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October 3rd Letter from Don Yeager to Yeager Family

Don Yeager

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3 OCT

DEAR MOM + DAD

SORRY ABOUT NOT WRITING FOR
AWHILE. EVER SINCE THE 22 OF
SEPT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO COME
IN OUT OF THE FIELD, BUT THEY'D
EXTEND US FOR A "FEW MORE
DAY" EACH TIME - WE CAME IN
THE 1 OF OCT. I TOLD YOU ABOUT
GOING SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN -
WELL THAT EVENING WE HAD
TO MAKE A COMBAT ASSAULT TO
THE OTHER END OF THE VALLEY TO
HELP ALPHA CO. - THEY LOST 19
MEN. WE MADE A REALLY BAD
NITE HUMP UP THE SIDE OF A
MOUNTAIN - VINES + THORN TREES
ALL THE WAY, + IT WAS SO DARK
YOU COULDN'T SEE THE MAN IN FRONT
OF YOU. WHEN WE GOT TO THE

TOP, I JUST COLLAPSED +
WENT TO SLEEP. THE NEXT DAY
WE WERE RE-SUPPLIED, THEN WE
WENT DOWN INTO THE LOWLANDS
AGAIN. ONE NITE IT WAS RAINING
& I WAS ASLEEP - AROUND MIDNITE
WHAM! WE GOT MORTARED. IT
WAS SCARY, I COULD HEAR THE
SHRAPNEL WHIZZING OVER ME, + I
DIDN'T GET UP TO RUN TO THE HOLE
UNTIL IT STOPPED. FORTUNELY, I
THINK DUE TO THE RAIN, THE ROUNDS
FELL JUST SHORT OF THE PERIMETER,
& NOBODY WAS HURT. WE DIDN'T
GET MORTARED ANYMORE - I THINK
THE GOOKS RAN OUT OF AMMO. WE
DID GET IN A LOT OF FIREFIGHTS,
BUT NOBODY WAS K.I.A. RIGHT
NOW I CAN BARELY WALK - I
HAVE ABOUT 10-15 BOILS FROM

ABOUT MID-THIGH TO JUST ABOVE
THE KNEE. I DON'T KNOW HOW I
GOT THEM, BUT IF THEY'RE NOT BETTER
BY THE TIME WE GO BACK OUT, I'LL
GET A PROFILE ON MY KNEE + STAY
BACK FOR A FEW DAYS. I GOT THE
PLAYBOY, ~~EDULLION~~ + TOWELETTES ALL
IN A-1 CONDITION. THANK YOU LOTS.
I'VE STILL GOT SOME SHOTS LEFT ON
MY ROLL OF FILM, SO I'LL TAKE
SOME PICTURES OF BONG SON + SHOW
HOW THE PEOPLE ARE. I SHOULD GET
IT MAILED IN A FEW DAYS. IN MY
ADDRESS IT'S BGD. FOR BRIGADE,
YOU'VE GOT IT RIGHT. I GOT THE
REGISTRATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT
YESTERDAY. I'M MAILING IT BACK TODAY.
I'M USING MARY'S ADDRESS AS MINE.
I'LL GET THE INSURANCE CANCELLATION
COPY SOON + SEND ^{IT} TO YOU.

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT YOU READ IN THE PAPERS. WE JUST HAVE SMALL SKIRMISHES HERE, NO MAJOR BATTLES, + THE PAPERS BLOW IT ALL UP. WE MADE AN AMBITIOUS ASSAULT ON THE BEACH ONE - YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS GUADALCANAL OR IWO JIMA AGAIN TO READ ABOUT IT, BUT ALL WE DID WAS JUMP OFF THE BOATS + WADE UP ON THE BEACH - LOTS OF FUN. I THINK IT WAS THE FIRST TO BE MADE BY US IN V.N. I HEAT MY WATER BY USING HEAT TABS - BARS OF COMPRESSED TRIOXANE. WELL THAT'S ABOUT IT FROM THIS END - TELL SUSIE STAY BETTER WISE UP - I KNOW. I'M OK EXCEPT FOR MY KNEE. TAKE IT EASY. LOTS OF LOVE, Dan