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1967 Christmas Eve Letter from Don to Chuck and Glennis

Don Yeager

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CHRISTMAS EVE

HO-HO-HO

WELL, IT'S THE DAY BEFORE XMAS. WE'RE HAVING A CEASE FIRE STARTING AT 6:00 THIS EVENING, & I THINK IT'S SUPPOSED TO LAST ~~THE~~ FOR 3 DAYS. OUR ILLUSTRIOUS BATTALION C.O., LTC. NICHOLSON, HAS US OUT IN THE BOONIES, PREPARING FOR A TET OFFENSIVE. THE REASON — HE VOLUNTEERED US CAUSE "WE'RE THE BEST GODDAMN FIGHTING MEN IN VIETNAM", OR SO HE THINKS. MAN, I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE FIELD. I LOOK AROUND AT OUR COMPANY DURING FORMATIONS, & IT'S LIKE I'M IN THE WRONG PLACE — I DON'T RECOGNIZE HALF THE FACES CAUSE THEIR ALL NEW. I'M GETTING SICK OF ALL THIS CRAP — WE'VE GOT A NEW C.O. — STRICTLY LIFER — GARRISON SOLDIER ALL THE

WAY. THE BAD THING IS, HE'S GUNG-HO,
BUT DOESN'T KNOW HIS STUFF THAT
WELL. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT TRYING
TO GET INTO RECON, BUT ~~THE~~ I
DON'T THINK THE C.O. WILL LET ME
GO BECAUSE HE WANTS TO KEEP
THE PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE WITH THE
COMPANY, PLUS THE FACT THAT THE
COMPANY IS STILL UNDER STRENGTH.
I GUESS YOU'LL GET THIS LETTER
AFTER NEW YEARS. SORRY ABOUT
TAKING MY TIME ON WRITING THIS
TIME. LAZY, I GUESS. I THINK A
ROUND TRIP TICKET AMOUNTS TO
ABOUT \$165 OR \$170. I TALKED TO ANOTHER
GUY WHO WENT INTO L.A., + IT'S REALLY
EASY. I SHOULD BE FINDING OUT ABOUT
~~IT~~ MY R+R DATE PRETTY SOON. I
SURE HOPE SO. I'M GOING TO REALLY
BE A WAR PROTESTER WHEN I GET
HOME. I'LL WRITE MORE TOMORROW
AS IT'S GETTING DARK. WERE NORTH OF AN KEE.