

I got your letter today. Also one from Micke.

Last night we had the most exciting event yet. Here's the story.

Yesterday afternoon a plane returning from a mission spotted a sampan with some people in it waving.

They sent us up there to investigate.

It was five North Vietnamese who were defecting. We picked them up and sunk the sampan. It was 4 men and a woman with a baby. (about a year old I guess) They wanted to go to Saigon.

This morning, our helo took them to a carrier (I think it was the Hearsarge) The Navy is going to take them to Saigon. They will be met there and also have a place to stay. all arranged. The best part was this.

You know I'm mess cooking in the CPO mess again. anyhow they ate in here

this morning. No one on the ship could communicate with them. They looked like

the happiest people in the world. all smiles.
When they were about to leave us they
shook hands and gave everyone in the mess
hugs. I took a couple of pictures of
them in here. They didn't know it. One
was of the women changing the baby's
diapers after two of the chiefs failed in
their attempts. We believe this is the
first time anyone has left N. Vietnam so
far north. It should be in the papers.
Well enough of that. We've been here
about a week now and there ~~has~~ ^{has} been
no SAH incidents. One the day we got
here but the ship ~~we~~ ^{we} relieved picked one
up over N. Vietnam. During ~~the~~ their
time down here they picked up 14 people.
10 of them at one time tho as a helo was
shot down.

. Well it's now the 21st of Nov.
I don't get much time off. Too tired.
I got your letter today. I already
have sent some dishes. You should have
let me know sooner. It's a different
design and also only an ~~app~~ & setting.
I could get the rest tho.

I finally sent a couple of radios for the kids. Not much but something for now. I'll see about getting a radio for boy next time we're in Yokohama.

It sure is funny down here this time. You'd never know a war was going on close by. We can fish (troll) off the fantail (back part of the ship) and also skeet shoot. We also have a slot car track on order. I might buy ~~one~~ one.

I have been thinking about what I'm going to do when I get out. I think it would be best to stick in the automotive field. Not necessarily working on cars though. I have been thinking about the Wis. State College at Platteville. Isn't that more or less an engineering school? I plan to have ~~some~~ cars as my main hobby so I may as well stick to them. They are more interesting than electronics.

I'm getting anxious to stop in Hong Kong. It's only a month away. I hope I have some money to spend. ^{The day could}
Well I guess I'll be going now.
Love John