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0455: Brigadier General Chuck Yeager
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January 24th, 1968 Letter from Don Yeager to Chuck & Glennis

Don Yeager

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24 JAN

DEAR MOM + DAD

WELL WE'VE MOVED FROM AN KHE
BACK TO BONG SON. I'VE GOT MIXED
EMOTIONS ABOUT IT - THE BAD PART IS
THE N.V.A. + V.C. HAVE HAD A WHOLE
MONTH TO BRING STUFF INTO THE AREA
+ BUILD UP THEIR STRENGTH, WHICH IS
WHAT THEY'VE DONE. THE GOOD PART IS
THAT I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE LAND
HERE, + IT'S NOT QUITE AS ROUGH AS
AN KHE. I ALSO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE COOKS HERE. WHATEVER HAPPENS,
I'LL PLAY IT COOL. SOMETHING
CRUMMY HAS HAPPENED. WE USED
TO BE ABLE TO SPEND OUR LAST
30 DAYS IN THE REAR IN ORDER
TO CLEAR UP OUR VARIOUS AILEMENTS,
+ TAKE ON SOME SEMBLANCE OF
THE CIVILIZED PERSON AGAIN. NOT
NOW. WE STAY IN THE BOONIES
UNTIL > DAYS PRIOR TO DERO.

THE REASON IS OUR BATTALION ISN'T UP TO FIELD STRENGTH. THAT'S LIFE. I JUST REMEMBERED WHO LT. WRIGHT IS - I WENT THRU A.I.T. + JUMP SCHOOL WITH HIM, THEN HE WENT THRU O.C.S. + THE INTO SPECIAL FORCES, WHICH IS WHERE HE IS NOW AT GREEN BERET SCHOOL. THE ARMY HAS A PLAN FOR VETS - IF YOU HAVE 180 DAYS OR LESS IN THE ARMY LEFT AS OF YOUR DEROS, YOU CAN ETS. THE ARMY. I'LL HAVE ABOUT 154 OR SO WHEN I DEROS, SO I'LL EXTEND ABOUT 1 WEEK TO MAKE SURE, + THEN I'LL BE A CIVILIAN AGAIN. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, VETS ALSO GET A FULL 36 MONTHS WORTH OF GI BILL FOR SCHOOL, EVEN IF THEY DO ETS 5 MONTHS EARLY. DON'T WORRY THOUGH, I'LL MAKE SURE BEFORE I SIGN ANYTHING. I DON'T GUESS I'LL MAKE SGT. FOR ANOTHER COUPLE MONTHS NOW - WE JUST GOT

2 MORE E-5's IN OUR PLATOON. WHAT
PISSES ME OFF IS THAT THEY'RE "INSTANT
N.C.O.'S" WHO HAVE JUST FINISHED
TRAINING THEMSELVES. I KNOW A LOT
MORE ABOUT FIGHTING CHARLIE, BUT
WE CAN ONLY HAVE SO MANY N.C.O.'S,
SOOOO - ABOUT MY RTR. IT'S
FOR THE END OF FEB., AS YOU KNOW, I
THINK YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME - I WANT
TO GO TO CALIF, NOT YOU + MARY COME
TO SEE ME IN HAWAII. MARY WILL BE
IN SCHOOL AT THAT TIME, + I'D ALSO LIKE
TO SEE A LOT OF FRIENDS AT UOR
WHO WILL GRADUATE BEFORE I GET
HOME. WHY DON'T YOU + DAD COME ON
OUT TO CAL? YOU COULD GO TO J.C.'S,
OR DEL'S, OR ANYTHING, + I'LL BE
THERE 5 DAYS. I'VE GOT IT ALL PLANNED
OUT FOR HOW I'M GOING TO GET HOME
ALSO. ~~IT~~ ~~IT~~ ~~IT~~ IT'LL BE CHEAPEST THAT
WAY ALSO. WELL, I'M FINE, + ALL MY
COLDS, JUNGLE ROT, ETC. IS GONE. LOVE, ~~DA~~