UNITED STATES NAVY

Arrived at 48th Thru PM 1:30 Dec 28th 1944
Reported in at Personnel Office sent to Chief
of Co "C" Platoon 3 & assigned to tent 3 G
With Dean Naylor Crow Agency Montana,
Howard Reed Roswell New Mexico
Warren Price ~~Warren~~ Whitefish Montana.
Hermit Epps Humboldt Nebraska
All good fellows.
Was told to report to Lt. Moore in morning
Met the fellows in the tent & had to have
help to put up cot.
No mattress no pillow borrowed blanket from
Reed
Dec 29 Up at 5:30 AM ate Chow off for Work at 6:45
Met Lt Moore, turned over to Warrant
Officer Powers who everyone contacted had
a good word for. Was given job as a cement
finisher. first pulling screed & floating
the concrete then some hand troweling
finishing that nite very tired & sore.
Back to camp at 4:30 Waited in line
for chow 5:30-6:30 To Bed at 9 PM

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Dec 30 Same Routine but Stiff & Sore in AM

Dec 31 Sunday Very stiff & sore same routine but quit at 12:30 had chow 2 Beers 3-4 & then Mass at 5 PM went to show & then to bed on New Years Eve also waited in line to get cigarettes.

Jan 1 New Years Day Same Routine as any other day in year.

Jan 7th Trip with Don Gleed to Japs Caves.

Jan 8 Same But feeling OK physically now.

Jan to 9th Same

Jan 5th Called in & met Comm. Davis asked if every thing was OK said yes.

Jan 5th Finished with cement finishing & 48th at 8:30 had first air raid alert grabbed steel helmet & ran for sandbag covered fox hole very realistic damn glad there was a fox hole to get in all clear signal at 9:40 bed at 9:15 PM.

Jan 10 Got up & packed to go back to Fifth Stdgs arrived in afternoon kind of sorry to leave 48th Was given good welcome back & assigned to Tent # 4 with 4 others.

Jan 11th
Met Capt Hilterbidle & told him of experiences with 48th In afternoon went to see Gen Larsen with Capt and found him very pleasing & cooperative Very interested in plan for rehabilitation of Natives with modern City. Funds should be made available Natives very loyal.

Jan 12th
Made a Tour of the Island with Lt Hamilton Operations Officer very interesting saw about every thing

Jan 13 Got jeep myself & went to the 4th Battalion to get my first pay of $99.00 including what was left of Cloting allowance met fellow from Silver Lake. That Nite went to 59th Met Bill Caine & some of his friends very surprised to see me.

Jan 14 Went to 7:45 Mass & Met Fr Folliard of Brooklyn at 25th C Bs.
Went around Island.
at 2 o'clock went to 59th & picked up Bill Caine & Crosby & McAndrews & went to Navy Supply Depot to get some beer & they brought Case of it went back to Camp & had sandwiches & beer & spent very pleasant Evening.

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Jan 15th

Got Photographer & went around Island getting pictures Very interesting Met Capt McParish Public Relations Man at Island Command & Prov College Man & base ball player & went with him to Command & met his War Correspondents & Bill McKenna Spent very pleasant evening. Correspondents brought up the trip ~~Jan~~ from Pearl Harbor here Food not fit for a pig & hardly any at that Also They have heard the Liberating Army Forces that Liberated the Philippines were given a Liberation Medal.

Why were not the Forces that Liberated Guam given a medal the First American Possession to be liberated by US Forces & Natives very Loyal.

Jan 16th

Picked up Fr Gearty and then met Fr. Cavallo the only Native Priest on the Island. Very young, understanding Capable, energetic, pious, Feels that American Native Priests should be here & relations between Church & Navy not satisfactory.

