



*October 1944
Camp Catlin near
Pearl Harbor
(after the Guam
Operation)*

WORLD WAR II JOURNAL
of
DAVID WILSON SCHUMAKER
1943 ~ 1945



*FLEET MARINE FORCE
Bomb Disposal Unit
Shoulder Patch
World War II*

**JOURNAL
OF
DAVID W. SCHUMAKER, USMCR
June 1, 1943 to 8 October 1945**

INTRODUCTION.

For a full understanding and appreciation for what follows I feel it essential that some introduction be presented. At the time it began I was a Second Lieutenant, and had just come thru ten weeks of intensive basic training as an Officer Candidate at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, VA. This was completed on October 17, 1942. Following that I had undergone ten weeks of Basic Officer training, which was completed in early December. After that I had been sent to the Marine Base, Camp LeJeune, NC where I had completed ten weeks of Combat Engineer training. During the latter I was introduced to high explosives and was fascinated by the versatility and power they contained. The Instructor informed us during this phase that the Marine Corps was looking for volunteers to take a course in Bomb Disposal.

Having already reconciled myself to the fact that my odds of surviving the war were nil, I volunteered. This action was further advanced by the feeling that I was not capable of leading men in combat, a carryover from the training system of "tear down and rebuild" where they had not been successful in rebuilding my confidence.

After a short tour in Norfolk with a work detail assigned to warehouse some engineer stock, I was ordered to the U. S. Navy Bomb Disposal School, at American University in northwest Washington. I was in the 24th class which included Navy and Marines, officers and enlisted. We were subjected to ten weeks of concentrated study, and hands-on lab work. Upon graduation we had to be able to identify, on sight, every piece of ordnance then known to be manufactured and used by the Germans, Japanese, and United States for both Army and Navy. And be able to surmise from condition/position whether any one item could be deactivated safely, or had to be blown up in situ. We had to be able to sketch from memory the internal workings of all the fuses and know how they operated. Upon completion of this course those designated for this work had to graduate with a grade of 4.0.

Upon graduation I, along with most of the other Marines, was ordered to the Transient Center in San Diego, CA, from there to be shipped overseas as transportation and demands arose.

It was at this point that the journal was started, and kept until I arrived back at Honolulu, HA on my way home from that war.

There were strong regulations against keeping a journal or diary for fear it would fall into enemy hands. As a consequence I was very careful not to include any sensitive information. In order for the reading of it to make sense to the casual reader 50 odd years later I have made notes in italics, in hopes of filling in some of the missing data.



May 1943 - On his 1931 Harley Davidson on the bridge over the James River at Bremono, VA



*October 1942
Outside Barracks A,
Quantico, VA*



Fall of 1942 - On a field problem, Quantico, VA



January 1943 - At Engineer School, Camp Le Jeune, NC

1 June 1943.

Took final examination in B.D.S. Finished about 1600. Had farewell date with Mary Love at party at G.H.Q. Of E.F.J.C.'s

(Mary Love Lewis I had met upon my being commissioned a Second Lieutenant back in October. G.H.Q stands for General Headquarters, and what the E.F.J.C's stands for escapes me. We did have several parties at the Roosevelt Hotel on 16th Street where we would rent a suite for that purpose, and this was one of those parties.)

2 June 1943.

Spent this day getting squared away on pay accounts. and getting a raking over the coals by T. L. Boardman. Stopped in to see Capt. Kauffmann, USMCR. Another big night at G.H.Q. of E.F.J.C.'s. Held for the enlisted men of the class (XXIV)

(T. L. Boardman was the Navy commander of the U. S. Navy Bomb Disposal School. He had served some time in England during the London blitz and had an appreciation for the need of such personnel, and convinced the U.S. Navy and later the Marine Corps to let him set up the school. What he chewed me out about, I no longer know.)

3 June 1943

Was detached, got squared away. Agreed to meet Bob (*Robert C. Coffey*) in Chicago Tues at 1230; Tls and Rog (*Robert Tilson and Roger Moorehead*) at Hotel Grant in Diego June 15. Shoved off at 1800 after having dinner with Roland at Schneider's. Arrived Portsmouth 2400 by motorcycle. No trouble.

(This was a 1932 Harley Davidson Motorcycle owned by Frank and I and which I had used while in D.C. At that time Lacy worked in the Norfolk Navy Yard and I was making my rounds saying goodby to family and friends)

4 June 1943

Got up about 0830. Visited with Lacy for a while. Stopped by Quartermaster at Norfolk Navy Yard and also Lambert's Point. Saw Capt. Thomas, cpl. Pickworth, and pvt. Habes. Took some pictures back at Lacy's. Robert (Lenny) Jones, S1/c and wife were there.

