

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart Jan. 25

Well I'm on berm guard today. I'm suppose to be staring out the window and not writing but I got a quick way to hide stuff so I'll catch up on letter writing.

Our outfit for all we have been through has the best casualties record of the 4th div. Only 3 killed 25 wounded. Only one was wounded seriously enough for return to the states. Our platoon has had only one casualty that was Larry Rice killed in October 66. We have had no combat injuries in our platoon caused by the VC. In operation Ceder Falls our company had one KIA and 3 minor wounded. All were the result of accidents from grenades and not VC. I believe we killed about 30 VC and captures several tons of rice and captured some weapons.

The receipt you sent is OK and is et up as good as you could describe the colt. About the only change I can think of would be " additional down payment" on the next receipt and perhaps a total column.

Back home thought it was pretty good that I bought a registered horse but they are wondering how I will get him home?

Our PX is a sorry establishment. We can get toilet articles OK and writing material. Film is fairly easy to come by but those that smoke have a hard time getting good brand cigarettes. Most goodies are rationed out. The big reason we are on the end of the supple line. The PX just can't get stocked for enough ahead. Town is still off limits. We do give away C rations etc. to the kids but our last operation we did not see friendly villagers.

Right now I can only find time to read and write letters. I do read and pass around clipping. I haven't had time yet to look at this months Quarter Horse magazine. We do have popular magazines, books and a Readers Digest but few of us can find time to read. A base camp is suppose to be a place f rest. But our camp is a place of much harder work. We can find time to wash up in the field but we can't get time to make the shower run which runs between noon and supper. We have to use our make shift shower with a water supplied by 55 gallon drum. We carry water to fill.

Well we go soon on a 52 day mission! So if I can sneak down I'll stock up on goodies. Will close Ron

Dear Mrs. Hart Jan. 28

Well I got berm guard again. Oh well it beats filling sand bags. I got 2 sets of pictures back from home. It was the Attaburo operation. They came out real good. I've got pictures of out latest operation being developed. I'm taking plenty of film and stamps along for the 52 day mission.

Well about now my mother and sister should be on their was to Arizona to see Grandma and grandpa. They plan to go to California to see some relatives.

Boy this place could drive one crazy. They promise us a pool, recreation, time off, town on limits, but as usual we don't have this. We fill

sand bags from dawn till dark. There are all kinds of patrols to go on, and of course the berm has to be watched. So there goes our sleep, We will be worn out before the next mission. Our laundry is messed up for good now. Another kid couldn't take it. He came down with sickness as a result. Unless you are extremely ill they won't take you on battalion sick call for tooth ache, bad feet etc.

Oh well end of the complaining. 4 months is done with and 7 more to go. So I'm 1/3 done with this mess. Tomorrow is Sunday. I bet I'm stuck with sandbagging before religion. We leave on the 52 day mission after payday. I'll have another money order on the way before I leave.

Well will close for now. Ron

[you can send the receipts here. I got some slides back here from home. They are beautiful. I'll have to bring them over when I pick up the colt.]

Dear Mrs. Hart 31 Jan. 67

Here is another \$140 down payment. this now brings the total payment to \$280 I'll send \$20 next pay day to make the total \$300 down and finish payment when I'm ready to ETS out.

Well I had a wild night on Sunday. It finally happened. A suicidal night ambush patrol came within 5 minutes of being wiped out by a company size force of North Vietnamese regulars armed with grenades, automatic weapons, etc. They hit an 18 man night ambush patrol that was 2300 yards out at 8pm. The FO kept his head and called constant artillery all around their position. He is up for a medal. So is the medic who checked his men even though wounded. They were lucky, as they had only 3 working M16's, The rest jammed and no cleaning rod to free the jammed cartridge. The machine guns were out of ammo, grenades gone. when we arrived.

They said they beat off wave attacks and efforts to find them. They inflicted heavy casualties on the VC. The VC dragged away all but 2. The one confirmed kill was a company commander. With a Chinese made Russian automatic 30 cal rifle with a 30 round banana clips.

We went after the patrol in APC's. We got hit by heavy sniper fire at a village. We dismounted and sprayed the area including trees with lead. The VC left.

The patrol had only 4 wounded. Two should go to the states. They should recover completely. We had no casualties. We captured the 2 dead VC and 2 weapons, compass and important papers.

WE spent all night searching the area. The next day we searched the village and held suspects.

