

## Sandy Airman's Letters Describe Viet Nam Duty



THIS HANDSOME GROUP posing with their families for the photographer in 1912 or 1913 were all members of Sandy Grange. Mrs. A. White (Mary Gibson) of Woodburn, who brought the picture in, has identified a few. In the front row: 4.-----Thomas, 8, James W. Gibson, 10,-----Thomas, 12, -----Thomas, 13,

George Thomas, 15, James Feegle, Back row, 7, Alice ? (sister of Mrs. Mack Thomas), 14, Mrs. Mack Thomas (wearing hat), 20, Mrs. James W. Gibson (hat) and 21, Mrs. James Feegle (hat). Perhaps some of our readers will be able to fill in the blanks and tell us just where in Sandy the picture was taken.

Ed. Note:

This is the conclusion of excerpts from letters written to his home by Sandy serviceman Richard Clubb - on duty with the Air force in Viet Nam.

MARCH:

I have seen some rats about 18" to 22" long around at night, but none in the barracks. We have traps and poison all around anyway, just in case one tries to infiltrate.

It has been very quiet around here lately. Haven't heard much of anything of the Viet Cong. It might be the lull before the storm, but I doubt it.

The rainy season is starting around here. It rained last night-felt good, then cooled off, which is rare because the humidity goes sky high when it rains. The rainy season last until next October.

The flight line is about 1/2 mile from the barracks, and sometimes those big jets take off and almost roll you out of

bed. I am used to it by now so they don't bother me.

Things over here are finally getting on my nerves, and that is bad because I still have 9 months left. But it will probably pass.

The last couple of nights, flares have been dropping all around the base. The Viet Cong attacked a strongpoint about 3 miles from the base for about 6 hours, but were driven off. That's the first of any thing that has happened around here.

Saigon was off limits today because of a Buddhist rally. They were expecting 250,000 people. The reason for the demonstrations is that the Buddhist want a civilian government in power instead of military.

APRIL:

I guess you heard about the bombing of the BOQ downtown. It was about 5:10 in the morning, and it woke most everybody in the barracks and we are about 6 miles from it, so

you can imagine what kind of a blast it was. One thing, they haven't blown anything up on the base.

Army troops don't have the security or have it as easy as the few of us in the Air Force. The casualty lists get bigger every night they come over the P.A. system asking for blood for emergencies.

Things are acting up a little off base here and there, but nothing serious. Saigon is still off limits, and everyone off duty has to be in his quarters by 10 p.m. So it will probably last for a couple of days. But I am safer here than on the Hollywood Freeway.

I guess you have heard about the mortars by now. They put Saigon back on limits. Last night we had a party for the guys leaving soon. Got back to barracks about 11:30 and was pretty tired so went right to bed. Around midnight Gary Simpson from Newhall, my bunkmate, got

off work and got right into bed. Then about 12:05 the mortars started. Everyone headed to get under beds. It took the whole barracks about 5 seconds to get under cover. The Viet Cong mortared for about a half hour-- it seemed like all night. You didn't know where the next one was going to fall, but a lot sure were close. About 3:30 a.m. I finally went to sleep. At 6:30 this morning I went outside to see what had happened but found out most of the mortars were quite a ways from us. It started a fire down at the flight line in a 50,000 gal. petroleum storage tank and it is still burning. Only a few injured though.

Today everything is back to normal, except they are getting a stronger police force around the base. I won't say it won't happen again, but those V.C. are terrible shots!

Still working 7 days a week. We are getting new personnel in so we will be getting a day

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