

Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>  
on the Marianas

Dearest Folks,

Greetings to all of you from this part of the Pacific. I hope that this letter finds all of you happy and well. I wonder as I write this if you have or are making plans to move or what the outcome of all it is. I do hope you will have received some thing quite definite by now.

According to reports we are now suppose to be entering the dry season of the year (from now until some time in July) well this afternoon I bet it rained all of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches (well it really rained anyway). But I guess that the dry season shall start soon. The island command is getting prepared for it anyway - as for fire prevention, water and etc.

Some thing which you would be interested in is the fact that our unit here makes our own water. We use a well (dug by the Japanese) and the water is pumped into an evaporator affair which ~~boils~~ changes it to steam and then collects the pure water and drains off the brine and other sediment. It makes about 90 gal. per hour so that is able to handle our water

problem very nicely. We use that water not only for drinking and cooking but also for taking showers. (inside). Also we have a out side shower where we use the well water after it is pumped thru a filter. It is cold (like warm during the mid day) but serves the purpose of washing the sweat off.

Last wednesday the island commander (a two star general) came down and inspected our base. He seemed to think it was alright - anyway he said we had the cleanest base on the island, which means a lot. His visit did us quite a bit of good for the next day we received a motion picture projector (16mm) radio and phonograph and also some records. We already have a recreational radio and phone; but the new ones will come in handy and they already have been put to use. We are now on the "show list" so we receive pictures each day, and some of them arent too bad. But also along with those comes a lot of class "B" film - it is to be expected I guess.

So you see as for recreation we are well taken care of. we brought sporting equipment with us and also some of the special service books. Since we have been here the naval educational officer has brought magazines J H Albertson etc

and more books <sup>III</sup> these Special Service  
editions are really alright as for the reading they  
give. of course there is a lot of western and  
mystery in the library but also there are some  
good books. I have read about four in the  
last month that were good. "The Wheel" "Keys to  
the Kingdom", "How Deane was my Valley".

Friday morning was field day - which  
meant that all hands (who went on watch)  
turned to and cleaned the dose up. The floors  
were all scrubbed, heads leaned, screens brushed to,  
fresh linen for our bunks, and the grounds  
cleaned up in general. This was all in  
preparation for the inspection held Saturday morning.

Chapel this morning was again very  
good. The service was held out side up on the hill  
and there were from 25 to 35 men there. The  
Chaplain has now obtained one of those small field  
organs and they certainly add to the service.  
after chapel I came back and slept for a good two  
hours - until dinner time. Dinner was  
quite good today - ~~had~~ boiled chicken, potatoes, peas,  
chicken stuffing, pineapple juice to drink, cherry pie  
and ice cream.

For the last week the fellows in the hut I  
sleep in have been ~~challenging~~ challenging

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those in the other hut is a soft ball game. This afternoon we had that game. It really did a lot of good as far as morale and also gave us all a good work out. We beat them but it was close. I think we will probably have games quite often now for the rivalry seems to be quite high.

I guess I have just been rambling on ~~and~~ and it is time to quit now, so I must stop and go to bed. You are all in my prayers and thoughts and I hope the day shall come soon when we can be together again.

Lots of love

Jim

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