Reto (to add to your critics) to attack on command. Then he could just eliminate anybody who didn't like the way you handled him.

Don't get frustrated about communicating by mail — you are doing an outstanding job of organizing everything and I concur wholeheartedly with your plans. You worry excessively about my approval — for once I don't expect to be very critical.

Terry Jenkins is sitting across from me talking about how he want to have a blonde blue eyed daughter name Christy Lee and how he will probably have a girl who is born with blonde hair whom he will name Christy Lee and whose hair will subsequently change to black thus wasting the name (according to him). I told you the story because it sounded pretty funny and also because I thought you might be interested in knowing that some guys do think about children — you just happened to be unlucky.

There is about a 10 delay in the middle of the last sentence. It is now 4:30 AM. I just woke up and took a shower. It's too bad about the tools — it doesn't bother me as much as it would have if I'd been around. I don't even remember what I had now. I have no idea how valuable they were — my guess would be closer to \$200 though.

I got a copy of Middlebury News letter which I'll bring on R&R for you. Your estimation of the finances is pretty good. I have \$115 now and will get \$120 on the 31st. I believe I have to have 250 to get out of here so I'll cash a check for 25 dollars in CuChi then I'll have a little over \$250. (Hope my check cashing isn't fouling you up.) plus the \$200 you're bringing should be adequate spending money.

Just as a sidelight — an average figure for spending on R&R is \$600, but that includes a lot of women and booze. Why don't you bring \$250 (plus buy your ticket) and I'll bring 250 and when we run out of money we'll sleep on the beach.

I have started a list of things to bring with me.

They are giving out 20 day drops so Geddes is getting really short — his DEROS-ETS is 29 April so he could leave any time after about 10 days.

Thanks for the compliment on finding hotels but you'll have to do better than that.  
Don't tell me you've forgotten driving around Des Moines for about 2 hrs one night  
at midnight looking for a place to sleep.

Well if I don't quit pretty soon its going to be time to get up and go to work.

Good night waif

See you soon(13 days)

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

29 Mar 70

Sun morn

Dear Wench,

I still haven't fully comprehended that I'm going to see you in less than two weeks.

The mail strike didn't interfere with my mail except that it comes in a somewhat scrambled order. Last night I got a letter mailed before you got my orders while the day before I got one mailed after.

It's sunday morning so I am writing before breakfast as usual.

We got a letter out about the FADAC from Divarty yesterday that I had to reply to first. Yesterday Lt. T. was in CuChi and one of our higher told him how great we did on one of our evaluations. At the time of the evaluation I had the pleasure of seeing someone tell the B.C. to shut up. A Divarty Lt. Col. was talking to me about the way we do some things and the B.C. was standing on the other side every time the Divarty guy asked me a question the B.C. would start talking (He didn't know anything about the topic of discussion). Finally the man from Divarty told him to shut up so he could get some things straight. One of the small pleasures of life over here.

Yesterday I got two letters and a Spring Card and a package of Brownies and cookies from you. Danke Schön.

I see you are seeing to it that I don't have to worry about being cold. If it is too hot for you we can spend the whole week in an air conditioned room and I'll keep to you warm

That clipping you sent me was really interesting. Besides the fact that he went to Middlebury — Diane Fortier (the girl involved) lived in the housing project (that seems strange to me now that her wedding is announced in the N.Y. Times — but it is true) about a block from our house. The same housing project that Sandy lived in for a good number of years (also Leroy and Eddy). We (my brother and I) used to play over there when we were Titi (i.e. beaucoup small).

My tan has suffered some attrition since we have to wear shirts all the time now.

I didn't pay the premium on the house insurance since it wouldn't have covered 1107 Vicente anyway. I wrote them a letter about transferring but have not recieved an

answer yet.

You forgot to mention Austria on your list of places to go. We really have to take up skiing again. I read an article in Life on Billy Kidd and Tyler Palmer.

The brownies and cookies have already disappeared. DOn't worry about suppling food for R&R. I'll see that you don't go hungry. And I won't let you spend much time cooking (One pie is your total cooking allowance for the week), The reason your ticket cost more was because I forgot about the weekend rates and got an R&R starting on a weekend.

The Vietnamese script I found was just blowing around — have no idea what it means. If you really want me to watch for Jerry Ruark you might tell me what unit he's in. Re your money problems I got my E-5 orders yesterday so it should improve at the end of next month.

I wouldn't buy any tools if I were you because I need different tools than I had before (i.e. metric) for VW's and Porsche's.

It is time to quit and eat breakfast.

I love you I love you I love you  
W<sup>m</sup>

31 March 70

Late (almost April)

My Dear Judith,

It is nearly the beginning of another month At least this coming month is distinguished by the fact that I will see you.

Geddes left this morning. He got a 24 day drop. I thought his leaving would affect me more than it did. We have worked together for a long time. Mainly I seem to notice things he use to do that I have to now. Mainly take grief from the lifers. In the two days since I have been C/S I have been chewed out by an E-6 (my favorite rank as I recall) for not making police call, cleaning the track and heaven forbid — allowing people to lie around doing nothing. Also by an E-7 for not wearing my rank. One other time I can't recall at the moment. Fortunately it doesn't faze me at all. It sounds like we are going to move again — probably while I'm on R&R. This time we're just going to move about 6 clicks (4 mi) north.

Did I ever mention that I received an announcement from the Jordans. I didn't respond — I hope they didn't mind.

Don't worry about the tool box. It's too bad but its not worth all the hassle. I have no idea what was in it or its value or when purchased. I have written checks for our Yashica (\$50) and Jordan's Minolta (\$130 approx). Somewhere I got over the low energy loss at high temperatures. Now nothing inspires me to go out and do something in the afternoon like a good hot sun heating everything up so you can't touch it.

Don't know whether I'll have what it takes to wear your tie but we'll see. Didn't intend the slur on Vietnamese women.

R&R was what inspired me to go ahead and get the camera. I had regretted not ordering it in time from PACEX then saw it in the P.X., so got it. It's kind of kicks to take pictures with there are a lot of dials and flashing lights on it. I should go into CuChi for R&R about 1 week from tomorrow. It is going to leave FDC kind of short handed — since Geddes has already left. But I suppose one is never really as essential as you feel. It is April Fool's day. One would be a fool to be here.

Time to quit It is getting late. I'll be glad to get out of here for awhile and just relax with you (in reverse order of importance but getting away certainly does appeal).

I love you,  
 $W^m$

**April 19701**

5 April 70

Early Sun Morn

(12:30 AM)

My Dear Judith,

As I mentioned this morning your most recent letter sounds much more cheerful than you have lately. The photo was a picture of T. (Lt. type).

This is probably the last letter you will get before you leave for R&R.

Recieved tax forms from Okla. Will fill out and bring along for your signature.

The rainy season has started already. Evidently it is fairly long as it lasted into November last year. It started much more abruptly than it ended.

About three days ago it just started raining – now it pours every afternoon around 4 or 5. Geddes called us on the radio to say goodbye. He goes to Long Binh in the morning and will probably be a civilian by Tues.

Things have really quieted down. We never shoot anymore (maybe one fire mission every two days). The days are a drag. Its probably because I know we are moving soon and also because R&R is so close — but I can't inspired to do anything.

Good night waif.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

7 April 70

Dear Judith,

Today would have to classify as a bad day. But I'll get to that later.

First of all reference the Jordan's camera — I got a letter from PACEX that the old SRT101 has been replaced by a new SRT 101 costing \$5 more. So I sent them another \$5 and said we wanted the new one. (i.e. I wrote another check for \$5). They (the Jordan's) should get it someday. Enclosed is a brochure on the camera which they might like.

I just remembered you won't get this letter until after R&R., but no matter I'll probably forget to tell you any of this when I see you.

Now I will answer your last letter it doesn't seem like I've written you for about a week.

I'm glad the apt is beginning to feel like a home. It'll be nice when I can say the same thing.

R&R is incredibly close now. I won't have any time passing the time because we have started to move. We will tear our bunker down tomorrow and go back to working out of the Track. Lt. T. and I had a run in with the Chief of Smoke (E-6 type) this afternoon.

If this battery were to see any action the CP (BC, XO, 1st Sargent, Chief of Smoke) would be in a lot more danger from inside the wire than outside. Tonight they had the whole batter outside loading trucks by flashlight until 8:30.

Oh well — it don't mean nothing I'll be getting away from it all of next week and then after that I'll only have 90 days left.

Time to quit and go to bed.

I love you — see you soon — so soon it is hard to believe.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>



Dear Jud,

I believe all that is needed is the two signatures \$10, and a transcript of my year at Berkeley.

Thank you W<sup>m</sup>

19 Apr 70

Dear Judith,

Wait one. Back again I just remembered something I had forgotten to do. It is now 6:AM I get off in one 1 hour. I ended up on night shift. It will be kind of strange — not the hours so much as what you can't do at night — like work outside.

It seems strange to be writing to you again. Fortunately it won't last long.

Jenkins was very impressed by you. Also from what others say he was very appreciative that we came down to see him off.

I arrived back in Saigon around 5 PM on Fri and got a plane to CuChi Sat morn. We are still at Houston although the battery was temporally up at Jarrett almost the whole time I was gone.

I think these last few months are going to pass fairly rapidly. There is quite a bit of work to do and the variety of changing shifts might help. Tonight has flown by.

Hope your trip was uneventful. You have already been home for three days I imagine. Do you realize that all the time I was gone I didn't get any mail whatsoever.

They shot Deefer and Zero during my absence. Evidently they had distemper. Jenkins inquired about shipping Husky home while he was in Saigon and found it would cost \$350. Quite a bit for any dog.

I got a set of orders today officially declaring me the battery Reenlistment NCO. That must be somebodies idea of a practical joke.

The Brownies constituted my dinner Fri breakfast and lunch Sat. I was pretty hungry by dinnertime last night.

It is time for Breakfast so will discontinue — take of yourself for a little while little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I had almost forgotten how sex you are.

[Written in crayon]

20 Apr 70

Judith,

How do you like my new pen? It was either this or a pencil. (Also I don't have much to say — and this will make it look longer).

The time seems to pass rapidly at night — I might get adjusted to it. There is a little more time for letter writing and reading. Tomorrow is my mothers birthday.

I believe I found our stereo. It will be 246.50 (No custom, It is made in the US.) It would cost \$20 more to get an AM radio also and I see no point — above price includes phonograph, amplifier, stereo and two speakers.

I'll be glad when I start receiving [spelled correctly for the first time!] mail from you again. It gets lonely without you.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

XXX

21 April 70

Tues Morning 5 AM

Dear Judith,

I just started reading your book *Young Radicals*. — Nixon is supposed to make some statement tonight — for once it might be interesting in that it might conceivably affect me.

Tonight I am writing with a pen that looks exactly like a candy can.

Being on nights is rather strange. For one thing I don't sleep regular hours at all and the days sort of blend together like today — or rather yesterday I slept from about 10 AM to 1 PM and then again from 8 PM to 10 PM. There is never any real point at which to say one day ends and the next begins. In case you are wondering what happened to it, I ended up with your shampoo.

Am I correct that today is my mother's birthday.

Pretty soon I'm going to start expecting mail from you again — I'll give you about one more day.

Tomorrow (the 22nd) we are supposed to move up to Jarrett.

I just realized today that all the B.S. in the Btry has decreased greatly. (Because of the work involved in moving — nobody has time to worry about it.) We no longer have to blouse trousers or wear shirts — to name two of the more enjoyable small luxuries.

