

2 November 68
Saturday

JJ
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JJ Dear all.

So many things have been happening that I don't know when to begin. Our training session has proven to be very "full-time" and consists of learning about all phases of Red Cross (blood, disaster, veterans, etc.) so we can well represent the organization and answer questions, and also because the Red Cross would like to hang on to the SRAO (Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas) girls when they come home. We have talked about our job, etc., and the assistant trainer here is about 26 yrs. old with SRAO experience in both Korea and Vietnam. She throws in funny anecdotes to liven^{up} the sessions.

Yesterday we went to the Pentagon. I was due for a cholera and flu shot, but the corpsman did not recommend my taking both at the same time. He said the flu one was pretty powerful. So — I'm waiting to get it on Monday or so from the doctor at Red Cross. We also had to have our blood typed, so my curiosity about what kind of blood I have has now been

satisfied. I am O+ which they say is the universal donor, so maybe I will come in handy. We also were mugged and fingerprinted for our Dept. of Army civilian employee ID card.

We have gotten our uniforms. Tall people seem to come out better as far as length. Some girls ran around with the culottes down to their ankles. We can go to tailors for alterations, using RC money and vouchering. Although my shirts weren't around my ankles I am having to take them up an inch. I decided to do my own hems, but went to the tailor for taking in the seams of my four uniform dresses and coat. That pretty well shot my wad.

We look pretty stupid in our hats, but luckily we ~~don't~~ don't have to wear them very much in Vietnam. We also have to sew on a lot of RC patches. All in all I have to hem two pairs of culottes, one skirt, and four dresses. Blah!

On top of that, we've been divided into teams to present a program to the rest of the group. I am with two other girls and our assignment is planning the activities for a center for a month (March).

~~1/1~~ ~~1/1~~ In Vietnam we have
 centers and clubmobiles. The
 latter consisting of 1 hour
 programs "for the road" where
 two Red Cross girls go in truck or
 helicopter out to isolated units
 for hour visits. Center activities
 are at the larger base camps -
 ping pong, cards, etc. We have
 been planning our month around
 St. Pat's Day, Superstitions, etc.

I think my one drawback on this
 job is my creativity - it's so bad!

We were told about our insurance.
 I had received a booklet on it
 in Madrid, but didn't read it
 thoroughly and threw it away when
 mailing things back. We get
 Workers Compensation and Traveling
 While on the Job. Our Life Insurance
 is \$13,500 with Double Indemnity (sp.)
 for accident, etc., and RC has
 bought War insurance to give O.I.
 in case of act of war. Our medical ins.
~~is~~ is 80% after the first \$50.
 I know this is ~~sketchy~~ sketchy, but
 it's from memory.

We get our first biweekly pay
 check on Friday. I've put your

name down to receive my future pay checks. I also found out we have to take at least \$10 out for ourselves over there. Dad, in addition to my salary of \$5232.30 I receive a daily hardship allowance of \$4.50/day paid biweekly. This is ~~from~~ for personal maintenance (sp?) over there — meals, billet fee, etc. The amount is higher than for the girls going to Korea because we are in a combat area. This is taxed (the Fed. tax taken out) but each of us has to find out whether our respective state income tax applies here also. When do I have to start worrying about my tax returns, — at the end of this year or in the spring??

We found out we do get R & R while in Vietnam. It is a military deal and applies to us. We travel under military orders and have transportation paid. We also get the Red Cross's paid vacation (annual leave) in which we may leave Vietnam for a vacation — ^{us} paying transportation. The places open are unbelievable — Australia, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Manila, Singapore, Hawaii, etc., etc.

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I definitely have to get to Hong Kong, but we all want to plan so our R&R will take us to the most distant place (transportation paid). I'd like to see Australia and that's the farthest.

Now that I understand my job a little better, I see that the Red Cross visits several out-lying units. Sometimes we could be programming units that will be in combat that night. So — please send me the names and rank, divisions, squad or what not of some of the boys you know are over here — the Johnsons, etc., and I will try to see if I ever swing that way. I already have Allan McArtois

No one knows how long of a stop over we will have in San Francisco. All of us would like a couple of days to see the city. I think we might get one last shot there (gamma globulin or something like that). I found out it's a 22 or 24 hour plane ride to Saigon from San F. I think of my Icelandic trip and cringe.