5 June 1943

Reveille at 0800. Had bareakfast with Lacy and shoved off. Stopped by Lee Hall and got Frank. Saw Ruby and Bill (*sisters Ruby and Mildred*) in Rd. Got home about 1700. Knocked around town. Taps at 2200.

(Brother Frank was working for the C&O as a clerk at Lee Hall.

6 June 1943

Reveille at 0600. Rode with Roy to Buckingham. Spent day with Halcy. Bad day. Graduation exercises at B.C.H.S. Home & taps at 2300.

(Roy Hurt was brother-in-law to Halcy Peters. Halcy had been a steady girlfriend for some time, but I was trying to break up with her. She was about ten years older than I and was a clinging

vine type.)

7 June 1943

Reveille at 0530. Said goodbye to folks and caught 0630 bus to Charlottesville. No. 4 to Washington. Arr. Wash. 1430. Got bag and checked out Union Station. Lv. 2100 via B. & O.

8 June 1943

Pretty tough night on train. Arr. Chicago 1200. Nearly missed Bob. Spent afternoon Hotel Sherman. Arr. Milwaukee 2230; Wauwatosa 2400.

(My first time on a train for any distance. Made a mistake and got off at East Chicago. Saw my mistake too late to get back on train. Took a cab to the main station, but arrived a good while after the train did so missed Bob Coffey. Made several trips back and forth between that station and that of the Milwaukee Road--the one to his home, and finally made contact when the next train came in from Washington.)

9 June 1943

Reveille at 0915 and walked around grounds. Met the family and Mr. Coffey took us into town to get tickets. Pullman on "Chief" for 6/11/43 \$103.30, tax exempt. Took Beatrice Jones to party at Hotel Stratford. Also at Coffeys' later

10 June 1943

Reveille at 0900.. Got Bob's bags packed and off. Spent an enjoyable afternoon and evening at Coffeys. Took some pictures. Party later.

11 June 1943

Reveille at 0615. Goodbyes and boarded train at 0745. Arr. Chicago 0905. Transferred Baggage. got a snack. Boarded "Chief" 1145. lv. 1235. Smoked last cigarette at 1130--Bob and I are quitting. Taps at 2400. Stopped off in Kansas City MO for a while.

12 June 1943

Reveille at 0700. Set my watch back an hour. Read and watched the scenery of New Mexico flit past. Mailed Mary Love a letter and sent her a pin bought from a native. Last stop Winslow tonight and to bed. Got some good pictures of pueblo huts.

13 June 1943

Reveille at 0645. Set my watch back an hour. Woke up to see the desert of California flitting past my window. Arizona we passed thru in the night. Made LA at 1315 and caught the San Diegan at 1515. Got my first glimpse of the Pacific. It didn't look so peaceful. Arrived in Diego at 1815 and got a room 8th floor of New Plaza Hotel. Ate a p.p. dinner at some coffee shop on E. St. A Hell of a town. Too crowded for words to express.

14 June 1943

Got up this morning and looked the town over. Had breakfast at Grant. Caught bus to C.E.

(*Camp Elliot*) and reported in. Assigned to 22nd Replacement, and went back to S.D. to spend night. Wrote letters.

15 June 1943

Moved out to Camp Elliot today-- bag and baggage. Sacked out most of the day. Fritz (*Fred strowbridge*) reported in about 2000. No sign of Roge (*Roger Morehead*) yet.

16 June 1943

Went to QM today and bought watch, shoes, and some clothes. Roge reported in this afternoon. Still no work to do. (*QM= Quartermaster*)

17 June 1943

Drew carbine and remainder of 782 gear today. Had my trunk painted. (*As of this writing, Sept. 2000, the trunk with original painting is in the attic of the shop at Scottsville.*)

18 June 1943

Nothing doing all day. Fritz and Roge are shipping out ahead of us. Drew travel money (\$210.44).

19 June 1943

Went in to Diego today and had some pictures made. Saw a show tonight. "Five graves to Cairo" Got word today that we would go out soon. (*Had several 8"x10" sepia toned portraits made and sent to Dad, and Sister Ruby, and Mary Love*)

20 June 1943

Packed today and wrote letters. Went into Diego and saw "Happy Go Lucky" and "The Moon is down".

21 June 1943

Got our orders this a.m. Roge and Fritz went aboard at 1300. Drew equipment and packed.

22 June 1943

Finished packing. Got luggage down to dock. Fritz and Roge came back for tonight and we went into Diego and drank at the "Golden Lion".