Some of Keniston's (*Young Radicals*) comments on the psychology of behavior I am finding very interesting — in an introspective way (the same I always look at things probably).

I hope my parent weren't upset by the way I sounded on the telephone. I seem to be dozing off in the middle of this letter.

Yesterday was incredibly hot. It is surprising that one even notices the differences since it is usually pretty warm but some days still manage to stand out. Sleeping during the day is not nearly as restful as sleeping at night.

One theme that Keniston discussed very slightly is that of the dominance of partner in marriages. Sometime we might discuss the subject — it might be interesting and I know it would help me to clarify (or understand) the way I feel about it.

I hope this is readable — I hate to recopy letters and sometimes I keep changing my sentences in the middle

Good night little girl.

Love, W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. Did you find that your senses were heightened upon our initial reunion. I observed both in Hawaii and after basic an incredibly heightened sensitivity to your body — the way you look and smell and in particular feel. One of the small bonuses I guess to compensate for the pain of separation. The Naked Ape man would probably say it was a device to encourage one to endure separation thereby strengthening the union.

22 April 70

7:00 AM

Dear Judith,

Just a quicknote before I retire — first of all a guy here put together a component stereo system for me — I told him how much I wanted to spend and he built a system costing that much (250 - 300). I guess if we are going to get anything that would be the thing to get. Most of it is PACEX — therefore a large savings.

I am mailing you another box of books today all that I have but one. There are a couple you might be interested in but mostly they are just misc.

I am getting kind of tired of not getting mail. If I were to do it again, I would have you write a few letters while we were in Hawaii.

The battery is in its usual state of turmoil It seems to hinge on the verge of open revolt at all time.

Well I'm going to bed so I can get some sleep before it gets too hot.

All my love,  
William

23 April 70

Dear Judith,

It is 1:30 AM and I have the place to myself. Everybody else is asleep. I got a couple of letters from you and it definitely improved my spirits.

After being with you for awhile and then going away I felt even more cut off than before but your letters help immensely. I just noticed that your letters are scented. Glad you enjoyed (I can't think of a better word) the week in Hawaii. You shouldn't start worrying about me again — nothing has changed.

Your comment on the bike and dress was interesting I never considered it in that light — Don't feel too guilty — it tells me something (something good) about you that you could look at it that way.

I have thought several times myself how perfect a day was that one in Waikiki. Everything seemed to work just perfectly.

It also pleased me that we both seemed well adjusted to the situation that we didn't waste time bemoaning how short the week was. For too little time, I was able to just take it and enjoy it for what it was. It was very nice to be with you. I expect the remaining 2½ months (I increasingly find myself counting on a drop) to go rather rapidly. Being on nights tends to undermine one sense of time. Everything blends together.

Nixon couldn't possibly pull the 25th [Infantry Division] out too soon for me to miss — I'll be eligible to go with it in 3 weeks (they never work that fast) in fact he could hardly even pull it out in time to do me any good. I have heard rumors that part of the 25th (not the part I'm in) will be pulled out next. From Nixon's speech who knows exactly when that will be though.

I find I am getting tired of this life — after sampling normal life again. one's patience for the dust, clutter, hecticism and lifers seems to diminish. A point of possible improvement however is that there is a good possibility of the BC's being relieved. His R&R starts tomorrow and I'll be surprised if he ever returns to the battery. Whatever a new BC was like it would be a change.

The reason the BC might be relieved follows: We are in the process of moving to Jarett and the BC has taken nearly all of our ammo up there — apparently to a much greater extent than he was supposed to. Now there is some big operation

tomorrow we are supposed to support and w don't have enough ammo.

The move to Jarrett keeps getting postponed — now it's Fri — who knows when or if it will take place.

I think I will follow your example and close with a reply to your comment. I'm not in a position to ascertain who is worth more to whom, you are incredibly good both to and for me.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>



27 April 70

Dear Jud,

Sorry I never get much chance to write, we moved on Sat. and things have been rather hectic since. At least I finally got some sleep.

It seems like it has been quite a while since I heard from you but maybe not.

You mentioned my being home for my birthday [24 May] — I was sort of secretly hoping I was home for our anniversary [10 June]. R&R seems to lower ones tolerance for this place. Ever since I came back I have been extremely irritable.

I'm no in the mood for letter writing so I'm going to quit. Just wanted to let you know I was still around.

I love you, I'll be glad when this is over.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

28 April 70

Dear Jud,

Once again it is late (or early — depending on your point ) of view. Life is starting to settle down to somewhat of a routine. Which is a slight improvement — it is nowhere near the stateside lifer situation of prior to the move.

Got your letter with the request for PACEX items. I will order them when I get a chance.

Actually it is slightly over 10 weeks if you count the full time.

I'm looking forward to seeing the rest of the pictures we took. I really like the ones I have now. Especially of you in your silk pajamas. It revitalizes me.

I have been in really bad temper for about the last week. Today I started coming out (mostly just because I realized it). I think it is depressing to come back here after getting away. The gloom descends on one just as you touch down at Saigon, and see all the military vehicles, oil drums, sandbags, and barbed wire. We got a letter from Geddes in which he recounted his experience getting out for good. He said the minute the plane leaves the ground everybody cheers. This place is a drag to occupy. I can imagine what it must be like for the people who live here. On occasion it is made very clear how we are occupying the land. Like when we ride through little hamlets in enormous convoys of guns and trucks and soldiers.

I'm glad this whole deal is nearly over That is all that sustains me — the fact that I can soon go (come) home to see you.

Your (very down) husband

who loves you!  
W<sup>m</sup>

29 April 70

AM

Dear Judith,

Once again I find myself having to merely write you a quick note. We were busy last nite. It looks like things are going to get worse before they get better. Tomorrow we have to send three people off to another FSB for 2 weeks leaving us with 3 here and 1 officer. At least time passes rapidly. I never know where I'm at.

Tomorrow is payday — only 2 left after this. I will try and write you at greater length tonight.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

30 April 70

My Dear Judith,

Today is the last day in April. At the time tomorrow I will be able to say I go home next month (with a drop).

You are suspicious as to what I spent money on in Saigon? I ask What money — I only had a couple of dollars — that won't buy any anywhere (except maybe at 1107 Vicente #1).

Later this evening I'm going to figure how much money I'm planning on spending and then I'll give you a total and you can collect it all in one place, if we can afford it.

I keep getting interrupted by fire missions Your reaction to firing near Cambodia made me more aware of how casual it has become. We don't shoot into Cambodia very often (maybe 3 times that I can remember) but it is not unheard of. Right now they are getting ready for some big maneuver along the border. In the Stars & Stripes they make it sound like a totally ARVN operation but there is a lot of US Artillery that has been moved up near the border — we can shoot about 5 kilometers into Cambodia and they put two 175 mm guns here which can shoot about 20 kilometers further than us. Everything I hear or see seems ominous. I can't help but feel glad that I am getting out of here and won't be personally involved for too much longer.

It is nice of Steve Jordan to take care of the signature stuff for you.

I wouldn't want you to change your image with me I like the image I have. If I were a poet I could really do a job on describing it, maybe some time I'll get brave and try it. Anyway it is a mixture of waif and seductive temptress with touches of a lot of other things thrown in.

Your hair is really nice long again. I like again — I like it much better long than short. The closer I get to the end the more time I spend just disliking this place with its dust and lifers and everything else and thinking how instead I just want to be with you I have difficulty thinking any further ahead than just to be with you and out of here. I'm developing a short-timers attitude.

I will be glad to see the second roll of pictures when it comes back.

[cut]

I love you — much more than I would have ever believed I would love anyone once.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

**May 1970**

1 May 70

Dear Jud,

Good evening. tonight things look pretty bleak. Nixon's comments on Cambodia plus what I can see with my own eyes are really disheartening. We have to shoot — I'll write more a little later.

A little later —

Besides the influence on the international scene it is making the prospects for a drop look pretty bleak. I expect them to start announcing increases in troop levels any day now. I can't help but viewing it in the purely personal light and just be glad it is behind me.

Sorry if the film was slide film I distinctly remember asking for prints.

You will get around \$185 from me I was only paid \$191 and the mess hall takes a couple of dollars for K.P. Next month we get and 8% raise retroactive to Jan 1 so that will mean around \$100 extra or about \$250 that I'll send to you. If I have to write too many checks for you I'll run out so you better send me a few more (I have only three left) I just recalled that I have a whole deck of non-personalized ones.

Your discussion of what to do if I get home and can't get in touch with you makes it seem near — much nearer than it actually is I'm afraid — as you said 11 weeks (from today) is a long, long time. It is strange how when you have 11 or 12 months left a couple of months seems like nothing but when all you have is a couple of months, it is different.

Just give me a detailed list of what you want out of PACEX and I'll send off an order.

You sound a little bit mixed up in your last letter. [cut]

A passing comment on becoming a father — I think that I will never rationally decide I am ready to become a father any more than I rationally decided I was ready to become a husband. It will be something that happens and is taken in stride — as I feel I have taken being a husband in stride.

We don't observe Daylight Savings Time here. Right this instant I can't recall Keniston's comment about the dominant partner either. I don't recall the point I was try-

ing to make. His book got soaked yesterday — I may dry it out and finish reading it someday.

I agree it would be a worthwhile project to maintain the greater sensitivity which is obviously possible.

I'm going to write NSF tonight for certain. It is difficult to get around to things here. I could go crazy if I spent too much time pondering turning up in S.F. and surprising you.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

3 May 70

3:30 AM

Good morning,

The monsoon season has arrived in full strength. It poured down rain for several hours this afternoon. It is just like the weather was when I arrived which tells me it is time I was moving on. Once again I am left to myself in the early hours. It is the only peaceful time of day. At first I didn't like working nights here but now that I'm used to it, it is all right. I have no trouble sleeping in the day time and very little difficulty staying awake at night. Now while we are building one has very little free time, but is made up for by the time of night when technically I'm working but I have time to read or write. Did the pineapples arrive in good condition? Have to stop and take the mets. I suppose I'll have to go to work and work the mets now. — I'll finish later.

Later — the mets have been worked and the secure set is set up — I might have to shoot one more round of illumination other than that everything is done for the night and I am merely waiting til 6:30 to get everyone up and got to bed (it's 5:30 now).

I sent off your money order yesterday — it has to go to CuChi and get typed up before it is mailed but you should get it within a few days of this letter.

There is a guy in FDC with the initials JMP — unfortunately he is staying in the army. He's been in for over four already and just signed up for 6 more. In some ways he's not a bad guy — he is a hard worker and takes care of all the upkeep on the track (which I am signed for and appreciate). This is his second term over here. It is kind of sad to see one so young just beginning a life in the army. For some reason it doesn't bother me to see older people who long ago made the decision to throw their lives away (from my point of view).

So much for thoughts on lifers. Once again our FDC is going to be in a real bind for people. Poole (JMP) gets a 30 day leave for reenlisting (some compensation for 6 years of your life) and Thompson and McCourt both ETS during May. Also our new FDO leaves in June (supposedly late — but he's trying to get a drop for school which would make it early June). That is four out of nine and I leave very shortly after the rest of them which is five out of nine. On top of which the original nine is no great excess of people. Once I get on the plane and fly out of here I would not feel bade if

there were only one person left, but it does make it harder on everybody who has to stay.

Guess I'll quit and doze for half an hour till breakfast.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

Take care of yourself little woman I think about you lots!