Last night we had a barbecue party. As usual they ran out of most every thing before half were fed. There was plenty of free cold beer and spiked punch so most of the guys got stoned.

I got 2 bikes now. I'm keeping in repair a captured VC bike. there are quite a few in line company now.

We go on a 18 day mission in Attleboro area. Maybe by the time I get

back the town will be on limits. Will close. Ron

Feb. 5th 1967 Dear Mrs. Hart.

Well while on this mission today I am TC on a APC. So while we are stopped I will catch up on writing.

I got 2 letters two days ago mentioning about the heavy rain you had. Last night I finally got mail from home. They got snowed in for 5 days. The first time they couldn't get out and into town. The letters had pictures of the heavy snow. The deepest snow on record for one time is 14 inches but they got 22 inches, which drifted up to 6 ft. across the road. I guess they had trouble plowing the driveway out. There they stayed till the county plow got down. Christine and Mom had just left for Grandma's before the snow hit.

You can let the colt's mane grow out. I like a nice mane on a horse. On some horses it looks good roached but on a solid color it seems better with one.

We are at the Cambodian border. So far all action with Charlie has been small clashes with only 3 wounded, That spoils 3 plts record. But it was our fault there. One guy tossed a grenade in a bunker too soon. Charlie tossed it out as a result 3 wounded.

We are out in some of the densest jungle I've ever seen. Just as sudden it will break into a clearing or a small brushy area such as on the side of the river. There are trees over 100 ft. and 6 ft. across. The vines are terrible often stopping the tracks or breaking off large limbs way up high making us duck for cover. The lead track often looks like a tree, The back fenders are ripped up and head lights tore off even the head light guards are broken off. For all the abuse they take we throw surprisingly few tracks on the APC.

We went on a patrol yesterday. By that afternoon we had half the battalion out there with us. We discovered a large VC base camp which was hastily abandoned in our advance. They bugged out of Cambodia. [excuse the dirty paper but this is from writing up in the hatch]

We found documents ,a big bin of rice chickens, pigs barrels of gasoline, 25 bikes, etc. and several huts which we destroyed. On a different area later that day we found 3 huge bins of rice hidden in the jungle. This we blew up after spreading 100lbs of tear gas powder on it. That tear gas is bad stuff. but harmless. It burns, makes you cry and sneeze. We wore out masks but after we got back everyone had a taste of the lasting effects of the clothes airing out. It didn't bother the scout dog much but the VC pup kept rubbing his nose all night.

Today we are searching further up river. Some of the fires are still going. Artillery hit the area all night. It got some results. We are trailing a fresh blood trail and the scout dogs have picked up VC trails.

6pm We were going to stay at the VC camp then we decided to go to our loper area. One of the guys while searching a tunnel hit the jackpot. Generators, Radio's, booze, commo wire, batteries etc. All Chinese. If this

doesn't get us in the paper now nothing will all the big brass is here. Ron  
Sunday 3rd plt found a larger VC base camp. No VC then hound 12  
bikes, oil drum pans, documents at the last moment there miles of commo  
wire, several Red China radio's, generators batteries.

8 Feb. 1967

Dear Mrs. Hart.

Well I hate to say it but the law of average caught up on us Monday.  
We were a reserve force for Bravo Co. They ran into a dug in force of VC  
and suffered heavy casualties. I was TC in the track. Since there was a  
stream in the way the company went out on foot. 3rd platoon was ordered  
to go down a trail that Bravo had went down to help bring back the  
wounded. I'm glad I didn't go out or would have been hit by a rifle  
grenade for sure. The machine gun team I'm on was the first 6 wounded.  
They were all cut up from shrapnel none looked very deep. The platoon  
was bombarded with VC rifle grenades. They pushed on further and got  
pined by VC machine guns. One of my buddies that lives a mile from me  
got killed there as he tried to lab a grenade at the VC.

There were a total of 48 wounded and 4 KIA's in both companies. Our  
platoon got the worst of it. Only I came back unhurt. This gives 3 plt only 17  
people 1 KIA and the rest on profile.

Well today is Tet so we finally got a rest. This is a 18 day mission. Now  
they should let up on 3rd plt and use us for reserve instead of go go go . The  
only reason for the heavy casualties was because we were sent into a  
dangerous area we would normally avoid. We also had to hold in a area  
until told to move . Therefore they got picked off while waiting.

