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7-31-1968

## **July 31st, 1968 Letter from Don Yeager to Yeager Family**

Don Yeager

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JULY 31

DEAR MOM + DAD + ALL

TODAY IS THE FIRST REAL CHANCE TO WRITE I'VE HAD IN A FEW DAYS. WE'RE AT THE FIRE SUPPORT BASE NOW - WE CAME IN 3 NIGHTS AGO AFTER HUMPING FOR 13 HOURS STRAIGHT - THROUGH RIVERS + IN THE RAIN, UP + DOWN MOUNTAINS + THEN UP A GIANT HILL THROUGH 15' ELEPHANT GRASS INTO THE F.S.B. I WAS COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED - I THINK OUR CO HAD A BET WITH THE COL. THAT WE COULD DO IT. BRIGHT + EARLY THE NEXT MORN, WE MADE AN "EAGLE FLIGHT" INTO A VILLAGE WEST OF BONG SON. IT'S A COMBAT ASSAULT, OR HELIBORN ASSAULT, + I TOOK SOME REAL GOOD PICTURES. WE TROMPED BACK + FORTH THROUGH THE HOCHES LOOKING FOR LARGE AMOUNTS

OF RICE, DUMBS, SHELLS, & MILITARY AGE  
MALES. WE FOUND NOTHING, & I RACKED  
OUT IN ONE HOUR FOR ABOUT AN  
HOUR. WE MOVED OUT THROUGH THE VILLAGE  
AGAIN AROUND 1:30, & MEY ANOTHER  
GUY WERE SITTING ON A WELL WISHING  
WE HAD SOME WATER WHEN A COUPLE  
SNIPERS STARTED SHOOTING. I DROVE  
DOWN BEHIND A HOUSE & STARTED  
SHOOTING, BUT I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING  
CAUSE THE BRUSH WAS SO THICK - YOU  
JUST SHOOT AT MOVEMENT & SOUND. IT  
WAS A LOT OF FUN, & NOBODY WAS HURT  
VERY BAD. WE BURNED DOWN THE  
PLACE THE SHOTS WERE COMING FROM,  
& THEN SWEEP THROUGH THE WHOLE  
AREA BUT DIDN'T FIND A THING EXCEPT A  
COUPLE OF EMPTY CARTRIDGE MAGAZINES. THE  
GUYS WENT WILD AND PRACTICALLY BURNED  
UP THE WHOLE VILLAGE - THE C.O. WAS  
REALLY MAD. I THOUGHT THE EXCESS  
BURNING WAS TOO BAD & UNNECESSARY.

mom - PUT IN A COUPLE OF WASHING MACHINES  
IN YOUR LETTERS - KEEPS MY FACE CLEAN  
DAD - I THINK I ALREADY ASKED, BUT SEND  
ME 4 ROLLS OF FILM FOR THE PEN EE.  
THANKS.

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→ A COUPLE GUYS WERE REALLY MEAN TO  
THE OLD PEOPLE & KIDS. I'LL SEND IN  
THE ROLL OF FILM ALONG WITH THIS  
LETTER, & YOU CAN LOOK AT THE SLIDES, IT  
COVERS THE TIME FROM WHEN DAD LEFT  
TILL NOW. WE HAVE PERIMETER GUARDS  
HERE & AT NIGHT THE GUYS THROW  
GRENADES AT US - I SET OUT A WHOLE  
BUNCH OF TRIP FLARES LAST NIGHT, &  
I THINK I BLEW SOMETHING UP - WHEN  
IT SET OFF THE FLARE, I PLAYED  
MICKY WANTLE & STARTED FRAGING  
THE AREA. WE HAVE A LOT OF FUN  
AROUND THIS PLACE. THERE'S A RUMOR,  
FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL, THAT OUR BATT. WILL  
MAKE A COMBAT JUMP AT AN KHE  
ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF AUG. IF WE  
DO, YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS,  
I'M SITTING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF  
THE JUNGLE PULLING SECURITY FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, WHO IS VISITING THIS PLACE TODAY. WHAT A DRAG, & THE MOSQUITOS ARE VERY HUNGRY & I LEFT MY BUG JUICE WITH MY GEAR. OH WELL, THE FORTUNES OF WAR, & ALL THAT ROT. I GOT THE RAYBOYS WITH YOUR LETTER THE NIGHT I GOT HERE. THANKS ALOT, FROM ME, & THE OTHER GUYS I HAVE TO FIGHT OFF. I SENT MARY SOME INSTAMATIC 8+W FILM I TOOK OVER HERE, & I ASKED HER TO SEND YOU A COUPLE PICS, SO MAYBE SHE WILL. IF MY LETTER SEEMS A LITTLE STRANGE, IT'S BECAUSE I WAS SICK LAST NIGHT & DOC GAVE ME A COUPLE OF LITTLE PILLS, & I'M PRETTY HIGH. WELL, TAKE IT EASY - I GOT YOUR GLOVES & STUFF DAD, & I THINK THE AKAI WILL BE JUST GREAT. I'M FINE, & THERE'S NOTHING REALLY BAD HAPPENING, SO DON'T WORRY. VIVA LA GUERRE!

MI MIKE, & OTHERS

LOVE, Don