5 May 70

4:00 AM

Dear Judith,

It is getting toward the end of a long day and all to close to the beginning of a lot longer one. It appears that another move is in store for me. I am taking half of FDC and going up to Hampton. It is a few clicks north. We have two guns there they were under the control of D Btry but D Btry is leaving and we have to take care of them ourselves.

Jenkins dog Husky was killed today. Someone hit it with a truck or something. They didn't even bother to stop and move him off the road. We brought him back and buried him. It really bothered me — I can imagine what it did too Phil.

I can think of much else to say. It really does seem like the end must be gettin near. The monsoon rains have started again and you are getting near the end of school. It gives a more objective view of how long I have been here whenever I realize that you are finishing up a school year that you hadn't even started when I left.

Hang on for a little while longer.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

6 May 70

1:45 AM

Dear Judith,

It is difficult to believe it is only 2 AM. It seems like it should be much later. For one one thing I'm having much difficulty staying awake.

We have moved to Hampton — at least half of us. This place is really fancy. It has been here about 8 mo. and is really built up. Plus it is right on the main road so there is no problem getting in and out with supplies as there was at Garrett and Sugar Mill.

Am I correct in assuming Rick is Jeans husband? For some reason I got your last two letters in reverse order. I remember telling you to see everyone as it might be your last trip east. I don't recall mentioning anything about me. Some people I don't mind — but the idea of an open house turns me off as you predicted. There is one word in one of your letters which I can't interpret. [cut] Please enlighten. It is really amazing how tired I am. At the rate I'm going there ain't no way I'll make it ot 7 AM. I get the impression that writing is hopeless tomorrow night should be better as I am planning to sleep all day tomorrow.

All your talk your talk of an IUD strikes me as a trifle academic since from the last letter I got on the subject it sounded like it was a little late to be worrying about it.

Good night

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

7 May 70

Dear Jud,

Today should be my day for some mail from you.

Hampton is like an R&R center, it's only drawback is I'm afraid I might get bored after a while. We never shoot and the place is too built up to do any building on it. Also the BC, XO and Chief of Smoke are all back at Jarrett so life is soft. The only hassle at all is that we have so few people, no one really gets time off from monitoring the radio. In that respect it is going to get worse. Because Thompson has to go in for an eye operation in a few days. That is a minor point though. The engineers have a pump driven shower which is nice. It is time for breakfast I'll write more later.

When I came up here day before yesterday I got my first chopper ride since I've been here. There were two guns here, but no FDC for them after D Btry left so they flew Lt Novatski and I up at 7 in the morning.

I mentioned we are right on the main highway here. It makes it a lot easier to get in and out of CuChi. Our Btry is the only one left down here. the rest of the Bn has moved north (supposedly inside Cambodia). I really can't believe after all the rhetoric about getting out of Vietnam, how readily the administration jumped into Cambodia. I guess I am still naive in some ways, because they surprised me with that. I don't think even now they admit extent to which we are in Cambodia, but maybe I just haven't read the papers lately.

Tonight I'm going to stay up and maybe write you a more lengthy letter.

Take care of yourself little girl.

I love you,  
William

7 May 70

Afternoon

Dear Dear Judith,

I had a pleasant this afternoon. First the mail arrived way before I expected it (one of the benefits of Hampton), then I discovered that the envelope (large type) was from you — initially I thought it was from my mother (your return address labels always throw me off) which was an added surprise.

I really enjoyed the pictures they make me realize where it's at. My only desires in life now are to be with you and to find something which is both worth while and challenging to do with my life.

There are three pictures of you that I feel are especially good — they express three different yous or three different aspects of you.

The first is the picture taken at the shopping center (with the ring). You are smiling and have your hair down and your sunglasses up on your head. (I could make some snide remarks about how you look happy — something that only occurs after you've just bought something) but I won't — suffice it to say that you do look happy.

The second is a picture taken in the grove on the boat trip. In it you have your hair pulled back you have a very serious expression, looking quite distant (partly it is due to the sun making you squint). It reminds me of the cameo. Your paleness adds to that.

The last picture is completely different. It is the one of you stomach section. There you look very tanned and earthy.

I had forgotten we got a picture of your wig also.

I think when I get back where I can look at you I will lose interest in the camera, but it is very enjoyable right now.

We seem to have acquired another dog here. A small, long-haired , long eared, straight tailed black and brown male has taken up living in FDC.

I'm going to take a nap until dinner time — I'll write more tonight.

8 May 1970

5:00 AM

I just woke up a few minutes ago and there was nobody else awake — I wonder how long we had been off the air. (We're suppose to monitor the radios 24 her a day.)

To answer your letters. The reciept for the money orders came back day before yesterday so you should have it by now. Am going to take advanage of the envelope to mail you the info on the camera — also the spare battery.

Your description of your dream was interesting. Sometimes I remember my image of this place before I came here but it is difficult now. The fireworks are pretty accurate — on sees quite a lot of that, but I don't know where you got the American girls. Not counting R&R I have seen maybe 6 caucasian females in the last 10 months total. And they were donut dollies and generally a lose.

The monsoon season seemed to go away when we moved to Hampton. It hasn't rained since. There is still about another month before it is really due.

What is the story on PACEX. Do you have money in the checking acct. so I can go ahead and order things and exactly what to you want.

I know about the silk and screens and will probably get a receiver and speakers but you mentioned something for a friend of Hazels or something.

I kept all the pictures of you and one picture of both of us and the one taken out across the valley from the lookout. One would never have predicted those colors from the gray day at the time.

Did you know that I can tell your are writing me less. I have a fixed and limited capacity to store letters and the first time I ran out of room and had to burn everything was in Sept. Then there was one more time in Nov or Dec. However I haven't burned anything now for 6 mo. and I still have a little room left. I'll be glad when you never write me.

This Cambodian deal has somewhat deflated my hopes for a drop. Maybe it is just as well though — I was starting to be too convinced I would get a drop. Now I won't be disappointed if I don't get one — and if I do I still get home early

I best quit — good night wench.

Love,

$W^m$

P.S. [cut]

9 May 1970

Dear Jud,

What stone is a present from what beach? Thank you for your attempts at consolation. It helps — I'm going to quit and mail this The mail is leaving in a couple of seconds. That way you'll get something anyway. I'll write at more length tomorrow.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I believe it was ten weeks last night at midnight.

10 May 1970

Dear Jud,

Today was a really lazy hot summer day. The kind of day where the afternoon seems to last forever. The stillness interrupted only by the creak and banging of the screen door as people came and went. The number of flies, bugs, beetles, crickets etc is something else. Just the number of varieties is amazing.

I was trying to finish Capote's *Other voices*, other rooms and couldn't stay awake so I gave it up and now I feel wide awake.

Do you remember my comments on how I was growing to hate lifers just as a group. I finding that to be even more extensive than I realized. Since Poole has reenlisted I find my attitude toward him changing. There must be something wrong with any system that could do that to one. I never use to hate anybody much less a whole class of people. Not that any proof is needed that something is wrong with the system.

It seems that i'm going to have to go through the experience of breaking in all new people once again — I may be getting short but too many people are getting shorter faster. McCourt, Thompson, Poole (30 leave) and Lt. Nowatski all leave around the beginning of June. That leaves Lt. T. Hardin, Jenkins, Scott (the newest guy) and I to run two FDC's, if we are still split. It is kind of discouraging to have all these people in the section with less time than I. Especially since I feel like I've been here since the year one. It wouldn't be bad if I left right after they did but I will still have a month and ahlaf to go. Mostly I don't worry about things like that but occasionally it gripes me.

Last night I read a book (?) called *From Russia with L.U.S.T.* It is a pornographic (without redeeming social value — except it was fairly humorous at times) take off on the James Bond theme. The protagonist is an over sexed female spy who spends most of her time getting laid and discusses it by giving the french names for everything that happens with liberal references to the classical literature of erotica (That is the part that gets humorous).

Anyway the reason I bring up the whole thing is that she did discuss one position that sounded interesting (I don't normally go around looking for new ideas — but what the hell if it sounds good, it sounds good).

On that comment I will eave you for this evening — or morning.



Behave yourself wench.

I love you,  
William

11 May 70

Dear Jud,

Today we got the shaft because our mail was sent up to Tay Ninh. We should get it tomorrow. Today was my day to get a letter too.

I just finishing organizing my collection of photographs and I have come to the conclusion that I'm the only one who knows how to take pictures. It is just that I have a specific objective in mind from photographs and most people don't look at it that way. But the photographs from Hawaii of you are the only one in which one can see you well enough to identify you . (A slight exaggeration)

They're playing your song "By Baby love, she's got what it takes and she knows how to use it!"

The radio is playing some good tunes for a change — this afternoon some Dylan — a minute ago Janis Joplin tune, now something by Crosby, Stills and Nash is on.

The moon is starting to come out. I should see one more moon while Im here. Hopefully I won't be here for the July moon.

There is a giant green bug on the table in front of me he is about 3 in. long in the body. There are also a lot of small flourescent (sp?) green bugs running around as well as a generous helping of numerous varieties of ordinarily colored bugs.

I guess it is time to go to bed. Did SF State's closing affect you.

Take care little woman.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

12 May 70

Dear Judith,

I know exactly how you feel about not getting enthused over anything. I have a great deal of free time on my hands now. And mostly I would like to just sleep it away, except that that is not fair to others who would have to stay awake and listen to the radios [comm radios, not broadcast]. I feel very restless and have a hard time sitting down and reading.

My friend the big green bug is around again. It looks like we're going to be here til the end of the month anyway. Probably until they pull out of Cambodia (June 30? Do you believe it?)

That's fine with me — even though it is boring here — I was getting very tired of the regular FDC routine. Here we are away from 90

I'm going to bed — good night wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I spent some money.

13 May 70

Dear Judith,

I don't know how long it will be before the convoy leaves so this might be fairly short. I read Airport in its entirety yesterday (you didn't believe I have free time). It was very engrossing. One of the most interesting things was that it made it very clear to me that at heart I am a technician, and that is probably the only thing I would find very satisfying. I mean technician in a very broad sense (i.e. — one highly skilled in a particular field). The book is filled with technicians. If you can remember an old guy named Joe — who worked in sewer and water for Keene New Hampshire — he is the type of person I am thinking of. He had worked for Keene for 15 [my memory is that it was 50 years, I wonder if this was a typo] odd years and knew everything there was to know about that city's(?) sewer and water. The only trouble with it is that I don't think much of most of the ways in which technicians are employed in our society. I'm going to think on the subject and maybe I'll have some more comments later.

The bread recipe sounds good why don't you send me some. (Regular bread is drier and probably would survive better than the fancier kinds).

I'm not making up the calmness of the day. I seemed to have missed any involvement in the Cambodian mess through an unusual stroke of good fortune.

About drops — that is a big negative unfortunately. The most people are getting are 4 or 5 day drops. I'm afraid the prospects don't look too good for that changing between now and July.

Speaking of hair getting a little longer each day mine does also.. I haven't had a haircut since before I saw you.

I never get over the sense of awe that I was so fortunate as to take you for my wife. You are an immense source of happiness to me.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

14 May 70

Dear Judith,

Will start a letter to you now. Probably finish it later. The mail situation here is not too cool. I always seem to miss getting letters mailed in time to make the convoy. Also our incoming mail keeps getting messed up in Tay Ninh. First about three days ago our mail was sent to Tay Ninh by accident and so far it hasn't been found or at least not delivered. So that was one day's mail just lost. Now they have decided to send all the Battalions mail to Tay Ninh directly from Saigon and then bring our Batteries down to CuChi (We have three batteries up north of Tay Ninh — near the "famed Fish Hook of Cambodia"). So it will delay our mail by one more day from now on. As a consequence there was no mail yesterday either. I hope they get it straightened out.