I see the picture of the flooded road at your home. I got 3 Saginaw  
papers. One paper is only 4 pages as they knew it would never get  
delivered. There was 23 inches total. Drifts come to tops of houses. Our big  
6 lane highway near Saginaw has only 3 lanes open. A 10 ft. drift comes  
halfway through the road. The plow can't budge it. The horses fence only  
has the tops of post showing. They say it is not too cold but the wind piled  
the snow up into big drifts.

The VC sure have left a lot of stuff for us. We have found hundreds of  
tons of rice, enough bikes to outfit our company. There was gasoline drums,  
documents etc. The VC use animals to haul rice. I do see evidence of horses  
around here but so far have seen only chickens and pigs in the village.

Well this is all I can think of for now. Will close. Ron  
[pictures pictures pictures] pages 74 75

15 Feb. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart,

Well I guess A Co.. finally got in the news. I was told in a letter from  
home that a film was shown of guys throwing a grenade in a VC bunker  
and it got tossed back out. the scout dog was first to spot the bunker. Well 3  
got wounded one got bit by the dog. and one sprained an ankle in the

ordeal.

Boy this battalion has sure caught hell. We have had no further casualties but C Co. lost 20 men to casualties when a mounted patrol during Tet was hit by recoilless rifle across the river. The resulting fire fight lasted 6 hours. The area in Cambodia was then shelled and hit with Air strike.

On the 13th C company had a VC claymore explode by the lead track resulting in 4 WIA's There was then a close air strike. One of the Jets got his smoke mixed up and dropped a 500 lb. bomb on C company which was dismounted resulting in 1 KIA 14 WIA.

On the bright side they found a huge radio and weapon cashe.

We are guarding a bridge site by a different river. The engineers are building a good temporary bridge. This will take 3 days then we go right into a different mission. This will probably keep up until the monsoons strike, by then we may got some rest.

Since I can't spend it here I might as well finish paying for the colt while out here. I don't know if I get out Sept. 1 here. If I do then I will probably ETS out then and there and come after the colt. If I get out here sooner likes July or August and this could happen, then I will probably be reassigned to a Fort in the states. If so I'll try to get to Ft. Lewis. That will mean I'll be in tell Dec. 8th. To be sure of an early out I could extend one month I believe I'll take my chances rather than staying here tell Oct. 1 and maybe not getting home at all.

Leg units in our brigade such as 2-12 have seen little action and lost only a dozen men. This crazy outfit is dangerous as we are always on the go since we have tracks. Before this mission there has been 90 casualties in Battalion. We have had over 100 since. I hope I'm not scaring you with all this bad stuff. It is just that we do the fighting while they secure the area. the 10th Cav. secures the roads.

Well that is all for now. Ron

PS Here is a picture of all the snow. My brother and his dog are in it.

We have 2 dogs running loose here. Both are VC strays and are pups. The larger one is Calico color the size of Shorty and is called Charlie. The other is as big as a cat, dark brown, it is call Rat.

It is chow time now so I'll mail.

Sunday Feb. 19th 1967 Dear Mrs. and Mr. Hart.

Well we are still here by the bridge site. The engineers put up a bridge here in 2 days. It is like a giant erector set. We have been guarding some artillery units for the past few days as well as a company of engineers which are clearing land. They are going to build a small base camp here. They are blasting the huge trees and clearing with bulldozers.

I got the can of peanuts but misplaced the key. I have a small pliers and opened it without any trouble that way.

Well the nudist camp is real busy by the river. Guys that are off swim all day. There are a lot of guys from Los Angeles and other big cities that

have never been in a river before or anywhere outside of the city. It is a new experience for them.

I was talking to a replacement last night, who's home town is in Maine. He acquired himself an expensive hobby. He is a horse nut. He bought a thoroughbred stallion from an old couple who couldn't keep it for \$150. It was a colt then. It is now 2 and costing him \$500 a year for pampering it for racing. He has a jockey training it who has a lot of faith in the horse and wants to race it. He says he probably will sell the horse later on when it gets too expensive to keep. He should get quite a bit for him. since he is not rich to begin with. I see he has an expensive hobby for now.

I already have a friend here that says he'd like to show my colt at the fair when I get home. I'll have to learn more about that.

