

15 November 68

JY
J Dear all -

We've been here in Saigon for 3 days and leave tomorrow. The big climax to the orientation came this morning when we got our ~~over~~ location assignments. There are 13 of us, and we are going 9 different places. I am the only one going to my location. I fly up there tomorrow sometime. Here it is, so you can locate it on the map:

Dong Ba Thien
with the HHC 18th Engineer Brigade
(near the coast, midway between the southern tip and the DMZ.
Use the following form for my address:
Jennifer Young,
American Red Cross
Center / Clubmobile Unit
HHC 18th Engineer Brigade
APO San Francisco 96377

I know a few facts about it:
It's a unit of 5 girls, we are the only women in the area (other places have special services girls, USO, WACS and nurses). I'm wondering if they took my university background ~~and~~ and put me with the engineers! We are all looking forward to our assignments, but are a little nervous because SRAO is critically understaffed at the

moments.

Here in Saigon you wouldn't know a war is going on. At night the windows may shake from B 52 bombings 40 miles away, there are sand bags and bunkers everywhere, but really no "action,"— which is good. The windows in our BOQ (Bachelor Officers Quarters) where we stayed were taped up. We were advised not to walk around in too large of groups (only as a precaution), and the city has a 10:00 p.m. curfew.

Our BOQ is an old hotel — with very shabby furniture. It costs 25¢/night. There are "mama-sans" (Vietnamese maids) who do the bed-making and laundry. I had her wash my RC hat and she ruined it. We've been eating breakfasts at the BOQ across the street, then catch a bus (sent for us) out to the MACV headquarters next to Tan Son Nhut. (MACV = Military Assistance Command Vietnam). We eat at the cafeteria there. At night we eat at local restaurants. So — you hardly feel like it's a war.

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I'm out at MACV now
waiting to be taken to my flight.

JY This time it will be a WWII aircraft, so I'm excited. My roommate was sent to Da Nang.

It's hard to describe all this. The Vietnamese women are beautiful, the national dress is probably the most beautiful of the world, the kids are darling. The Saigon traffic is unbelievable - most of the people are on bikes and scooters, but there are jeeps, buses, trucks, taxis, etc - all going different directions. It's worse than any ~~Asian~~ European city I've seen.

About my footlocker. Anytime you have it ready, go ahead. I found out you send it to ARC here in Saigon. Here's what you do:

send it to:

~~Jennifer Young
c/o Area Director SRAO
American Red Cross
APO San Francisco 96309~~
Jennifer Young
American Red Cross
Southeast Asia Headquarters
c/o Area Director SRAO
APO San Francisco
96309

Remember my list of clothes.
Here are some possible additions:

cotton underwear
a plastic bottle of
Rubenstein Brownette
Shampoo

Woodhew cologne
olive green sweater
bras (36 A) ^{send 2 white ones}
(I'm sure they'll fit)

cotton pettipants, if you
can find them easily

Evidently up at Dong Ba Thun
we girls live in air conditioned
trailers. We won't be too far away
(I don't think) from Camkahn Bay
where the beaches are supposed to
be beautiful.

Vietnam could be a luscious
resort country. The French
Mediterranean influence is here,
and some homes here in Saigon
were once quite beautiful but now
overrun with humanity.

I guess that's all from here
for now. Did you get the big
envelope I sent from Washington?
It had a roll of film to be developed,
my birth certificate, etc.

Oh yes — we were issued
Army fatigues and boots to wear
if necessary. Neat!

Love,
Jen