It seems like I had several things in mind when I started but nothing occurs now.

I was awarded my second Army commendation medal today — I never knew about the first. They are kind of like gold stars they use to give in Sunday School. You get them just for being here.

Maybe I will go to school for one quarter then drop out and we can go skiing for about three months then I will go to work somewhere. Did you finally have your period. Or are you just waiting for definite confirmation before informing me.

I think we may spend some time in the Green Mountains roaming around. If you can drag me around to visit people all over the country side, then I can drag you off for about 3 or 4 nights in the woods, Did they take the chains from the car — also do I still own a packboard. I have been reading a Sierra Club publication which is a series of essays which were all presented at a conference on Wilderness. Although I am all in favor of wilderness, I find myself disagreeing with a lot of these people's views. For one thing I think they get in some pretty serious philosophical problems if they carried their logic very far.

On the one hand they affirm man's relation to animals (their purpose is to convince the public of the necessity of preserving wilderness) and at the same time they deny the naturalness of any environment that has been touched by man. That seems to me to be just extending the anthropocentric view of the world that has caused man to have so little regard for his fellow inhabitants. The structures and roads of man are no less natural than beaver house or animal trails — a lot less scenic, but no

less natural.

I happen to like this planet more when it is less obvious that man has been in the area (just as another might like areas better in which beavers had not chewed downed all the trees and dammed all the streams), but I believe it to be merely a personal preference. The authors of these essays are trying to convince the reader that their preferences for wilderness (i.e. untouched by man) is on a higher plane than one who wants everything turned into parks, say.

Paint it Black is on the radio.

Tomorrow night I will have been here for 43 weeks leaving only 9 weeks. It doesn't seem like it should be very long but it does seem like I have a lot of time left. The remaining 60 days seem to stretch out in front of me endlessly. But time never stops.

Do you ever wear your Hawaiian dress — maybe I'll request that for my homecoming. They're playing "My Baby loves Love, She's got what it takes, She know how to use it." That seems an appropriate song to end on.

Take care of your self,  
W<sup>m</sup>

15 May 70

(16 really)

Dear Judith,

Would you believe it is 11:00 and I haven't accomplished anything tonight. (No letters written, no shower, nothing read). I haven't gotten mail for three days. Since it started to go to Tay Ninh regularly none has ever returned.

I have decided to take a leave around June 20 and go see an exotic Eastern city — like Hong Kong. It won't cost much and will certainly be worth the trip merely as an experience. Also time is starting to drag and it will help to break it up. Don't you wish you could decide to take a week off and go to Hong Kong any time you got bored.

The only problem is I need \$250 to take with me, but I'll get most of that much at the end of May. So I'll just hang on to it till I get back then send you what's left. (I expect the week to cost <\$50)

My pay now is around \$450 a month and I have 60-80 back pay coming from this retroactive pay. So if you had anything you planned on doing with the extra money this month let me know and we'll do it differently. (I could send you the money on June 1st and then get the \$250 just before I left (cash a check): Let me know — also the \$250 would be spent in Hong Kong for stereo equipment. They might refuse me a leave and negate the whole plan — we're pretty short of manpower. I have enough time in country )it would be over 11 months, so I shouldn't have too much trouble getting anywhere I wanted.

I read an interesting thing the other day. It was stated that Queen Victoria was of the opinion that a woman should embody the old axiom: a whore in the bedroom and the absolute epitome of a lady at all other times.

[cut]

The Wilderness book I'm reading has improved. Some of the later essays get beyond the ode to wilderness theme. I saw a very good parody on Hesse's Siddhartha today. It is a short story called 'Sad Arthur', a New Yorker (Mar 14, 1970) Magazine. I am tempted to cut it out and send it to you. Incidentally finally I recieved the paper you sent me. Thank you.

The battalion and one of the other batteries are back from up north so our idyllic life

will probably come to an end. All the more reason to take a leave.  
Good night wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>



16 May 70

Dear Judith,

Tonight is what might call a red letter day for mail. Recieved a letter from Jordans (enclosing picture of you and a kid), a package, and two letters from you. At the moment I feel slightly sick however. (That comes from ingesting almost all of one of the ginger breads, half a quart of chocolate milk, and some preserved chopped beef on crackers.) The bread is amazingly good it arrived in perfect condition — much moisture and no mold. I didn't think I liked gingerbread — I was never big on gingerbread cookies — but your ginger bread bread is great!

I believed I missed a letter in between somewhere. How ever be advised that I have ordered a package from PACEX which is for you. I will send off another order for your freind [sic] of Hazel's. As far as stereo equipment — I'm going to wait and see if I get to Hong Kong. As that would be the cheapest place to get anything. If not when I get back I'll order speakers and an amplifier-tuner. Will pick up a turntable somewhere. So much for all that garbage. I get tired of hassling it.

Did you take the car chains from the trunk also? — I can't remember of I already asked.

I know how you feel about tiring of writing letters. I am finding these last few months after R&R in some ways the most trying. One gets psyched up that one is getting short, but then there is the concrete fact of 3 mo time to be put in.

You ask what my thoughts are on the war and politics these days. I will hedge by first commenting on the effect of spending a year over here. In some ways you are cut off from a very rounded view of what is happening. You do not have access to nearly as honest reporting of what is happening or the open discussion that there is back in the world. However there are some things that you see first hand and very clearly. (Even in the artillery confined to FSBs) I have a much more personal knowledge of what we are doing to these people and this country.

I think I would like to take some kind of active part in protesting the war when I return (Irony) but I haven't given much thought to how.

Good night

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. Could you mail me my sandals fo leave. I threw away my military shoes after R&R. Thank you.

17 May 70

Dear Judith,

This evening I feel somewhat at peace with the world. I just took a shower and the feeling of being clean contributes. Also I have reached some conclusions that are satisfying. One of the more immediate and less consequential was the decision to take a leave. Do you realize that since we were married that will be the first time I have gotten away from everything off by myself. You have had too much time to yourself, but the army doesn't allow much of that. I believe I have inside me a need to periodically go away and be by myself. By alone I mean away from people who one knows.

Some of the other things I have been meditating upon I would like to ponder awhile longer before discussing with you.

Tomorrow I will send off an order for Hazel's friend's silk (cost 3700). It is all ready to go in the mail.

We got another duty officer today A Lt. Owens he is from Btry and has about 2½ months remaining (Aug 10th). I knew him previously.

Good night little girl. May you also feel somewhat at peace with the world.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. There is a beautiful moon out tonight. Also enclosed a birthday card for my old man if you like sign it and forward it (If you don't want to sign at least forward) I only have one envelope and 2 letters so I decided to solve the problem by sending both to you. I know it will be late, but birthday cards always are.

18 May 70

Dear Judith,

Today is a very slow, hot, quiet day. I have been reading at a prodigious rate (for me) ever since we moved to Hampton. Last night I read a book called Mr. Theodore Mundstock by Ladislav Fuks. It is refreshing to be able to read again. It is a trait which I lost somewhere during my years at college.

I decided to start a letter to you now and hopefully I will get some mail to answer this afternoon. Now that we have another F.D.O. Lt Novatski is the XO here at Hampton and the BC is free to roam around (there has to be two officers present at all times). The absence of the B.C. adds to the relaxed atmosphere extant.

I have found an FM station on the radio. It is not KSAN but it is at least free of commercials (especially annoying when military).

I just realized that you are too thin — the picture the Jordans took of you and the application snapshot both make you appear much thinner than I recalled. I'll have to check with my collection of photographs of you.

The radio is playing "Try to remember ..." I believe it the theme from a Summer Place or something like that.

Believe I will break until after the mail arrives.

There is no mail today so that was wasted. Lt Nowatski is waiting on a letter from a school saying he has been accepted so he can get a 30 day drop and the messed up mail is really messing with him.

I just made the mistake of using a flea-infested mattress for a pillow for awhile. Now I have about 3 bites bother me. Reminds me of the couch when we first got the apartment.

I am in a kind of limbo where I feel like neither [sic] writing, reading nor sleeping. I think I'm going to make a trip down to Jarrett one of these days and see how they are doing.

Good night.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

20 May 70

4:00 AM

Dear Judith,

This seems to function best of all those around here so will start out with it. I have so much to write about tonight that I hesitate to even begin.

However, I will begin with the small things and work up. There is a monstrous dragon fly (?) buzzing around in here. He is about three in long with a bright red tail (very close to the color of this ink) It's kind of frightening — I keep wondering what he can do with that tail.

He disappeared so I will have to delete the remainder of his body structure.

Next on the agenda is a movement notice. If you are keeping track of my wanderings about Vietnam, I am now located at Dau Tiang (about 30 kilometers North and 16 K's West of CuChi — I doubt that you care enough to make it worth the trouble to convert to miles). Dau Tiang is an old 1st Div base camp. Before that the 25th Div had it. It is a little smaller than CuChi but along the same lines. there is a PX here and some of the amenities of a base camp.

For my next topic of conversation I will discuss — money. I finally got your letter of the eighth with the financial breakdown (Mail has been messed up.)

9 Remainder on your accounting

+13 (50 - 37 for Pacex)

+150 (250 - 100 for stereo)

172 left in chking acct

Explication de Text: I have already bought PACEX stuff and spent 37 here 13 left over there. As for stereo. At the end of this month I expect to receive about \$250 which I will keep for trip to Hong Kong

250

- 250 Projected expenses in Hong Kong

200

+100 from chkg fo stereo (see above)

300 To be spent on stereo Hong Kong or Pacex

I am still extremely!!! hesitant to invest \$300 in stereo equipment but you have a month to talk me into it.

To continue discussion of finances (you should enjoy this letter — almost a whole page devoted to money (joke)). I got a letter from NSF today stating that I have my grant back. It also stated that there has been a change in the law and "the receipt of educational benefits from the Veterans Administration will no longer be considered by the Foundation as payments supplementary to support from the Foundation, and may be received [spelled correctly for once] concurrently with such support". The law is effective 26 Mar 1970. There we will have approx \$400+ a month to live on for the 70-71 school year — exclusive of any money you earn.

While on the subject of school — some general comments on life — ours —. I have decided to get a Masters degree and then get out of school.

I have examined the case for getting a Ph.D. and find the largest reason to be — merely because I always assumed I would, which no longer seems sufficient.

As a general outline for after that — I envision moving (there are too many people in the continental U.S.) to somewhere in Canada (Alaska is being ruined) preferably the North Western part of Canada. If you are still in a position to work you could teach — and I would teach or work depending on the surroundings. We would some land and build on it. Hopefully we could reach a point where the land would provide a portion of our livelihood.

It is merely an outline — we can discuss it and see what develops.

I got a letter from my brother — not much is new with him. Also got a letter (the 3rd or 4th) from some land development company in Florida. I don't know how they got my address but it is a nuisance. As you know I got the gingerbread (before the letter) I still haven't received the large package and assume you have not received a package I mailed you in late April. I hear six weeks is not uncommon for large packages so there is no sweat for awhile.

There really is very little time left — relatively. (I don't know how you count though. I get 8 wks tomorrow and you get 6 wks a week ago. — Something is going on and I don't know what it is.)