Here are the parts to the Army's Erector Set [Pictures here]

Well that is all for now so will close. We didn't get any cold weather like they did in Plachu. It is quite hot here yet. Ron

Feb. 22 Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart I can still draw one yet {picture of a horse here]

Today we are escorting convoys between TrinBi and the temporary base camp north to the border. So at least we are not chasing VC but escorting supplies to leg units that are. I haven't heard too much about VC action here. There are large friendly forces being moved in this area. Also several Arvin units are in the area. As you heard the north is getting a lot of action. Most of the fighting is being done near the border to cut off supplies to units South and East. This is why such fierce fighting as the VC is well dug in and has a large supply of heavy weapons. Instead of moving out they are trying to protect their stores.

The conveying business is sure dusty but at least we don't do any walking. Only worry is mines but most of them are removed now. A bulldozer hit one while widening the road and lost a track. One track ran over one no one hurt. 2 of them were found and destroyed.

The engineers put in a scissor bridge. It is carried on a tank and can be put in place in no time. It will carry the heaviest tank and was put there to keep the tanks off the road bridge.

The road bridge was starting to shift and sinking on one side due to the heavy tanks.

Well we are grubby again so I hope you don't mind the Vietnamese oil.

APC means Armored personal carrier

TC Track commander or 50 gunner on track.

KIA Killed in action WIA wounded in action

VTR Vehicle track recovery. [ a wrecker track]

BAR Browning automatic rifle used by Vietnamese a lot.

Everyone is getting the idea of me riding the horse home. I know that is out of the question as the horse is not broken , too young for such a trip and it is too cold in the mts. Also it would take too long. I might try it some

year. They do have in Michigan public trails that are marked on county roads, one runs from east to west along the Grayling, Higgens lake line and another runs from the state line to Mackinaw bridge. They have been in use for 3 years now. There is lots of Virgin land in the upper part of the state. The lower half is mostly farm and but if there is a deer problem there is a lot of wood lots around. At home there are 2 narrow ways to ride out. Then there is lots of places to ride. without worry of lawns, traffic, fences etc.

As far as drawing goes I did take one year of commercial art in high school I could have taken 3 years but took science courses instead. Our commercial art consisted of sign making much of it free hand in black ink and styles of letters poster making, some cartooning and freehand sketches and cartooning. [picture here] this invention, I even have blueprints of. Needless to say it never worked.

Could you take some color pictures of the colt and send to me? I can't get the film for a month or 2 yet but as soon as I can I'll send you a prepaid process color to replace the one you use. Well will close for now. Ron [another picture]

27 Feb., Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart, I'm 183 Days short over here.

I found out some news yesterday, I don't know if to believe it for sure. One of the married guys checked all the rotation dates and found out that another guy and I rotate with the married guys. This means I'll leave this country on the 20th of July. It also means no early out. I'll most certainly apply for a 30 day leave. I could take the colt home in August. If I get reassigned to some post near home then I'll take him home and try to fix things so home will be able to take care of him. If I can get reassigned at Ft. Lewis I'll be able to get weekends off with no trouble. If I do stay at Ft. Lewis can I board him there till my ETS in December? If I stay in Washington then that gives me 3 months to work with him till I get him home. I'll keep you informed when I can find out more about my rotation.

I finally got a \$100 money order. So I'll put it on the colt. If I do get a R&R I can still get an advance in pay and a loan.

The weather at home I hear was some bad ice storms then snow on that. Our weather here is bone dry. Last night we had a light rain, Enough to settle the dust and get us wet. That is bad VC weather. It is so black out one can't see his hand and even a starlight scope does not work unless a flare is set off in the distance.

This place is being built into several base camps for a mechanized division. they will cut the VC supply lines to the Saigon area. and take that job from us. I hope they never plan any more truces periods. The VC just use them to move men and supplies. March 1

Well I got paid yesterday but now I got 2 problems. I can't get a money order and I might have an R&R this month. It was to good to be true to stay at this river long. 10th cav. is having trouble beating the brush so they are going to switch with us. This puts us in the boonies again.

HANOI HANNA knows out every move. The base camp at Dau Taing was attacked and mortored twice last week. There is a lot of rumors to VC killed and our casualties as I can't say yet as to what happened.

That is all I can think of to write. I got KP yesterday then I got messed up so I also got on the convoy today instead of getting the day off to wash clothes. I am writing while we are parked waiting for convoy. They had church services this morning. All the minister ever has for his services now is weapon platoon and some cooks. Ron

5 March 1967 Dear Mrs. and Mr. Hart.

Today we moved out of our nice camp. The 10th Cav is taking our place till the end of the operation. Although they saw few VC they lost a lot of tracks to small mines and bombs.