had awful time getting Wonnage Sumba
to build Church in Agana
Was refused by Commandant to let Catholics
use Schools for church services & the
teaching of Catechism. Told of helping
Tweed, harbored him 3 days & nites
at his house until he had to move further
back in the Hills for this move the Father
provided the transportation, food and guide.
and found for him friends at the next place
Tweed later very sick bronchitis and he
went to drugstore & purchased medicine
for him & was questioned by Japs. & told
them it was for one of his flock. Also
bought him some Religious books &
he said they were for women to read, fairy tales
so he paid nothing & got his soap & novels
When Tweed returned to Guam he passed
the Padre's Ranch & the Padre standing in
front of ranch but Tweed's Caravan
only stopped for minute and with not
even saying Hello drove on what gratitude
Also told of other Padre who was fearless in
face of Japs. Told of Jap priests 2 touring
Island & telling Natives that USA could not
retake Island that the fleet was defeated
at the Russell Islands, Guam declared ate
& asked them to respect the Jap Govt and be friendly
with them That the Asiatic People want to
be free at & that they would be treated ok by Japs

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Jan 16th

Padre was in Inarahan & imediately wrote letter to Jap priests telling them that he was the boss here & that they had no right to be saying what they were this only thing they could do was preach the way of god and nothing else in time of War and was put on the black list & finally was convicted of helping the enemy & executed The U.S.A. should always remember that the Island is 98% Catholic and act accordingly It seems to me with that percentage the least they could do is to appoint a Catholic in charge of the Chaplains on Guam but that is not so to-day the Island Command the Com For. the Cin Pac chaplains are Protestant.

At 7 PM went back to my old gang in the tent I stayed with a gt of State Side liquor an I never saw any one so pleased as that gang at the sight of the liquor and the taste of it.

They first smelled it then each took a small drink and wished their throat was a mile long & every ~~inch~~ a curve.

Finally told them who I was & why I was there every one very pleased that I came the way I did. Many stories the last few days about who I was, FBI man, Congressional investigator, Senatorial invest. Congress & Senator from Mass & so forth.

Jan 17 Toured Island all Day

Went to 49th in evening met Eddie Deakon Deacon of S. Prov. & agreed to go back Mon Nite the 22, to get Names & addresses of other Rhode Islanders

Jan 18 Left for Tinian & Saipan

Saipan
Jan 14th 1945
Friday

UNITED STATES NAVY

Suggestions at 39th Bn Saipan

That men be given 30 day leave on completion of their duty at Pearl Harbor before going to forward area

When going home in groups further recommended.

All other conditions here the same as in other Battalions Comm & Elec Seal Const. Men

33⅓ figures of Chaplain of homes broken up because plans for being away so long not contemplated this outfit out 24 months 6 Feb 1945

Commanders should be made to give men every chance possible & explain conditions & sympathize with them.

If they knew when to expect to go home that would help.

Recommend Chiefs in forward area be Warrant Officer in Make up of new Battalions

It was not until Adm. Cotter proved that shipping was available that C B's in South Pacific were sent home

Men willing to go back any way at all.

Thur Jan 18th

UNITED STATES NAVY

Left Guam by Air at 10:15 AM Landing in Tinian at 11.00 AM. Reported to the 6th Brigade CBs & Met Capt Halloran formerly of Newport and stayed with him about an hour He painted sort of a very picture about the moral of the boys here and gave them the credit due for their work. & spoke of the fine friendship between the crews of the B 29s & the CBs. Many planes have Battalion insignia on them Every Battalion has plane of own. He also spoke of 18th Batt who have been out 26 mos & how high their morale is since they have gotten part of Assault troops of Marines & doing Constr. Work & told of them ready to go home in groups of 200 when Comm. of group asked that the whole Batt stay until relieved & thought this met approval of men. But later talked with an Officer of 18th & he had opposite view Also heard from other chiefs & enlisted men the men of 18th are very mad about not going home in groups Morale of men very low.

Toured Island with Lt Urlass who married Sullivan girl at Newport. 85 B 29th North Field Largest in World 4 Strips 6,000 ft. 2 other airfields Sugar Cane principle Industry Many Japs still here Natives poor Jap live under very poor Conditions. Native labor only works 1 hr + 10 min rest period. 14 CB Battalions

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Order June 1943 by Nimitz
Emergency leave outside U.S. limits Only in extreme emergency that's mango + only when no other members of family at home to take care of things. + This should be clarified + worthy cases be given consideration. Red Cross should give more information.

Men of over 42 very concerned about getting out.

