



Echoes Along the Euphrates

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Greetings Lads,

'Tis once again that I write while on another little adventure to the so-called, "cradle of civilization". This time with Weapons Company, Thundering Third Battalion of the First Marine Regiment, attached to the 13th MEU. This grand Battalion is on its fourth tour to Iraq since that whore Saddam Hussein himself was deposed.

We left Americas Finest City aboard a fine vessel named the Bonhomme Richard. It was named after a great man who stated that, "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.", Benjamin Franklin. And the Capt. of the first Bonnie Dick was none other than the Father of the US Navy himself, John Paul Jones. God Love 'em both.

We made our way straight to the place where America's day begins, the Island of Guam. This is a rather uncivilized isle as I was unable to locate an Irish pub. But don't worry my Friends, lo and behold, I was able to cast my eyes upon a young Irish lass, who must have been a nun of some sect I was not aware of.



She was helping out in some type of church where a few of the lads were consuming a spirit, paying homage, and tithing rather heavily after every other hymn. The habits these young girls don't wear are spectacular. The 3rd Marine Division re-conquered this beautiful island in WW II and as you can see the lovely people of Guam and especially the girls are very GRATEFUL!!!!

After bidding farewell to Guam, we sailed, without sails of course, to the island of Singapore and wouldn't cha know there was an Irish Pub named "Molly Malone's"! The Guinness was fresh and the *usquebaugh* (water of life) was strong and smooth. I had to wear the Rosie O'Grady's shirt in honor of our mutual friend and Friendly Son, Lt.Col Ronald C Stout, USMCR (Ret). I was also inclined to teach them the correct way to sing Rattlin' Bog.

Now we have set sail once again to check on my date palm farm/goat ranch on the Euphrates River. As we say in Iraq: "May the flees of a thousand camels never infest your dishdash", (man dress).

Slàinte Lads

Mark

Ed. Note: For those of you who don't know him, 1st Sgt. Mark O'Loughlin is a member of the FSOSP San Diego Board who is also an active duty Marine. He just left us for his third tour in "the sand box". He will be reporting in as time and duties allow. Keep him in your prayers.