We are securing a landing zone for a battalion of straight leg troops.

Tomorrow we secure the engineers then go to the river again. There we will be a blocking force for a few days then go to base camp for a while.

6 March Got your letter telling about Gary getting married. I guess he is finally tied down now.

I don't know the exact rotation date I only know it may be July. That will make me on the early rotation but it also means that I stay in the army until Dec. 8th. We have the field sometime next week so I'll check on that. Everyone is low on supplies. I still have plenty envelopes, paper and some film. but ran low on batteries. The guys that smoke are scrounging any kind or brand they can get from c rations etc. I bet the PX runs out of everything when we get back.

I guess spring must be back at home. Now you get 2 more horses. As fast as you sell them they produce more. Cocoa's colt sounds like another nice one. Maybe she will turn black when she sheds the baby hair.

Back home they are going to worry about the high water. They have a lot of snow piled up and spring thaw is only 2 weeks away. If there is a heavy rain on that it really makes a mess. [pictures here]

The picture above tells of 3:30am last night. It came close to A Co.. The VC mortored the battalion logger area for nearly an hour. Then gunships started to fly and the VC quit in order to avoid pin pointing their positions. Our artillery plastered the area. We were close enough to the VC mortar that we took compass bearings in an effort to pinpoint their location for artillery. The VC mortars have been going on the various logger areas for a week now. We had artillery radar at the bridge. If the VC hit that they will be wiped out by artillery in a minute.

The base camp at Dau Taing suffered 100 casualties in a huge mortar attack on them last week. The VC also tried to penetrate the perimeter. There are only a few companies left there. They are securing the perimeter.

There was a firefight down the road today involving APC's The VC took off and were chased by gunships. [ Huey helicopters with rockets and M60 machine guns] I haven't heard anything since.



Well that is all new here so will close Ron [pictures here]

11 March 67 [pictures here also] Dear Mrs. and Mr. Hart.

We are in the deep woods. The jungle here is dense and even the VC camps and paths are scarce. This area under operation Junction City. is a VC headquarters and training area. It is also wild jungle. The trees here are enormous. Many have 8 to 12 ft. dia. and rise to 150 feet. They are all hardwood and have a huge crown top. One can almost identify certain huge trees on our photo maps we use. It is a 3 layer jungle. There is a dense growth of smaller 50 ft. trees then the brush and ferns. Very little grows on the ground. Some of the vines are a foot thick. The lead track while heading here was covered with stuff almost all the time. The APC's suffer to as the logs that are knocked down get tangled in the tracks and can throw one off. There are some huge rocks that did that too. The land is flat as a board except near a stream and the only reason it is not a swamp due to the 10 to 50 ft. above sea level. is because of the sand stone rock under the soil. If there is a clearing it is usually near a stream on a cliff or a place that is flooded part of the year. A real swamp here is so thick with bamboo it is almost impossible to go through. There are also 2 mean plants. One has severe barb hooks others have long sharp needles. [pictures here] The plant is what the hats are made from. It is a very tough leaf. This plant is a bad one to run in to. It hooks in your skin and if you in a moving vehicle it really tears you up. 50ft bamboo here grow like grass and looks like a clump of grass from a distance yet it is hard to cut down as it grows as thick and long. There is a tough grass that grows over 20 ft. high. It is like bamboo yet it is a giant type of grass.

Your giant ant hills are of wood. The termites build huge hard sand castles.  
Ron

16 March Dear Mrs. and Mr. Hart.

I got your letter 2 days ago. I guess that was quite some time.

I hope Gary's wife didn't get to shook up after he got knocked out. I imagine that did scare you. I've probably seen all forms of cuts, bruises, mutilations, guys a complete mess from wounds. I saw one guy get knocked out when a tree fell on his head. that happened when the APC hit and broke it.

It is pretty hard to ride at a trot bare back. Surprisingly it is easier at a canter. I had Jiggs at a trot bare back a few times.

Glad to hear you sold 4 more horses that will be less you have to take care of. Which yearling filly was the one sold? Was it the one that cracked a chunk of hoof or the one that was usually shy? Now that I recall the mares name I believe you sold the shy one. They would be the 2 that we took pictures of last year.

