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March 27th, 1969 Don Yeager Letter from Vietnam

Don Yeager

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DEAR PEOPLE

27 MAR

I'm OUT IN THE BOONIES AGAIN. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT FOR 45 DAYS -

IF WE ARE, THIS WILL BE MY LAST OPERATION. ~~HERE~~ ~~THIS~~ THESE ARE

SOME COPIES OF THE PAPER DESCRIBING OUR LITTLE ADVENTURE. THIS IS A LITTLE MORE ACCURATE. I'm STILL IN FOR THE SILVER STAR. NOT

MUCH TO SAY. I'm DOIN' FINE + WATCHIN' OUT.

LOVE, *Don*

Dear Civilians, Friends, Draft Dodgers, Etc.,

In the very near future the undersigned will once more be in your midst, dehydrated and demoralized, to take his place again as a human being with the well known forms of freedom and justice for all; engage in life, liberty and the somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness. In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into organized society you might take certain steps to make allowances for the crude environment which has been his lot for the past twelve months. In other words, he might be a little Asiatic from Vietnamesitis, and should be handled with care. Do not be alarmed if he is infected with all forms of rare tropical diseases. A little time in the "Land of the Big PX" will cure this malady.

Therefore, show no alarm if he insists on carrying a weapon to the dinner table, looks around for his steel pot when offered a chair, or wakes you up in the middle of the night for guard duty. Keep cool when he pours gravy on his dessert at dinner or mixes peaches with his Seagrams VO. Pretend not to notice if he eats with his fingers instead of silverware and prefers C-rations to steak. Take it with a smile when he insists on digging up the garden to fill sandbags for the bunker he is building in the garage. If he sleeps on the floor, be patient, it will pass.

Avoid saying anything about powdered eggs, dehydrated potatoes, fried rice, fresh milk or ice cream. Do not be alarmed if he should jump up from the dinner table and rush to the garbage can to wash his dish with a toilet brush. After all, this has been his standard. If it rains and he happens to pull his clothes off, grab some soap and lather up, pay no attention.


Ignore his vocabulary. If he utters "sin loi" or "choi oi," or screams "didi," forget it. When is on a phone, try to understand "roger out" for goodbye, and he may simply shout "working!"

Never ask why the Jones' son held a higher rank than he did, and by no means mention the term extend. Pretend not to notice if at a restaurant he calls the waitress "Numba one girl" and uses his hat for an ashtray. He will probably keep listening for "Homeward Bound" to sound off over AFRS. Comfort him for his mind is still tuned into VN. Be especially watchful of his actions with a woman, especially a pretty one.

Above all, keep in mind that beneath that tanned and rugged exterior is a heart of gold. Treat him with kindness, tolerance and an occasional fifth of liquor, and you will be able to rehabilitate that which once was a happy-go-lucky guy that you once knew and loved.

Last, but by no means least, send no more mail to the APO, fill the ice box with beer, get the civies out of mothballs, fill the car with gas, and get the women and kids off the street-----

BECAUSE THE KID IS COMING HOME!!



Signature

Alert D/2/503 Sets Double Death Trap

By SP4 Paul Sheehan

BONG SON—A five man night patrol, operating deep in VC territory more than a mile from their parent company, killed

Viet Cong Go Fishing, Get Hot Lead

RVN—A suspicious
airborne Brigade
to the death
in recent action
central coast of

Rousseau, of
Platoon from
conducting
in a
helicopter
spotted the
a poncho

," Rous-
e were
brush

seven enemy soldiers in a pair of daring back to back "hasty ambushes".

Led by 1st Lt. William Miller of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, the night patrol made their successful sojourn into the VC stronghold of My Binh, five miles north of Bong Son.

SP4 Ronald Yeager, of Goldsboro, N.C., who walked point for the patrol, said, "Leaving an hour after dark we moved about 2,000 meters and had just crossed a bridge when our rear security, SP4 Gary Seiler, of Westminister, Md., spotted a light behind us.

"We set up a hasty ambush and killed two VC," recalled Yeager, the son of an Air Force General. "The VC were using a flashlight and ambling down the trail," the paratrooper added.

After searching the bodies, the Sky Soldiers used a starlight scope to observe the trail on the moonless night. Through the scope they spotted what proved to be the point team of a platoon size NVA element coming from the opposite direction.

The night patrol set up a second hasty ambush. SP4 Ronald Price, RTO from Bradshaw, W. Va., said, "The approaching NVA were very cautious. The NVA pointman stopped for a second and then squatted down on the rice dike path. Once again he came toward us. That's when we opened fire. I could see the

muzzle-flash of the pointman's AK-47 as he fell to the ground.

The Sky Soldiers threw grenades at the panicked NVA who were less than 20 meters away and moved forward to check the area.

SP4 Richard Pearsall, of Pontiac, Mich., remembered, "We got the pointman's AK and were checking the other bodies which were blown off the dike into the rice paddies when we received M-79 fire from about 40 meters."

The Sky Soldiers fired up the NVA grenadier and began to withdraw as they heard more enemy who were apparently using dogs in their search for the American squad.

Lt. Miller's night patrol then slipped into a river, went down stream for a hundred yards and worked their way back to their company perimeter.

Lt. Miller, of Bloomington, Ind., said, "I imagine the VC intended to rendezvous with the NVA but they never quite made it."

On the previous night, the same patrol killed two VC, wounded one and captured another, bringing the total for the two nights to nine enemy killed.

All five members of the patrol were awarded the Bronze Star (with V device) on the morning following their second successful night patrol.