Men out here too long

Friday Saipan
Jan 19, 1945

UNITED STATES NAVY

At Tinian and up at 5:30 & too chow & then listened too some of the boys & went to NAB to see Fr Glynn of Bridgeport & Hartford. Then lift on 11:15 plane to Saipan landing at 11:30 and reporting to Comm Shepfernan of the 39th Battalion. Was driven around Island viewing work of Sea bees and looked up Sgt McElroy a War Correspondent & former Journal Man with the 612 VMB B25 Marines & recd very good welcome. Arrived back at Bn had 2 beers with the Comm. & then had supper with him and his Exec. the first time I had any doings as far as a drink and eats with officers since I was inducted Went to Show Going my way & then went to bed in Officers Tent. 10:30

Didn't see Halloran before leaving he was in Offic.

UNITED STATES NAVY

Gripes

#1 Men out here entirely too Long

#2 Every one dissatisfied with all officers particularly Com Davis. & Lt Moore Pkg Comm. Powers ok by all men contacted.

Recruiting system should be changed
Men painted beautiful picture
promised leaves & overseas 6 month or year
promised rates at end of boot training etc.

This outfit have had 5 days leave (Boot) since Nov. 11 1942 no liberty or leave while in Hawaii

Ship's Store & Service terrible nothing much in either. No Camels Luckies Ches tuff of other outfits Navy & Army plenty of everything.

Red Cross system of investigation too long maybe these requests should be given priorities in the Mail. None now 5 weeks one request not in yet

Men very homesick but excellent workers
Men average 36 yrs old many good mechanics.
Hardly any men given rerates.

No leaves in this Camp.

What has become of Welfare Fund
No Recreation Here but 1 boxing bag & base ball & two ping pong tables & library

Chaplain not given jeep to ride around in had to fight to get Chapel built before officers club.

Movies old & beats down because of too much use.

This outfit on its way from Hawaii to Guam spent 53 days aboard an army transport. the chow was terrible. Was told on good authority Army & Navy fighting Army said they weren't carrying army men & Navy said it wasn't their ship Consequently the men took it on the chin not enough to eat no exercise lost weight & in poor condition when they arrived.

Worked 12 hours a day on arrival lived in pup tents for 1 month got up in the dark and quit in the dark & had to cook their own sea rations, Built roads buried Jops their stunts & unloaded ships.

Was told of one case where father-in law died mother died & finally wife in hospital having child & finally after 5 months she died Man could not get home from Como Wasis said to take care of his own personal problems had to go to Capt Murphy Exec at Hawaii he immediately issued orders to send man on 30 day leave.

Some manned by merchant Seamen who ate very good because of Union Rules They eat like Capt

UNITED STATES NAVY

Island 25 miles long
ten miles wide

Out of 23,000 Natives there are 22,800 Catholics & now only one Catholic priest who is a native Father Calvo & young to take care of them. He is not given the cooperation that should be given him. There is one Baptist Minister here with a flock of 200 to take care of & he has been made a history teacher in the Schools. The Japanese brought 2 civilian priests here when they invaded the Islands that shows they were sent on an island that is predominantly Catholic. There were 2 native priests here & 12 American priests the latter are prisoners of War & one Native killed. If no priests are allowed here they will go backward. The Chaplains are forbidden to administer to the Native population. They are allowed to attend Mass & thats all.

Recently there was a circular letter sent out by the Military Chaplains in States asking for 500 protestants to join the

regular Navy citing the various advantages that Navy gives. No mention of Catholics or Episcopalians to join. Looks like a freeze. They said Catholics were better disciplined & fall into line more readily. It will be very difficult to pin down anything on the letter but many believe it is the old brush off for the Catholics

Religion & Chaplains in the Navy are not accepted but just are tolerated

For the first 3 months men are required to work seven days a week and no time off for religious services may be instead of starting to work at 7 AM on Sundays they would be allowed to start at 8 AM thus giving one hour for services prior to their work on Sunday

Men especially the Stevedoring Outfits given no time for Mass.

There should be 2 sets of Officers in CBs one of Engineers & one of practical men College Education should be discarded