22 May 70

Dear Jud,

Will write you a quick note. I haven' gotten too much sleep in the last 24 hrs. However my spirits are up pretty well up. I got your card day before yesterday. Yesterday I made a trip to Jarrett and Hampton. When these guns left Jarrett they left Will behind. She was really glad to see me when I went down yesterday. She is at Hampton now with the other half of FDC. Sent off NSF acceptance forms. We only get mail about once in 3 days now. It's alright once you get psyched for it. As you said mail is not the boost it once was.

Guess I'm going to eat breakfast.

Cheers

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

24 May 70

Dear Judith,

I read an incredible book. I feel like I am still reeling from the shock of it. It is Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. I am always telling you things you have to read, but I would really like you to read this. The copy I read is not mine to send you. The first part is depressing (I almost decided to stop) but it gets better for awhile — then a lot worse.

The bikes sounds good. I imagine bicycle riding in SF would be pretty healthy.

I was just thinking how uninspired I am for everything when I picked up your letter to reread it and you begin by saying how uninspired you are also.

After I finished reading the book I made the mistake of looking at an *Army Times* (a lifer paper). The combination is really depressing. I feel tired tired of this war — tired of the army tired of the lifers, Tired of everything.

I can't remember the title and singer and it is no longer playing here either!

It will probably go the way of the song with the line "If you gotta go, go now; or else you gotta stay all night."

You comment that we won't have much time before leaving for the East if I have to stay full term. That is true but it does not upset me because I have no intention of letting the trip take you away from me. I expect to keep the driving leisurely, the camping out enjoyable and the visiting to a minimum. [cut]

I can't place the house or barn in the Warren picture. Except I have a general idea of where it must be. It is very difficult for me to place things like houses I worked on for George [probably refers to a mason I worked for in Vermont for awhile] — or people in time and space. I think I am unusually dense in this respect. I will recognize something or someone and be unable to remember where I saw it before. One time it happened with a guy I had known only a week prior. I knew I knew him but couldn't figure out where from.

I don't really have too much desire to decide the sex of children. Man exercises too much control over his environment all ready. It was kind of humorous though his treatment of the subject. He missed the only 100% effective method of controlling the sex of your children which I discovered long ago and have advocated all along — namely drowning all girl babies. [Did I really write things like this]



Carry on little girl

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. Before we go I'll have to get m driver's license renewed — if you get a chance would you please inquire what is involved. You might as well renew your also.

P.P.S. My parents want me to get a chess set form PACEX fo my birthday (I see your handiwork) here. Why don't you send me a final list of what you want and I'll get it all ordered. Also if I get a chess set there will be around \$50 that will come out of the checking acct until my parents replace it.

(You have already in the mail:

Silk for hazel - 1 lt 1 hv.

Silk for you - 1 pkg of hv.

Screens - 2)

26 May 70

Dear Judith,

I am suddenly way behind in correspondence. I recieved 7 letters today (4 from you) plus a package from my parents. I'm beginning to fear your package is lost— it has been along time.

The rumor now is that we will be here for quite a while «— long enough so that I won't be affected by any move. That is fine with me. I only have four weeks until Leave and after that they aren't going to get any work out of me. The last remaining time is going I guess but there still seems a lot left.

By brother didn't have much to say. — his life doesn't appeal to me very much, very drab. I think drabness is largely a function of attitude — I hope we can maintain an attitude which eliminates drabness from our life. Enclosed is an article on marriage which thought might interest you. The second article is of subsidiary interest.

Got a birthday card from your family. Incidentally in case I hadn't mentioned it. You have my okay to send your sister some money for graduation.

Re your comments on self-sufficiency — that doesn't bother me as much as that I sometimes we are too self-satisfied as your egoism á duo.

I don't think you are any more dependent on the car teaching in the East By than in S.F. — you won't be able to walk either way and it all depends on the particular school whether there will be a bus handy should the car fail. Commuting together sounds like a plan. It will certainly make the trip more pleasant.

Lt Nowatski got his drop and goes in Sat. Then Thompson leaves shortly after (2-3 days) Then I will (finally?) be the shortest one in F.D.C. It sounds like my leave is going to be approved. If we are too short of people I might not go however.

It seems people are waiting on the pen so I will abandon the attempt for now.

Take care wench.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

28 May 70

2:00 AM

Dear Judith,

Glad my package finally arrived. Nights are a drag now. After midnight there is not much to do.

You did tell me you were saving the dress but that letter crossed in the mail with mine requesting you to wear it.

When I was at Hampton, it was much more relaxed than it is here. the people in FDC here are a lot more affected. There is a lot more interaction amongst them then and I get tired of it. At Hampton everybody just did their job and left every one else alone. I realize I'm not being excessively coherent.

I signed the official request for a leave yesterday. If I take the leave I have about 3 weeks till then. The deciding factor will probably be whether I get a drop.

I have an incident to relate from a chess game with Jenkins this evening, but to appreciate it requires a little history. When I first started playing with him, there was a game in which I had him badly beaten and he finagled a stalemate out of the deal (I let him get into a position where he had no moves). Well tonight I finally got back at him. He had me badly beaten (this wasn't planned) and he moved his queen into my back rank. I bet him he would not be able to get his queen out. (It was true his only way of getting out would have been to trade queens — which wouldn't have hurt him at all as he was way ahead in material) In messing around trying to get his queen out however the same position repeated itself three times and I claimed a stalemate. He ended up losing a dollar as well as drawing the game. It was classic.

There were some 105's here (at Dau Tiang) when we first arrived. At the moment they are gone — and we have a fairly large FDC all to ourselves. We don't have enough people to operate it however. There are three people at Hampton and three people here. One of the people at Hampton has about a week left. The clear moon lit nights are rare here now — the monsoon season is impending — by next full moon it will probably never be clear.

The countryside up here is much prettier than any I had seen previously. It is heavily forested (not evergreen but attractive nevertheless), and there is much more relief than further to the south. We are about 20 clicks East of Nui Ba Den (Black

Virgin Mountain) and there is another high ridge about 10 clicks north of us. The country is kind of rolling a lot like the part of Vermont that has been cleared for farming.

There is an interesting article in Time on Masters and Johnson. There is one statement that was pertinent possibly. [cut]

I love you very much,  
William

29 May 70

Dear Judith,

You were certainly in a cheery mood when you wrote on the 21st. I assume it was merely a passing mood as you sounded much better on the 22nd. To comment on one of your points (the other is nt worth commenting on) the only reason I'm taking \$250 from here rather than spending the money in the checking acct is because one has to have \$250 cash to get out of this country on leave.

It is encouraging that you still get jealous about me. I was beginning to fear 1) that you weren't concerned anymore or 2) were ready to join a wife swapping club or something. (Your comments on encounter groups made me wonder.)

I guess I better quit as it is 6:00 AM

Your cookies arrived at long last — apparently they were lost in the mail for a while judging from the rubber stamps on the cover. The box was pretty beat up but it didn't hurt the can or contents any.

I read an article in Times on police murder and what struck me is how we (a large portion of the young men of our society) are being played for patsy's. There was a picture of a group of Nat'l Guardsmen and they were all extremely young. It seems like we are being duped into splitting up because otherwise "the establishment" could not possibly cope with us much less use us I can't picture middle-aged, pot bellied men fight there own wars or controlling riots. I suppose this is obvious to everyone but me, but I never looked at it in quite this light before.

Glad you finally got to read John & Mary now all you have to read is One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest.

Take care wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

30 May 70

Dear Judith,

Last night went rather rapidly. For once I worked all night. I'm cutting into my breakfast time to write this letter.

I'm beginning to feel like I'm getting pretty short. Little Jenkins and Lt T. are talking about how close they are to R&R and I will gone before either one of them takes an R&R. The pulling out rumors are starting again.

Guess I'll go eat. More later.

Back again. I'm going to work on the track for wahile before I got to bed.

I keep getting interrupted by people calling Dau Tiang Arty (the local AWCC = Aircraft Warning Control Center) is right next to us. AWCC has the responsibility of seeing that no choppers and artillery collide. Batteries post air data with him and he gives it to all aircraft in the area. Anyway he was at breakfast so I was taking his calls. Those guys have it pretty soft. there are three of them and they each have an 8 hour shift. It would be boring after a while though.

Life has settled into a routine. we are even getting to used to operating with one guy on days and two on nights. (compared to the five on each shift when I arrived). They will be down to one per shift at Hampton very shortly.

Today should be my day for mail. I cut down one of the pictures you sent me so it would fit in my wallet. It had a stop sign that just detracted anyway. It is the only picture in my wallet with both you and the dog in it. I would like to be able to go into shock for the next 49 days.

It is time to mail this — will end with an excerpt from a poem by Rabinadranath Tagore

We two have come floating by the twin currents of love  
That well up from the inmost heart of the Beginningless  
We two have played in the lives of myriad lovers.  
In tearful solitude of sorrow,  
In tremulous shyness of Sweet union,  
In old old love ever renewing its life.

I love you,  $W^m$

31 May 70

3:30 AM

Dear Judith,

I see you are becoming very conscious of our environment.

Re your comments on Hong Kong. It will be my pleasure to get you some earrings from there should I get there. Also be advised I have no intention of getting a drop and being in Hong Kong when I could be on a plane home. If I get a drop I will pass up the leave. I will know about ahead of time I hope.

Your taste in clothes have changed considerably since I have known you. You wear a lot of things now you would never wear before. (And it is becoming to you)

I have developed a routine here that is reasonably bearable. The morning are very pleasant it is cool and peaceful. I have taken to staying up until about 10:00 A.M. It is nice then. It is only about 2½ weeks til I go on leave — and they still haven't given us any more people. It seems like they aren't going too [sic].

We get paid tomorrow morning (this morning really) Soon it will be June.

We have another dog now. (In case you haven't noticed there is no shortage of stray dogs here). This one is another female — smaller than Will but short haired like her. She (the new one) is called Raid (from her propensity for chasing flies.)

It is a good thing I'm getting out of here soon. I can tell I'm getting hard to live with. Short-tempered et cetera. I've decided not to count til the end just to leave. That is close enough.

Take [sic] of yourself wench,

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>



**June 1970**

1 June 70

Dear Judith,

My mail is very erratic lately. Today I recieved my sandals and 3 letters. The most recent only about 4 days old. First of all, will respond to your letters. I really enjoyed the pictures. The one of Reto, with his long hair is very good. Also especially like the one of you and Reto on the couch. (Not where his [sic] attacking you) You look extraordinarily tough. If you are going to go around looking like that then I take no responsibility for my actions.

I don't recall the abrupt ending but it must have been because of a convoy leaving. That is about the only thing that ever interrupts a letter. Unless I was just momentarily interrupted then forgot to finish and just mailed it.

I started to tell you we are moving again tomorrow then I realized we moved today and I hadn't mentioned it yet. This morning about 9:30 they called us and said we were leaving about 1:00 PM. So now we are back at Hampton. The whole battery is together for the first time in about 5 mos. FDC is also all together for the first time in about 3 weeks. Tomorrow we are moving again — this time we're going up north somewhere. This is supposed to be for about two weeks. I'm not thrilled much by moving all the time either.