Change 99 again. Due to the fact that there is a change over of personal to other units my rotations date is changed. It will be between the 1 to 28 of

August. I'm still on the first 50 to go so I'm on the early rotation. The last will go before Sept. 12th and extended in October. I have a R&R at the end of this month to Tiapai. This will get me away from it all for a while.

It was extremely wild last night. The company had a big booze party. There was a lot of guys that got sick from too much beer. They lost their resistance to their basic load they drink. 2 guys in our tent had to be carried to bed.

Friday. I had ambush patrol last night. Already they start it again on the way back, we took a dirt road part of the way. It was full of cattle tracks. I saw a few sets of pony tracks. I'll have to find the horses sometimes.

I don't know what I'll do to keep stuff dry during the rainy season. I went through everything today. I'm glad I packed my civilian clothes in a cardboard box and books around it. The bag got wet on me. The magazines had mildew on them. Lucky none of the clothes got wet. However I had to throw away my cowboy belt. It turned green from rot. I guess I'll have to send a big package of extra clothes and things home after R&R to avoid it getting ruined in the coming rainy season.

So I'll close for now. Ron. [picture here]

21 or 22 of March Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart

"WAR IS HELL" Since we have started this mission. Recon platoon has been fired upon by recoilless rifle for the past 4 days. One the 19th of March I was in the point as we were clearing an area in dense brush. I saw the guy ahead of us get shot in the head. The guy next to me started to cry. We jumped for the holes. Later in the sweep the dud Lt. and the CO got too close together along with other guys. Charlie set off a claymore. 4 KIA's many wounded. There was 5 KIA that day. After an air strike Bravo Co. charged the area and captured 100 grenades, 5 claymores, heavy weapons etc.

Yesterday Recon along with tanks ran into a VC base camp. The VC hit 3 tanks with 57 recoilless and R2 rockets. The tanks blasted with canisters. 3 recoilless VC rifles were captured along with other gear.

March 21 Wow was there action today! the 3-22 which was guarding artillery almost got over run by a brigade of VC's armed with recoilless rifles, rockets, armor piercing machine guns Every gun got hit by recoilless. When we came to the place there was ammo blowing up, powder burning and sporadic firing. An hour earlier there was fierce hand to hand fighting. [pictures here]

5pm I don't know how much gear was collected. I know there was a huge number of recoilless rifles, R2 rocket launchers, machine guns, AR rifles with banana clips, tommy guns, bombs etc. The latest count is 481 dead VC's and still more out there. 28 of our brigade were killed.

I'll be leaving the field in 2 days for R&R. Can't wait to get out of this horrid mess. It gets on ones nerves.

March 22 You probably heard about it by now. on the news. 30 KIA's

100 wounded and 480 VC with actually large number unaccounted for from air strikes.

We go another 4 miles through the bush today. Who knows what Charlie has waiting for us? This will probably be the second biggest VC kill in one day. It will probably be the biggest collection of heavy weapons and rocket launchers ever made. Most of the equipment is made in Red China. The rest is outdated. world war 11 weapons of every kind.

#### ON THE PEACEFUL SIDE

Have you heard anything on Socks registration? Glad to here he is getting along fine. I got a letter yesterday with the last slip. I'll make the last payment along with the bill for trim and worming when I can get there if that's OK with you? I'm still not sure of a rotation date but I believe it is mid August.

Finally no VC contact today but we lost another APC. This one hit a bomb and sent its entire crew to the hospital.

Well tomorrow I should leave this hole. So will close. Ron

27 March Dear Mrs. Hart.

Here I am in China. Actually it is known as Taiwan. You might know it as Formosa.

So I am having a good money spending time here. First I spent \$30 for Hotel. I spent nearly \$100 in the first 2 days total now. We have to buy our own meals.

I went to Yangning Park this morning. It is a real beautiful place. This afternoon I saw a movie in a Chinese theatre. It was an American picture. I got some stamps for you. They were sold in a souvenir shop.

The town Tiapai is a large one about like Tacoma. It has its nice section as well as its shanty town. The taxi drivers are real wild drivers in their little 160 KL per hour cars. They honk their horn and weave all over the place.  
{picture here}

28 Last night I went to the NCO club. they showed some movies. Later I played the one armed bandit. I won a \$2.00 jackpot only to lose it again.

today I went to the Palace Museum. It is a [picture here] Natural History Museum of China. The place had the history of China's early rulers and some of their treasures. It has documents, vases and other relics. They had an excellent collection of jade carvings. All the jade and the painted vases are beautiful..

