

# Tununak GI Observes Life in Far-off Viet Nam

3 August 1967  
Cu Chi, Viet Nam

Dear Mr. Rock,

I am enclosing a thank you letter for the paper which is so much informing and means a lot to me as well as the people back home and the ones that are here in Viet Nam. I must tell you where I was born and why I'm here.

I was born in Tununak, Alaska and now live at Bethel. Joined the Army in September of 66 and was sent here in February of 67 involuntarily. There are a lot of others from Alaska I know and would do anything to get back to the world. The climate here is a lot far different from where you are. It is very hot at first and you get used to it as time goes by, wish it were a little cool at times. The temp is usually in the 90's and above. The land is beautiful and green. The old buildings are exotic and life stirs everywhere you go. Even into the thickets of the jungle.

The people are very friendly, some are educated and some are not, some are intelligent and some are dumb like I am most of the time. The people work on ricefields and their little shops. The products are crudely made, other things are made well like clothing, most of which is silk material and in-expensive and pretty well designed and colorful.

The facial feature is not far different than that of the rest of the Orient and the Native of Alaska. They don't wear shoes most of them due to the heat. Each village you go through is crowded, very crowded especially at the markets where they sell the most bazaar food you ever seen in your life. The chopsticks are useful in part of their tools.

Their customs I don't know about, their Religion is mostly Buddhist. The young girls are in two categories, either educated or not educated. Same with the men and boys. The little kids either go to school or roam around the street with no homes nor parents.

There is so much to tell it would take too much paper/so I'll close with a little truth--people here ask me how it is in Alaska and how I like the weather here and if it is all ice and snow there. I tell them "Heck no, it get's hot like here the summertime and it isn't cold in the winter at all, it's cool."

Enclosed is the payment for a year's subscription. Keep up the good work fellow Alaskans and KEEP ON KEEPING ON and be heard, let your voices be heard of your rights.

Sincerely yours,  
Paul Flynn Chanilingok  
(known as Paul K. Flynn at home)