



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

26 APR 69

Parents -

Here we are in Skate City - rehab at Cuu Viet on the Gulf of Tonkin. Have been here 2 days + are scheduled to stay until 2nd. Rite now it's sand + surf, hot meals, no patrols + plenty of beer. The only reminder of the war is the cruiser Newport News a few miles in front of us in the Gulf blasting away into the DMZ. A cold beer really tastes great after 9 weeks of nothing cold. Even had ice cream yesterday.

Weather is great off the sea - dries up all the jungle not nicely. This flop op called Maine Crag ends 1 MAY + after it we move back into the 3d Regiment's old area of operation - Virginia ridge

area. North boundary is DMZ - Mutter's Ridge exactly, East is Cam Lo, West is the Rockpile, an arty base next to Vandegift Combat Base, which is site in middle of S. Vietnam about 8 miles south of DMZ, South boundary is now indefinite. In there, Mutter's Ridge is pretty consistently hot, Cam Lo sometimes, & the rest rarely. Hope I get my action before R+R - afterwards I'll have the short-timers' attitude - protective, etc. I leave the field for R+R on 25 MAY - 29 great days away. Today I have exactly 100 days left on the tour - into the double figures tomorrow - feels odd, I'm getting another



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camera on RTR - meantime, have
ruined many good grunt shots.
There's really very little to sweat
about me - the company is in one
of those several-months-long periods
between actions. Bravo has gone
5 months now without a big
firefite & I'd probably see no more
than one + a couple more sites
of incoming. Just been doing a lot
of walking + waiting. The lifers +
second-tour vets sit around +
bitch about how the war has slowed
down, how much they used to be
allowed to "kick ass + take names"

with no interference from the heavies - high ranking officers who haven't lived in the mud in 10 years. Many are actually ashamed to be connected with the war anymore - they blame all on the politicians + others they have no understanding of.

Have gotten caught up on the news via papers + magazines, I see young Ted K. is finally coming under some direct fire - no more articulate brothers to shield him. Have seen some book reviews + will eventually acquire 3 currently out - any one would make an excellent X-mas



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- in August :
1. Thirteen Days, R.F.K.
 2. The Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson, Eric Goldman.
 3. Grant Takes Command, Bruce Catton.

Did you catch the piece on "The House Adlai Loved" in the Life covering Ike's funeral? I'm going to find his farm on my leave - cruising around the mid-west in my '7-bird I'll rent for the month.

Do not send anymore hard candy.

Later,

LT. C.

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