This afternoon I saw a rotten tooten shooting cowboy movie. 2 good guys shot 20 bad guys in one big battle.

Face value of stamps 2.00 nt 5 US cents

0.80nt 2 cents 1.00 nt 2 1\2cents 6.00 15 cents.

There are some pretty ones of one size. I'll put them in a separate paper. They say they are 20 years old and have not been postmarked like the others.

30 March Yesterday I went to grass Mountain. It is a beautiful place

and is as rugged as half way up Sowqualmine pass. It is a park near Tiapai.

I also went ice skating in an indoor ice rink. It was lots of fun.

Well I got a new toy. It is the Petri 75, a Japanese made 35 mm camera. Its features are, an electric eye exposure meter that works with film speed setting, lens opening and shutter speed. This does away with a lot of guess work. it also shows the reading through the view finder. There is also a range finder and has a range of 3 ft. to 00. The lens is F 1.8 wide open to 16 Shutter speed is 1\500 sec. to 1 sec. to open. A built in 8 sec timer allows delayed exposure. the film advance is like the instomatic the shutter will not take double exposure and all that for \$33.75. I also bought a telephoto and wide angle lens .I can take pictures under any kind of conditions even night time exposure.

Well tomorrow I go back. No horses near Tiapai even though one of my buddies saw one. Ron

PS This is a very peaceful city unlike the rude hustle of American cities. People are friendly and courtious here.

3 April Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart

Well I have made it back to the "Gates of Hell". However I don't have to go through them for a while yet. I got some teeth bothering me so I am going to get some teeth filled.

I read an article in Newsweek that was written of the big battle of the 21st. During that week over 1097 VC were killed in Junction City alone. At 2,700 it is the biggest VC kill yet topping the week before. I don't know why Coronal Garth got a silver star for as he didn't give a damn what happened below while up in his private helicopter. The Lt. Coronal and men of 77 art. and 3-22 and 2-22 earned theirs. When he was no longer able to do his job in his command post the Lt. Coronal went out and helped, passed shells for a 105 still operating in order to keep the VC from over running the camp. Boy there are a lot of bad rumors about Garths actions during the battle.

As I probably said before. The living conditions out there are the worst we've ever been through. Water is so short there is not enough to drink. He won't let us send out more. They never camp by a creek so those men must be worse they pigs. They are still going to be out there a week yet.

We still don't get enough supplies at base camp. Even ammo is short at times. To make it worse there is a bad lot of ammo that is jamming up weapons. There is seldom time to clean weapons either. Our dud supply Sergeant is gone for a while but he has so messed up orders that they have nothing one hand.

So I hear my colt is getting interested in the silly fillies. That must mean he is getting quite big now. My mother found the slide picture I took of him before I left. She is having a print made to send to me. Also I'll be able to compare it with yours to see how much he grew.

Well will close now Ron PS Definite rotation date and ETS no later then Sept. 23 most likely sooner.

6 April Dear Mrs. Hart.

I got the pictures today and I was sure shocked to see how big the colt has got. Oh well I almost thought the same of Sniders horses when I saw how big their young one got when I was on leave last. He sure does look nice. I guess he is going to keep the dark brown look in him. His mane should be laying down by the time I ETS out in September. I seem to like the black and white ones better probably because you were closer when you took them. the color ones are nice too.

Yes I am ETS in September, Which means I'll be out of the army. Still haven't figured out the best way to get Socks home.

7 April Today the company comes in from the worst mission they have been on. There is an excellent chance of me transferring to a safer job now. I am waiting for orders to come through.

I thought the company was coming back in today. The rest of brigade is in. But when 2 tracks were just entering camp a chopper spotted 300 VC 3 miles east of here. So they went back out after them.

They may be out a few more days because of that. I bet those guys are mad.

It threatens rain every day now. So the monsoons aren't far off now. So that is all new now. Ron

PS I checked a weapons capture count of the 21th. Would you believe 50 RG-2 rocket launchers+ 500 rockets. This is anti tank weapons. Also 20 and 15 75 mm and 57 mm recoilless rifles. 10 m1 40-AK 47. the AK 47 is a new weapon which is an equal of 165. As long as they can get captured ammo. Some 400,000 rounds of ammo was captured as well as 40 tons of clothes, webgear etc. 1800 hand grenades were taken. They figure 5 regiments or 2,500 VC were involved in fight.