It seems that everyone is having footlockers sent. I've decided that maybe some extra clothes wouldn't hurt, and since the RC is paying for it, maybe I should take advantage. There is no hurry about it, since even the girls who have footlockers packed can't give the green light yet. We have to make arrangements at home for someone to mail the footlockers after receiving instructions from us. (We have no instructions yet). You must secure post office receipts and forward them to me so I can be reimbursed SURFACE SHIPMENT ONLY — not air freight. The key must be tied to the outside for parcel post (postal regulations). Standard size footlockers with approximate measurements of $31\frac{1}{2}$ " X $12\frac{1}{2}$ " X 15" are required.

The total girth (tape measure completely around shorter girth and adding to that the measurement of one long length) not to be greater than 100". When packed, the footlockers should not exceed 70 pounds — (standard allowance under army post regulations).

As I say, there is no hurry because some girls are waiting until they see the climate conditions to tell their parents to take out or put in certain items. As I sit and listen to the RC sessions I

It could be I may want
some knitting or handwork of some
kind - but wait until I let you
know how my time ~~is~~ and how
the mildeu situation are.

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got down what I'd like put in.
Here's my list so far:

- ~~X~~ White levis X
- ~~X~~ Blue jeans X
- Turquoise & white striped
turtle neck cotton top X
- tennis shoes (if I have ~~sent~~
sent my white ones
back because of overweight
here in Wash.)
- Wild pink floral pants dress X
- ~~X~~ Yellow pants dress X
- My tensor lamp X
- The olive green sweater X
said I was sick of
- Pink suit and knit turtle
neck shell
cut offs X
- another pair of black loafers
(maybe by the time I
give you the go ahead X
I can tell you what
size to order from Mat.
I'll be thinking.)
- underwear - this can X
be a Christmas gift X
because I think I'll need
a few ¹ Cotton pants, petti slips,
& and 1/2 slips since
a lot of kids here have
them and say they are
more comfortable in
humid weather.

my 68 Purdue numeral
jersey. or maybe an old
numeral jersey of Bradley X
if it isn't "rubberized"
like mine. Either will do.

+ Plaid beach shirt X
A Spanish-English pocket
dictionary (like Genes) X

Believe it ~~is~~ ^{or} not I've been
speaking Spanish here. I asked
in an Italian restaurant if one
particular dish was like the Spanish
version. It turned out the waiter
spoke Spanish. Our breakfast
waitress at a coffee shop spoke
Spanish (I had overheard her), and
when my roommate ordered a
soft boiled egg she didn't know
what it was and I ~~to~~ just heard
myself explaining in Spanish!!
I surprised myself. But - am I
rusty! One of the desk clerks
is Cuban.

Our hotel is nice - old
and not luxurious. We're about
5 blocks from the Red Cross.

That's all for now. I'll call
(try to, that is) before leaving the
country.

Love,
Jen

8 November 68

JJ
JJ Just a quick note. I mailed
my box of junk home
today. Insured for \$60.

Tomorrow we leave. Non
stop to San Fr. And — we
got a movie!! ("The Old
Couple"; which I've seen). We
were given flight bags.

Guess what. We were
issued dog tags with
name, number, blood type,
and religion — just like the
army. And — so we can
use the officers' club facilities
we are equivalent (sp?) to
2nd lieutenants (sp?).

We also had a gamma
globulin shot — in the hip,
which was really inconspicuous —
individually on a bed. Ugh!

Enclosed is my complete
roll of film. There's one of
me in my uniform plus a

bunch of mail.

I can't think of anything else. We have our passports, visas, and copies of military travel orders.

Please tell Mrs. Archener I just didn't get a chance to call Maureen. We had sessions every day from 9 to 5 -- then on some days evening sessions. Other days were spent going shopping, to the tailor, etc.

That's all for now.

Love

Ken

Oh yes. I've decided to take slides now with my camera.

Please put Allegan Liquifilm Contact solution (getting & cleaning) in trunk —