I have so little time left I would like to just settle somewhere and kill it. But such is not the case I suppose. At leasts this should be the last move for me. My leave starts in about 2 weeks and I will only have a little over a week left after that. When I put it that way it really seems like there is hardly any time left, but viewed objectively 40+ days is a long time. Up until recently I never had the feeling that I was just enduring but now I have this very distinct feeling of just gutting my teeth and holding on from day to day. They don't make it any easier where we have to move. There is a lot of work to moving and it seems to make one more aware of the passage of time. The days might go faster when one is busy but the weeks go faster when there is routine.

It was good to come back to Hampton and see Will at any rate.

Also I drove the 577 coming down and it was kind of kicks — I guess I like to drive

no matter what it is. It is very different driving the a tracked vehicle. It has an automatic transmission like any car but to steer there are two brakes one for each track. The most difficult thing to do is to maintain a straight course at high speed. Some things really surprise one like potholes that would destroy a car the track doesn't even notice.

We have been moving so much I haven't had a chance to get any laundry done for weeks. I'll be glad to let you take over that frustration again. I really don't enjoy having to keep track of how much clean clothes I have left and worry about getting them clean. I will gladly relieve you of the finances in exchange.

I just went and washed up a little but I didn't get a chance to take a shower and I felt really grubby (There's not enough water left now). Well I guess I better get a little sleep before tomorrow.

Your card was really great. I guess it a testimony to my egotism but I really enjoy knowing that my letters bring you pleasure.

I love you very very much,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. You commented on going to Canada and the decision two years earlier. Don't you see that two years ago I couldn't have decided to go to Canada, I would have had to run away to Canada. (That is what I would have felt like I was doing) I felt some sense of duty (possibly misguided — it is the knowledge of this possibility that made it such an agonizing decision and causes me to endlessly worry about what I am doing)

After this I expect to feel free in a way I have never known before. Not just from the threat of the draft, but free of an obligation somehow. Perhaps it is similar to an obligation I feel to my parents. That is what makes me call them or write periodically — I feel that I owe at least that to them.

Take care of yourself little girl. It won't be much longer.

P.P.S. I'm not sure I can say I'd be disappointed if you're not pregnant, but I guess I could get used to the idea. I would have a few months before anything drastic happened wouldn't I.

Thank you for the pictures — [cut]

Have Reto give you a big

kiss for me.  
W<sup>m</sup>

3 June 69

Dear Jud

I'm fine, Will write more later there's a chopper leaving in 02 minutes. Take care of yourself.

44 days.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

4 June May 70

Dear Judith,

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

4 June 70

Dear Judith,

As you have possibly surmised we are in Cambodia now. A lot of things seem different about Cambodia but the war is not one of them. We are supposed to be here for about two weeks. It took us two days to get here — we spent more time broken down along the road than we did moving. We spent last night in Tay Ninh.

Yesterday I had about two minutes notice that we could get mail out so I just wrote a short note to let you know I'm still here.

The countryside is much prettier here also the people seem much more naive. They are not as accustomed to us and therefore not so calloused. I hope we don't stay over here. It would be very bad to do to this country what we have done to Vietnam. Without seeing the people it would be difficult to understand how completely we have altered their life — almost always for the worst.

I got your magazines yesterday. I'm going to go to bed and try to get a little sleep. I am alright — as well as can be expected until I get out of here completely. Please don't worry too much it isn't any different now.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

I imagine the next two weeks will be the worst for you. After that I should be on leave, then I have no time left. And by the time you get this the first week will be about shot.

Take care of yourself for me.

5 June 70

4:00 AM

Dear Judith,

Tonight has been very quiet. There hasn't been a sound on the radios since midnight. I was just planning on writing a short note and then getting a nap before breakfast but it seems that every one else has beat me to sleep.

Much later — like 7:00 AM

This place is really hard to handle sometimes. They are playing more lifer games. I'm glad I don't have much time left cause I sure don't have much patience left.

For all of the this CP's harassment of everybody since Cpt. Emry arrived, this battery is nowhere near the battery that it was 6 mos. ago.

If I were going to comment on our anniversary — I would do it now. Just so you won't think I forgot.

The XO just called to harass me about not working mets — we can't even get registrations much less working mets. I better not try to write anymore. I really feel out of sorts this morning.

Take care of yourself — I'm all right except for mental anguish.

Good morning my love  
W<sup>m</sup>

6 June 70

Dear Jud,

Things seem a little better this morning. For once I stayed up all night and did things correctly. I always feel somewhat misfit when I go to sleep in the early morning as I have been lately.

It seems like I'm always recounting how hard life is, but it seems to be pretty hard again. We once again have too much to do and too few people to do it. Out of our five people and tow officers the BC has one on KP today another is in Cu Chi with money order for battery and one duty officer is running convoy.

Also I haven't gotten any mail in about three days or taken a shower in equally long.

It has been drizzling steadily since about 3:00 AM here. It is very pleasant.

Time for breakfast.

Take care little girl!

I love you,  
William

7 June 70

Dear Jud,

Do you have any idea how difficult it is too make your way through a letter when the pages come in the order 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 10, 12, 6, 8, 2, 4. But I don't mind it is worth the effort. Glad to see you are coming around to my hesitancy to spend \$300 on stereo.

Much later —

It is almost time for breakfast now. Will attempt to finish. I haven't recieved a letter from you yet since you heard about our move to Cambodia. I hope you aren't too worried.

Reference the kids in our grand plan. As a matter of fact the atmosphere for raising children was (is) one of the primary factors in deciding where we live. The fact that I neglected to mention that just indicates the difference between us. I know what you mean about city dwelling as opposed to living in the country (a term which conveys a picture of something rather more civilized than I have in mind)=, but it seems to me that city life involves a lot more compromises than a more primitive life. — And is likely to get worse in succeeding years.

I have in mind a rough sketch of our trip across the country as I've told you already.

Don't worry about the finances. It will all work out.

Thank you for checking on my driver's license for me. I have forgotten what time arli — I just remembered, so nothing. It is slowly coming back to me. As I recall you've decided not to let me keep spoiling you numerous times before. What you seem to neglect is that it is not your decision. I may insist that you start spoiling me though.

The closer the end gets the more I start looking forward to it and the further away it seems.

They announced another pull out but it probably won't get me out any earlier. I'll be gone before those drops start coming in.

Some of these infantry dudes here have pretty good beards. I guess they earn that small pleasure. I don't envy them.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

9 June 70

Dear Jud,

Way back in the dim recesses of this evening I believe I got a letter from you.

You sound very depressed. Life is not too cheery here and together with your letters it is a definite downer. I guess it is inevitable that we would tend to get frayed towards the end. It has been a long time. I am amazed at how well you have lasted actually. This latest escapade of our country is making things that much more difficult from a number of points of view.

I guess you heard that Will got run over by a 5 ton truck, she is still in one piece but she's in a lot of pain. She can walk around. Its difficult to tell exactly what is wrong with her.

I've decided if I get to Hong Kong I'm going to buy you some Jade Earrings and me a chess set.

I reread your letter and it wasn't quite as gloomy as I recalled. It might be a bad sign for you that it depresses me whenever you start talking about houses or money. On the other hand it might be an encouraging sign for that it doesn't depresses me when you talk about children. In any event I love very much and I'm glad there are only 5 weeks of this bullshit left.

Take care wench,  
William



10 Jun 70

7:30 AM

Dear Jud,

It is past my bed-time but I felt like writing you. Finally got around to reading the Saturday Reviews you sent me. It is not difficult to determine which articles you had in mind mainly when you sent them. I have trouble keeping up with you — half the time you are trying to talk to me into settling in Vermont, next you want to stay in San Francisco. We'll see what tomorrow brings.

The article on monogamy was interesting. I am a firm proponent of monogamy, one of you is more than I can handle. Seriously, I flatter myself that we meet most of his criteria for a new marriage — some of the time anyway. It seems like anyone who concerned about his marriage to any extent would.

Also dug out the pictures you sent me and put them away properly. They were exposed to water where they were and I was afraid they would be ruined. I really dig the one of you on the couch with Reto (not where he's crawling all over you) and also the one of Reto lying in the sun with his long hair shining.

Will is starting to get around a little better, it isn't clear exactly what is the matter with nothing seems to be broken and there are no signs of internal injuries — but something is definitely wrong with her. I hope she comes out all right. She'll probably never be her old self again — jumping onto and off of all manner of things. We have another little pup also now. She (her name is obscene "little \_\_\_\_\_er") is really frisky. She is always attacking things.

Lt T. and Little Jenkins are beginning to feel like and talk about how close their R&R's are. That makes me feel good. because I should be on a plane for Oakland about the same time Jenkins goes to Hawaii.

Good night — morning — little girl.

I love you very much,  
W<sup>m</sup>

11 Jun 70

My Dear Judith,

Even though you didn't intend to do anything about the 10th until we re join you still gave me a very nice present, in the form of a nice letter. I realize how hard it is on you so I don't mind getting nasty letters, but it is nice to get a completely cheerful letter occasionally.

Reference your materialism — it is obvious you are not as bad as most women (or even most men) if you were I would probably never had had much to do with you. However you must adhere to, or at least you are being judged by, much more exacting standards.

Bikes for our anniversary sounds good, if we'r not oto lazy to attack the hills in San Francisco. I think you fill find that my experience over here has made me much more appreciative of free time. One whole year without any free time ever gets to you after awhile.

I haven't heard any thing about my leave and it is only a little over a week ago so it could be I'm not getting it. We'll see shortly anyway. This next troop pullout is going to be timed just about right for Hardin and Jenkins. I'm glad for them maybe they'll get a drop.

Found a copy of Demian (Hesse) which I am reading now. It is inscribed at the beginning with the following:

I wanted only to live in accord with the prompting which came from my true self. Why was that so difficult?

By the time you get this letter I will have only 30 days left.

All my love,  
William

12 June 1970

9:00 AM

Dear Judith,

As you've probably noticed it gets later and later every day when I write to you. Hopefully today is a day to get mail it seems to come every other day lately.

Our FDO is opening a pineapple. Cambodian pineapple is really great — better than Hawaiian. Rumor has it we'r getting out of here tomorrow, so if you don't get a letter from me tomorrow it is a good sign — it means we're on the road out of this place.

13 June 70

Well I newer got a chance to mail this letter. At least now it is definite that we are moving back to Vietnam tomorrow. I'll probably see two more moves before I leave — this one tomorrow and one more. Tomorrow we are movi —

14 June 70

12:30 AM

Much later

Well it is no longer definite that we are moving we have already moved. We are out of Cambodia and located in Vietnam a little ways north of Dau Tieng. I never thought that I would be glad to be in Vietnam but I definitely was and am now. I didn't like Cambodia at all. For one thing it was too dangerous there (that bothers me now that the end is so near — it never used to really I would be careful as a matter of principle but I never worried about anything happening). In the second place I did not enjoy shooting in Cambodia It has not been destroyed by the war and I don't want to be a part of destroying it. Seeing Cambodia and the Cambodians makes one very conscious of what has happened in Vietnam.

Things have slowed down now and the prospects for finishing this letter are fairly good. The whole time we were in Cambodia. I never really had any free time. I'm sorry if you have been worrying [sic] because of no mail. I should do better for the remainder. It is almost the seventh of June I has snuck up on me.

One question you are allergic to nylon is that not correct. I think so but I can't keep all those different fabrics straight.

It looks dubious that I'll get a leave — if not I will send you all the cash I have at the end of the month and will send off one last PACEX order (chess set +) You asked if you should get tools. If you have ambition and are willing to spend the money go ahead and get some tools. The list you sent me was a very good sampling of worthwhile tools to purchase.

