



3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF, VIETNAM.

31 MAR 69

Parents + Steve -

Had a pretty fair day today for 3d platoon. Sent out two squad patrols. The one I was with saw nothing until we got within 200 meters of our lines. Then in a dry stream bed we found several campfire sites and, up the bank, two new bunkers. Around them was strewn much gear, we had apparently just scared them off. They left 4 full pads, much rice + other combat gear. Inside the pads we found the damndest stuff: civilian clothes



of the gaudiest color combos, pictures of gooks in John Wayne killer poses, pictures of girl friends. Most surprising was a red + blue bikini! The troops go over on finds like this - take off their own clothes + put on the gook stuff, then take pictures of each other. Real clowns.

Battalion is real demoralized with this operation so far - only 4 kills + a few small caches - so they've extended it about a week + relocated it a little, still near Laos. If the big brass don't get



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some glory soon we might be in Laos soon. Almost forgot, claimed my first souvenir today - a Chinese Communist hand grenade + carrying pouch. The company Gunnery disarmed it for me so no sweat. Now to hang it for awhile + sneak it back stateside. There's only one other item of any size I'm trying to get - a rifle called an SKS. They are the gooks' sniper rifle + can be brought back in to the States.

No sign of a Purple Heart yet, don't worry. Send some post-B-ball season clips on Σ HS + UCLA.

Later,
LT. C.

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Free

VIA AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

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