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July 25th Letter from Don Yeager to Yeager Family

Don Yeager

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JULY 25

DEAR MOM + DAD

WELL, IT'S RE-SUPPLY DAY AGAIN. I'M SITTING ON THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN UNDER MY PANCHO TRYING TO KEEP DRY - IT'S RAINED EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST 8, + THE LAST TWO IT'S JUST BEEN A CONSTANT DRIZZLE. STILL NO CONTACT WITH THE GOOKS, BUT THE LAST FEW NIGHTS WE SEE A LOT OF FLASHLIGHTS ON THE RIDGES AROUND US, INDICATING THEY'RE MOVING SUPPLYS. THE FIRST NIGHT WE TRIED TO CALL IN ARTILLERY, BUT HIGHER UP SAID THEY WERE MARKER FLARES! SURE, + THEY TURN OUT WHENEVER ANY AIRCRAFT FLY OVER! THIS IS SURE A STUPID WAR. I'VE GOT IT FIGURED OUT THAT WE'RE IN THIS FOR THE MONEY WE'LL GET IF THIS GOVT. IS FAVORABLE TO US. THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARE FABULOUS. THIS VALLEY WE JUST LEFT

HAS A STREAM, & I'M POSITIVE IT HAS
A LOT OF GOLD IN IT. WHAT A DUMB
THING FOR ALL THESE GUYS TO
DIE FOR. OH WELL, I GUESS A GOOD
WAR REALLY BOLSTERS THE ECONOMY.
THE JUNGLE WE'RE IN IS REALLY A
BEAUTY, BUT I CAN'T HANDLE SOME
OF THE WILDLIFE. I'M ALWAYS PULLING
OFF LEECHES, I CAUGHT AN EARTHWORM
OVER 4 FEET LONG - I TOOK A PICTURE
TO PROVE IT, & THE OTHER MORNING I
WOKE UP & IT WAS JUST GETTING LIGHT.
I OPENED ONE I TO CHECK OUT THE
WORLD & I PERCEIVED MOVEMENT?"
FROM MY NOSE - I WAS SPRING LOADED!
I FLEW UP, STILL WRAPPED IN MY PANTO
LINER - I WAS A GIANT CENTIPEDE,
ABOUT 10" LONG & LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
I DIDN'T GIVE HIM ANY. IN ADDITION TO
THESE, THEY HAVE THE USUAL WASPS,
BEES, SCORPIONS, SPIDERS, AND OTHER
DELIGHTS. WHAT A BUMMER.

I GOT THE MAGAZINES LAST RE-SUPPLY,
BUT ALL I HAD TIME TO DO WAS GLANCE
THROUGH THEM. I CAN'T THUMP 'EM
CAUSE THEY WEIGH TOO MUCH. I SENT
EM BACK ON THE LAST CHOPPER, + THE
GUY SAID THEY COULD USE THEM AT
THE BASE CAMP. JUST SEND THE
MONTHLY PLAYBOY - I CAN CARRY IT.

WE DO RIDE IN CHOPPERS A LOT,
BUT ~~TO~~ JUST TO GET TO A DIFFERENT
AREA, OR TO OR FROM THE BASE
CAMP, OR TO MAKE COMBAT ASSAULTS
ON THE GOOKS. OUT OF A MONTH, WE
SPEND ABOUT A WEEK AT THE BASE
CAMP WHERE DAD VISITED ME, MAYBE
A WEEK, OR LESS, AT THE FIRE SUPPORT
BASE WHERE THE CANNONS ARE, +
THE REST OF THE TIME IN THE
FIELD, WHERE I AM NOW. I HAVEN'T
HAD A BATH, SHAVED, GOT CLEAN

CLOTHES, OR BRUSHED MY TEETH IN
A WEEK, SO THAT'LL GIVE YOU AN
IDEA OF WHAT ITS LIKE. WE MOVE
OUT IN THE AM, & HUMP ALL
OVER THE PLACE ALL DAY TILL
5 OR 6, THEN WE GET ON A
HILL, SET UP A PERIMETER,
EAT OUR C RATIONS, & TRY TO
FIND A ~~FLAT~~ FLAT PLACE TO SLEEP,
~~IS~~ WHICH IS PRACTICLY IMPOSSIBLE.
IT COMES OUT TO ABOUT AN
HOUR & HALF OF GUARD PER
MAN PER NIGHT, WHICH ISN'T BAD.
I GET ABOUT 6 OR 7 HOURS SLEEP,
DONT WORRY ABOUT MEDICAL AID. WE
HAVE EXCELLENT MEDICS, & IF YOUR
HURT, YOU GO OUT ON A CHOPPER TO
THE FIELD HOSP. OR ON IN TO A BIG
HOSP. AT QUIN HON. TAKE IT EASY,
WE MIGHT GET INTO THE F.S. BASE IN A
COUPLE DAYS, SO I CAN WRITE MORE.

LOVE, Dan