I told you a long time ago that if you wanted a TV set while I was gone you could get one. It might be all right to have one so we could watch the occasional specials without beg, borrowing or stealing.

Will is getting much better — she still can't use one leg very well but it no longer hurts her to move and she is up and around pretty much as before. With one back leg though, she can't up and down heights as she once could and that is frustrating to her.

Just read the McCabe article Sometimes he is pretty good.

I haven't gotten any sleep since the day before yesterday. I kind of like the present

location. It is not a built up place like Hampton or Dau Tieng but there have been FSB's here before. Supposedly our stay here is temporary, 10 days. I would be glad to spend the duration of my time here.

I seem to be falling asleep so will quit and find some other technique to keep me awake.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

14 June (barely) 69

11:30 PM

Dear Judith,

Got several letters from you — one of them I enjoyed very much. In one of them you acknowledge receipt [sic] of my letter telling you we were in Cambodia. I was glad to get that because I was afraid you might be worrying excessively — however it didn't sound like it. It is characteristic that by the time I hear that you know we went to Cambodia we have already left. (By the time you get this we'll probably be back in Cambodia — I doubt it though as they are already pulling every body out).

When I read your letters I was all inspired to write, however I seem to have lost some of my inspiration. I believe I will wait and write later. As one of the lifers in the battery commented a few minutes ago in a month and a half it will all be in the past.

Tonight is so quiet it is hard to get used to it. In Cambodia we generally shot all night, last night I was too tired to notice.

I just realized that I have a letter in front of me that you wrote on the tenth. Since today is or was the 14th that is just four days. Sometimes the mail service is quite good. Compared to some of our other supplies it is excellent. We eat C-rations quite regularly these days and all the water to wash in falls out of the sky. I long ago stopped complaining about drinking water that was hot or tasted like chlorine, at least it is wet.

You seem to have recycled quite a few decisions lately all of which I applaud. First (to start with the most trivial) of all your not coloring or straightening your hair. The attribute of your hair that I like best is its thickness. Speaking of dogs serving as surrogates for spouses, if Will reminds me of you at all it is in her maternal instincts. She enjoys the little puppy we have more than any one else. Which is amazing because this little puppy is unusually playful and is always chewing on Will.

Next I'm glad you understand the difference between going to Canada (or considering it) now and two years ago.

Finally re your comments on children and finances I have always been disturbed by your feeling the necessity of earning money, but that was (and is) something you had

to get over yourself. If I could talk you out of that I would have long ago. Concerning children in particular your having one, I have no objections (that is closest to an affirmative response you will ever get out of me on that — just as after the best meal you ever cook I will lean back and say that wasn't bad). For a long time I have felt that we should stop trying to control it and just let come what may (i.e. neither use pills nor its opposite — the rythm method — in reverse I suppose). I hardly feel it is necessary for me to tell you not to look for a job. I've been trying to convince you not to for three years off and on.

You don't plan on wasting anytime do you May minus nine equals Aug. I saw some pictures of Scott's wife, who is about 4 months pregnant. That is probably the first time I ever examined the pregnant female form (in one she is wearing a bikini). I wonder whether due to the natural curve in your spine you will have more or less back problems than is normal.

As you predicted it looks dubious for a leave. I'm going to ask the 1st Sgt. about it tomorrow but it seems like if I were getting one I would have heard about it by now. You asked how I figured only a week after my leave. Well I wouldn't get back to the field until the 29 or 30th due to travel time and time change. And I figure to get at least a four to five day drop. That is the 12-13. also you have to leave the field about five days early especially lately which makes it about the 7th or 8th which leaves about a week in between. However it is all academic as without the leave or the drops I still have 5 weeks to go and that is probably what I'll spend here. Tomorrow morning I'm going to wash clothes and take a shower.

I don't recall my use of the phrase "before anything drastic happened" so I can't tell you what I meant.

It is 3 oclock so I have spend 3½ hours writing this. Good night little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

16 Jun 70

2:30 AM

Dear Judith,

Your pictures came today. Did you take the one of you (the close up) by yourself. It comes the closest of any picture I have to looking the way I remember you. It is great.

I don't understand where you are getting all the letters from. I know there was a period of several days when it was very erratic. Our existence is a little more normal now — at least we can get resupplied by convoy now, at our last location they had to bring it in by Chinook. Yesterday morning I took a shower and washed out a couple of pairs of pants with some water out of a mud puddle. But life isn't all that rough. We had a really good dinner tonight steak, baked potatoes peas. The same infantry company has been with us for about 2½ weeks now and it is interesting to observe how much better supplied they are — probably because they are more used to these circumstances. From rumors it sounds like I have several moves ahead of me before I get out of here.

Started reading Updike's *The Centaur* this afternoon, mainly for lack of anything better to do. I will almost welcome moving — I can't seem to relax and just wait the time out. There is supposed to be a new guy back in CuChi who is FDC trained and coming out shortly. I'm glad I'm not back where he is and just beginning. It doesn't bother you as much then but now if I had a whole year to go I'd never make it.

Sorry about this reportish letter but that's kind of the mood I'm in lately.

Good night little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>



17 July June 70

(wishful thinking)

5:00 AM

Dear Judith,

We geht es Ihnen?; Tonight went fairly rapidly and I feel pretty good. The nights always seem to be better if I stay awake and about all night, than when I succumb to the temptation to get drowsy and sleep part of the night.

Lately I spend a lot of time thinking about my home that I have never really known. I suddenly develop a very keen sense of how long I have been gone. I have a full grown dog that I hardly remember as a puppy. It surprises me still how much like a home our apartment seems to me even though I I have hardly been there and probably won't recognize it now. I believe that is because I picture you located in it and wherever you are automatically seems like home. I have discussed the subject of freedom with others in particularly Geddes who was (is?) single and he could not understand the feeling of self-sufficiency that one has (we have I have) in being married. Whether I admit it to myself or not (and at one time I didn't) I have a need for a certain amount of human companionship. If I were unwed I would always be somewhat dependent on people around me. However with you I rather we am completely independent and that is very important to me.

This more than offsets what ever loss in the mechanical flexibility to move from place to place that was so important to Geddes (said loss is probably mostly self imposed by too restrictive attitude anyway).

So much for the monologue on freedom. Jenkins, the one you met, is leaving in only a little over two weeks. I will give him our phone number so he can call and forewarn you because I won't be very far behind him. He is thinking of spending some time in California. I told him if he was out there when we return from the East we would spend some time showing him around. He doesn't know what he wants to do after this.

Morning is here — the birds are singing and it is growing light. It is surprising there are any birds, all the vegetation in the area has been destroyed by defoliation. It looks like the day after the end of the world around here. The aftermath of a forest fire with out any of the blackened tree trunks — just leaveless.

On that cheerful note I will say good night and good morning my love.

Yours,  
W<sup>m</sup>

17 July [sic] 1970

11:30 PM

Dear Jud,

For once I have some news for you — first of all we are moving again tomorrow. To Katun this time — its only about 8 or nine clicks. The second item and more pertinent is that my leave was approved and I'm going tomorrow. I'll be glad to get away for a week. There's is a possibility of my catching a chopper out of here. It's a long trip by convoy back to CuChi and I wouldn't mind missing it.

Having covered that I have nothing left to talk about. I'm going to try and mail a package from CuChi The last few things I have.

The rainy season is in full swing now — it is a bad time to have to be moving — both because the roads get bad and also because everything gets wet and never gets a chance to dry out.

Apparently the people in charge here now don't like Fire Support Bases so all batteries will be moving a lot more — I'm glad I won't be involved in it. Its nice to move once in a while to break up the monotony, but it gets to be old fast.

As of today at midnight — last night I mean — I have days left i.e. no months just days.

Have you figured out any kind of time table for this trip. If there is time before we leave I can take care of bringing the car maintenance up to date (either doing it or getting it done<sup>9</sup>: How is the tread life on the tires. There should be plenty left still. It will be strange to start taking care of my own car again.

I'm not too inspired so believe I will quit. Take care of yourself wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

19 June 70

Dear Judith,

I thought since the letterhead also said Library service, you would forgive the U.S. Army part. Besides which it is all I have. You will probably be relieved to know I am in CuChi now (I remember when you used to worry about me more in CuChi than the field, but I imagine that has changed).

Just mailed you another package, probably the last. Tomorrow I go down to Ton Son Nhut to try and get out of here for a week. It is supposed to be hard to get space, so I'll probably take the first available seat to anywhere. (Don't get the impression I don't like it here. Last night I caught a ride with a truck coming down from Katun to CuChi. We stopped in Tay Ninh for the night and came the rest of the way this morning. I have no doubt that the most enjoyable part of this whole trip was cleaning up in Tay Ninh last night. I spent about an hour taking a shower and shaving. Then I washed off my boots, washed out a shirt and a pair of pants. It was the first time I have felt clean since we left Dau Tieng 20 days ago.

It looks like this is going to serve its purpose of breaking up the bitter end. I hope time is going as fast for you as it is for me. It occurred to me a few days ago, that I wouldn't get any mail from you the whole time I am gone.

From where I am sitting, in the library, I can see a book called, Judith. It turns out to be a modernized version of a biblical tale. It is that supposed to be an omnern.

Now I see another book — The Rise of Ronald Reagan.

It seemed slightly strange to see Vietnamese at first today. The Cambodians are obviously a distinct people and even after we left Cambodia there were no Vietnamese around up in the north. The driver of the truck I came down on was a pretty good head. He commented on how all the leafless trees up north of Tay Ninh reminded him of fall in Arkansas. My mind contrasted that with my original impression. It must say something about the difference in our outlooks.

Believe I will go treat myself to a milkshake and then go back to our rear area. I'll write you as soon as I get wherever I'm going.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

Thought I would postscript an excerpt from the Dust Jacket of Judith.

"She grew up to be as brave and skillful as a man, and so beautiful that every man who saw her desired her"

There your are!

22 June 70

Dear Judith,

Decided to follow your lead on writing paper (besides it was all I could find). I don't have any stamps or an envelope but decided to worry about that after I get a letter written.

Spent a rather frustrating day today wandering around Tokyo. First of all I took a wrong turn on the Subway about three times. Then I kept getting lost — downtown Tokyo. Sometimes they have English translations on the signs, but it is not at all consistent. It got, so by the end of the day when I saw a sign with English on it I would memorize what the corresponding Japanese looked like so on the next sign when there was no English I wouldn't be lost again.

It is an interesting experience how completely helpless one is. I thought about calling you but couldn't figure out how much money the phone took or how to put through a long distance call.

I am now back at Camp Zana (= Fr DeRussy). I hadn't intended to spend so much time here (it is too military as usual) but after hassling with Tokyo all day and the cheap bunk (.50 ¢ a night) I couldn't resist. tomorrow I am going up to Hakone Nat'l Park. That should be within my capabilities — even though there will probably be fewer English signs around.

I had to buy a pair of pants today. My good bell bottom slacks were beginning to get a little tired. They haven't been cleaned since R&R. I got a pair of beige (a little darker than the car) tapered like everything is these days for ¥ 2500 = (\$6.95)

Speaking of trivia, I weighed myself on a baggage scale a couple of days ago and I seem to be down to 140 lbs — that is pretty low for me. You could be right about trying to fatten us up. However we will have to insure that we get enough exercise that it doesn't all go to fat. I'm going to get a lens hood for the camera — that will eliminate the glare you've gotten in a couple of pictures I believe.

