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Carole Nelson Vietnam War Correspondence #01

Larry Wagoner

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Answered July 8, '68
FREE

Carole Nelson
8949 Langdon #21
Sepulveda, California
91343
Dear Carole

This is ridiculous but I'm slowly coming apart at the seams. It all started about three days ago when I recounted my time left over here and was stunned to find that instead of 50 some days I had 40 some. That did it. Up till then I thought that I was almost home hadn't hurt me but now with 38 to go there it is. I can see it, hear it, smell it and almost touch it. We all used to laugh at the short timers who walked around in a haze, jumped at sudden sounds, didn't eat or sleep just smoked, drank coffee & beer and shook a lot. We used to think that was a real scream and of course we couldn't act like that when we got short. Of course now we were too well controlled. Don't look now but the kid is off and shaking.

I knew I was going fast but I didn't realize how bad it was until they came up here yesterday and told me I had just been transferred to Battalion Recon. Now if they had tried a start like that anytime up to about a week ago I
would have been running around yelling at people and pounding on things but all I did was mumble something like "that's nice," lit another cigarette, and went and got some more coffee. When I finally realized what had happened I stepped back and took a good long look at myself and discovered that I am a nervous wreck. Actually it's kind of funny but so far all I've been able to manage is a hysterical giggle or two. You really don't think about much over here, home included, but now it's impossible not to think. What's it like back there now? I know it's changed, so have I for that matter, but how much, and for better or worse? Man coming over here was nothing compared to going back.

Look at this I'm even starting to babble in my letter. I think I better knock it off before I become completely unintelligible. I find my more lucid moments becoming fewer and farther between so don't try and make too much sense out of anything I write.

Larry

(Oh gods 38 days!)
4 FEB 68

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