

Oakland Hospitality House



For Service Men

660 - 13th Street, Oakland, California

February 17, 1944

Dearest Folks,

I have finally arrived!! And it is good to get back. Imagine I came over here from Prises with out my pea coat some thing I havnt done for 4 months. the sky is perfect and the sun is actually hot.

Now that I have a chance I shall tell you about the events of the last week and a half. Friday the 11th we had graduation exercises, I finished 20th in the class and there fore made my rate "I am now at 28 a month man and my official name is Radio Technician 3rd Class or just plain R.T. 3rd I wear my rate on the left sleeve and it looks like this . Friday night the men from the board  of transportation came up to the hotel and arranged all our traveling for our leaves. they said it would be about a week before we left this. then Saturday morning about 11:30 we were all mustered in the Recreation Hall at the hotel and were told that

Mayor's Defense Recreation Committee

we should be ready to ship out with in 1 1/2 hour.
Boy was there a mad scramble of everyone packing
there sea bags and rolling their gear. The big talk
was every one telling what he was going to do
first when he got home. Also what they wanted
their mothers to cook for them for their first meal.
at one thirty we were again mustered out, this time
with our gear, and our orders were read out. First
they read where we each were to be sent. 10 to Boston
(Jud was in that group) 15 to Norfolk Va 15 to New Orleans
12 to Long Beach Calif and 7 of us here to S.F. Everyone
who was glad ~~heard~~ that they were going where they
were sent yelled and cheered. Then the fella who had been
reading the orders said "another thing, all leaves have
been canceled". No reason what so ever just all leaves
had been canceled. I have never seen such a
disappointed group of fellas, and I think I was the
most disappointed one in the whole group. After that
every thing was more quiet and there wasn't much of
anything said by anyone. We were immediately loaded in
busses & trucks and taken to Grand Central Station.
where we were immediately placed aboard a Pullman Car
and told that we could not leave the car. In our
haste none of the fellas had packed any stationery and
we couldn't get off to get any so we spent the time
from 2:15 until 6:30 when we pulled out just
moping around and being generally dissatisfied at the

Oakland Hospitality House

For Service Men

660 = 13th Street, Oakland, California

Coast Guard and everything in general. we were in a really nice car (1st Class to Chicago) so that made things better. we got in Chicago 5:00 Sunday evening and from there I sent you the wire and also mother's valentines. In Chicago we changed cars and from there until we got here we were in another good car. It was one of the brand new Pullman cars which they are using only for troops now but will use for tourist after the war. there are 3 decks of bunks and either one section (3 ~~decks~~ ^{bunks}) or two sections (6 bunks) to a compartment. they are certainly compact each compartment has a sink which folds into the wall. also two of the 3 bunks fold into the wall while the top or third one is left made up all days.

Our trip was quiet uneventful except that there was snow from N.Y.C. clear across to the Sierra Nevada mountains. we came from Chicago to Omaha to Cheyenne Ogden Reno & S.F. the only part of Colorado we touched was Julesburg and we didn't even stop there. we arrived here yesterday night and immediately hit the sack at the Pepsi Cola house. This A.M. we went to C.G. headquarters and waited for 3 hours while they tried to decide what they were going to do with us. they didn't come to any decision so we have to report there in the A.M. again. there is a very good

Mayor's Defense Recreation Committee

Chance to go to Radar Tech. School on Treasure Island but nothing is definite yet. I don't have any address yet and until I do you will have to hold up your maid. I certainly am looking forward to hearing from you again, it seems like a long time since I have heard from home. I went over to Government Island this noon and had dinner. The place hasn't changed any. I saw some of the fellows that were there when I was including my Company Commander.

It is some what like coming home to get back here. We are going to talk fierce tomorrow A.M. to the officers and see if we can't get a leave from here, but as I said nothing is definite yet so until tomorrow I am unassigned.

When you write I will be anxious to hear about Bob, Gene + Robert W. and also about you all at home. I must stop now and go out and try and find a room for tonight. I am going to look up the Shookers this evening say hello to them. I imagine I will stay at the Pepsi Cola house again.

I must close now but am leaving you all in God's Care.

lots of love
 Jim "R.T. 3/4" Ha
 wait until bob sees that