You know there is one picture out of the last batch you sent me that I think might make up into a really nice 8x10. It is the close up of just your face. You have your head cocked slightly to one side and it is just a touch out of focus — just enough to give you a kind of meditative air. If you still have it, keep the negative till I get back. I would like to get the center of it cut out and blown up.

It's late and I'm tired — I did a lot of walking today.

Good night little girl.

Love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

30 June 1970

2:30 AM

Dear Judith,

Well here I am back in Vietnam and back in the field. For all its disadvantages at least I write you regularly from here. You can count on about two more weeks of mail and then by the time you get the last of that I should be there. I had good intentions of writing while on leave, but it didn't work. First I didn't have any envelopes then there was no place to mail it, then I couldn't get a stamp. One letter I wrote in Japan I carried back to Vietnam to mail for free.

You were right about there being a lot of mail for me here. There was one letter in CuChi and 9 plus a package out here. You outdid yourself on your final package — the cake was (its all gone already) outstanding. I had fruit and cookies for dinner tonight as I missed it. I got here about 5:30 last night.

I met Jenkins (Phil) and Harris (you don't know him) in CuChi processing out. ONE had 4 days and the other 2 days. Harris got a 3 day drop. (Jenkins couldn't take a drop and still ETS [this is all about getting out of the Army, ETS, when you get the US. If you arrive in the US with less than 150 days obligation you get to leave immediately]).

My orders are in but I don't have a port call yet so I don't know if I'll get a few days extra (early). You best figure I'll be getting to Oakland on the 17th. It takes about 14 hrs to ETS after one gets to Oakland. You can come over and I'll say hello to you (as properly as is possible in public) then I'll be fortified to go back in and get out of the (fucking) army. (It still shocks me that my letters to you are occasionally unprintable.)

About your PACEX order. Yours had the silkscreens on it as well as silk so it probably took longer than Hazel's (friends). I got a check from parents for chess set so will send off for one last order. There are TV sets in there but I will be home before you got it and I know we won't want it for awhile then so I'm not going to tie up the money.

Got my acceptance at Berkeley in some batch of letters which contained your confirmation of it.

I can't even begin to try to reply to your letters point by point. Will was glad to



see me back. She wasn't very popular the last week and a half. She was in heat and every male dog in Katum kept getting hung up with her. Everybody got pretty disgusted with her after awhile.

Just to keep you informed. We are in Katum now — it is located just south of the fishhook. Everybody is withdrawing out of Cambodia — the roads are packed all day long. Day after tomorrow we are supposed to move again. This should be my last move, I guess. After that I'll be so short that if we move I'll just go move to CuChi. It is really difficult to believe that in just three weeks I'll be sitting at home with you and all this will just be a vague memory. Just two weeks from Fri (today is Tues).

We get paid today — I'll send you my parents check for \$82 (for Chess) and also at least \$200 more. I'll have more than that but there are problems getting M.O. for over \$200. I'll either send you the rest or carry it back with me.

It was very strange to read a series of letters written over a 10 day period all at once one after the other. It is sort of like watching a movie running too fast.

I'm going to stop for now. Good night my little girl.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. I checked out a bicycle for a couple of hours while in Japan and enjoyed it as much as I expected to. We still ought to get a couple.

**July 1970**

1 July 70

Dear Judith,

Decided to write early tonight, as we we will be packing up later. As is about par as soon as we started planning on another 10 days or so here they decided to move us tomorrow. We are going south tomorrow about halfway to Tay Ninh. We are gradually working our way south. Hopefully this will be my last move. At least it will kill a couple of days — by the time we get settled down I will be a few days shorter — the only thing that matters.

Got a thing from PACEX saying that they were out of the heavy wt silk and it would be 30-45 days before delivery but they had mailed the rest of the order. Eventually you will get it all I suppose. As close as I can figure it Hazels order should have been around \$37 and yours around \$33. How does that match with the checks I wrote.

Hope your sore throat etc. doesn't last long. I'm sorry I'm not around to take care of you. It sounds better to here you just contemplative on the subject of employment and not driven. Hope your confidence is justified.

I feel somewhat down tonight for some reason I suppose it is just let do down that comes with getting back to ta routine after a couple weeks of change.

The radio is playing an instrumental version of "Leaving on a Jet Plane". As I recall the lyrics it doesn't reall apply but the title sound appriate [sic] to my situation. From Patton we used to watch the freedom bird flying out of Bien Hoa and dream about the day we would be on one

I didn't get to sleep today until about noon — then they got me up at about 2 o'clock for a few minutes. Tomorrow when we move I won't get any sleep but it is all good time.

You should get a Treasurer's chewck for \$350 about the same time you gt this (if not before). Also would you remember if you got a money order for \$185 around the beginning of April. I still have the reciept and usually I get rid of them when you get them.

It occasionally gripes me that when Geddes had as few days left as I have he had been a civilian for a week. There is no point in such thought however.

When I was talking to you on the phone it was almost as if you were right there — I felt like I was just calling you from down the street somewhere.

I would be delighted to enjoy your company for lunch daily under Campanile should it work out that way.

Yesterday Scott, the one with the pregnant wife and the big ford station wagon, predicted that I would probably end up to be the most conventional suburban, consumer of all. (I am always knocking him) Any way he started me thinking and I decided that rather than developing or continuing a paranoic fear of living a bourgeois existence, we should just work to see that we do not fall into that Mr Green (he's so serene, got a TV in every room — charcoal burning everywhere) syndrome.

Jenkins (Phil — whom you met) is going to spend some time (months — years?) in California after he gets home (he's from Chicago) and I offered to let him use our apartment while we were gone, whole he was getting acclimated to California. I told him as long as he was alone he would be welcome. I don't want more than one guy to use it, or anyone other than him. There are some advantages to not having it look deserted for a lengthy period of time. Do you have any objections.

It is midnight and about time to get some work down — Good night my love

Yours,  
W<sup>m</sup>

P.S. maybe on the \$24 leftr from Chess (82 -58) we can take my parents o dinner somewhere I know they would not take the cash back.

1 July 1970

4:00 AM

Dear Judith,

Do you know that I will see you this month. And not just for a week but permanently. It is often remarked that one of the most pleasurable times in a man's life must be the day he simultaneously ends a year over here and gets out of the army. Add to this joy of returning home and it will probably be unbearable. I know that waiting for it gets more and more excruciating the closer it gets. When I arrived here I promised myself that when I finally got short I wouldn't gloat over it as some do. However, it is very difficult not to.

I bought a treasurer's check today — so as soon as it comes back I will send you all the loose cash I've had laying around. Also if I remember will send parent's check (for chess set) to you.

It now looks as if we will remain in Katum for about 10 days, that is just about long enough that I won't see another move. Also we are supposed to get a new B.C. which is good for the people left behind here. Finally it now appears that Lt. T. will not be going out as an F.O. — I'm glad for his sake. You commented on waiting for new developments with each day's mail. Life is very similar here. Rumors abound.

I thought I had come across an easy way to get some fancy lingerie for you (easy for me — it was mail order) but the nylon put a nix on it. I will look elsewhere sometime. I have some specific items in mind.

The routine here is a comforting way to spend time. I know that if I just keep putting in nights and sleeping away the days it won't be too long.

Everybody is out of Cambodia (as far as I know) and we are no longer allowed to shoot across the border (it is in range from here). There seem to be quite a few Cambodian refugees moving into S. Vietnam.

It has struck me that Western countries and Eastern ones are reversed in that in the West it is the male who has a very standardized formal dress wear, whereas in the East each country has a particular style of traditional dress for females and there is more latitude in male dress. This seemed to be true in both Cambodia & Vietnam and Japan to a lesser extent.

How are you holding up waiting out the bitter end?

Time for breakfast Take care wench.

I love you,  
W<sup>m</sup>

2 July 1970

11:00 PM

Dear Judith,

Good evening For the first time in a month I'm writing you from a reasonably civilized place (excepting Tokyo). This time our move took us to an already built up Fire Support Base. Lately we have just moved like gypsies and built a place to live (rather crude) every where we go. But today we moved into a built up fire support base. We are supposed to be here 10 days so once again, I have started hoping I've seen my last move.

This would be a nice place to finish up, there is plenty of electricity and a well so there is plenty of water. The newspaper magazine (This Week it is called) — arrived — however I only managed to read about the guy walking from N. California to Mexico before it disappeared.

The rats seem to be out in force again — it must be the rainy season that brings them out. When I was in Tokyo I saw a guy (on R&R) who looked exactly like Roger Lewis. I didn't ask to see if it really was him I am always seeing people who look just like people I've known.

So much for the idle thoughts. I must be really tired as I am having trouble, thinking coherently or writing at all. Tomorrow I've got to get the track cleaned up as well as catch up on my sleep. Then it will be pretty leisurely [sic] til the next time we move.

Jenkins has R&R the same time I leave so for about a week FDC will be down to 3 people. We have been short-handed for so long it no longer bothers anyone.

Take care of yourself wench. You only have 2 weeks more to do it for.

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>

4 July 70

Dear Judith,

I think I'm going out of my mind. This place can definitely drive you up a wall. (The first was meant in jest) — Some times the noise and games people play in here get to me.

It has been awhile since I got any mail, however there hasn't been a mail delivery for a couple of days so its probably not your fault. It beginning to get rather difficult to write anymore.

The rats seem to be back in full force. It must just be that the rainy season brings them out. I haven't seen so many since back at Patton.

Here they live in the ceiling as well as the floors.

It seems like we got out of Katum just in time, they had a little action the night after we left. I hope my luck holds for about another week. Every day now I see my next to last Fri or Sat or whatever in Vietnam.

It hasn't taken any time for the lifer tactics to start up again. Last winter it took about two months after everything calmed down to start playing games, but this time we left Cambodia on June 30 and the games started on July 1. I just realized today is July Fourth. For some reason I doubt I'll ever be very interested in Fire-works anymore. Possibly the best display I ever saw was New Year's Eve (I believe I wrote about it), but there are always plenty of red, green and white star clusters and parachute flares around.

I acquired another book by Hesse (*Beneath The Wheel*) today; I had never heard of it before. Since I mailed you all my books I have a little trouble staying in reading material. I even was forced to read a Lous L'Amour wester and a couple of Matt Helm secret agent books. They have a kind of primitive appeal. I must be reverting.

Lt. T. has a lot of Judy Collins tapes and is on a Judy Collins binge — She's not bad.

How is our radio working (for the trip). Your schedule sounds quite suitable. I would like to stop and say hello to the Kroesings on the way up north. I was thinking also fo taking the ferry (Possibly to Yarmouth then drive up the coast and over to Vermont). I looked over the route in an atlas the other day. None of the possible variations immediately presented itself as the "best" route, but I'm sure we can work out a satisfactory route.

Both Will and George have worms pretty badly. I hope that is all they have. They are coughing badly, I don't know what that means. I have visions of worms tickling thier [sic] throats. Also there is an unusually large rat crawling along the beam right over my head. However things are really not as depressing as they sound. Actually even with the rats its nice to be working inside a bunker. And there is a huge shower with unlimited water. The only reason we see so many rats is because it is night and everybody is pretty quiet and still. So much for that topic.

It is almost morning. Breakfast is at 5:30 now so the night is shorter. I won't even have to read tonight. It's time for breakfast.

Good night little girl

All my love,  
W<sup>m</sup>  
xxxSALUTxxx,  
W<sup>m</sup>