23 June 1943

To the docks at 0830. Went aboard at 1030. We sailed at 1400. Nice ship. Smooth sailing so far. (*We were embarked in the USS Wharton. It had been a luxury liner, but for wartime use they had stripped all of the panelling and woodwork and anything combustible. We were billeted six officers to a room just off the weather deck. She was a fast ship--about 15 knots--and as a result was sailing without an escort. We sailed a zig zag course until dark and then headed straight for New Caledonia! This was my first experience aboard ship and every thing was new. What was*

very impressive was "darken ship". At night there were no sign of a light visible any where on deck, and since this was before the days of radar I wondered how they navigated. By the stars alone I presume. During the passage there were movies in the ward room, and boxing matches on the deck aft during the afternoon, at what they called "Smokers". There was much seasickness among officers and men the first few days out due to the ground swells)

24 June 1943

Woke this morning and went topside. Misty and everything wet. Turned out to be a nice day. Bot, Thor & Charles got sick along with several others. Went to see "Local Yokel".

25 June 1943

Beautiful morning. Was on deck to see sun rise. Got a pretty good sunburn on my arms. Lost \$5 in poker. Saw "The Fleet's In". Went topside for a while tonight. It's getting warmer.

26 June 1943

More and more water!! Watches back one hour today. Slight rain. close cloudy. Looks like rough weather ahead. Most of us are tiring of this life at sea.

27 June 1943

Attended Church services at 0930 and sunned on top deck afterward. Still partially cloudy. Smooth sailing however. We saw "Stronger Than Desire" at the movies. It was pretty good. Finished reading "Swift Flows the River".

(This was my first church service at sea, and by a Navy Chaplain. Don't remember what the sermon was all about but this was the first time I had heard and sung the Navy Hymn, and as we sang it we could look out the port and see the roiling sea as we bobbed up and down on the waves--I will always remember that occasion.)

28 June 1943

Nothing much new. Same old monotony. Played poker. Won about \$7. Getting warm. Read "Brewster's Millions".

29 June 1943

Started reading "The Sea Wolf". Weather getting much warmer. Played poker tonight. Won \$3. Pretty hot tonight. Doubled the watch today.

30 June 1943

Same old monotony. Only getting worse. Saw Hopalong Cassidy in "Renegade Trail". Tried to sleep on deck. Rain ran us in.

1 July 1943

Started reading "East of Sun, West of the Moon". No good. Saw "Lydia" w/ Merle Oberon

2 July 1943

Crossed equator last night. Ship ran around in circles this morning getting compass straight. Played a lot of poker today. Came out \$4 ahead.

(Understand when south of the equator ships navigate by the Southern Cross, while north of it they use the North Star)

3 July 1943

Rain this morning. Somebody has stolen my fountainpen. Finished reading book of short stories by O'Henry. Saw Melvin Douglas and Loretta Young in "He Stayed for Breakfast" . No more movies!!

4 July 1943

Dawned bright and clear. Read some in Morley's "The Haunted Bookshop". Not too colorful a 4th of July. Free cigarettes tonight from the Chaplain. Bought a sheaffer lifetime pen today. Sighted a ship at dusk. Was probably friendly. No chase was given.

5 July 1943

Same old monotony of the sea. Played cards and read. Sea is getting rough tonight. It's getting cooler!

6 July 1943

Rough and cold this morning. Growing concern over submarines. Everyone's talking about them Read Rickenbacker's story and finished reading "The Haunted Bookshop" by Morley.

7 July 1943

THERE WASN'T ANY!! Skipped it--crossed the International date Line.

8 July 1943

Beautiful cool day. Played cards and read as usual wrote to Mary Love. Moon makes us a good target tonight. Got dark at 1630. We set our watches back for the sixth time today. Everyone is getting sub. conscious, 'cause we aren't far from port now.

9 July 1943

Still no sign of land. Can't be far though. Everyone is getting in fair spirits. Pretty good weather today. Wrote Frank and Dad.

10 July 1943

No change. Picked up an escort this morning. Getting packed today.

11 July 1943

We picked up a destroyer this morning at 0930. We saw land for the first time in 17 days.

Dropped anchor at 1345. Took us three to 4 hrs. to get our luggage out of the hold. Got ashore about 2030 and got to bed in St. Louis at 2200.

(This was Noumea, New Caledonia, a French possession (?) prior to the war. We had to un load

via lighter to the small dock. Rode on the back of a 6x6 cargo truck to St. Louis, which was the transient camp and about 15 miles from Noumea. At the time the Headquarters for the Fleet Marine Force Pacific was quartered in Noumea. The British had a very elaborate Officers' quarters, and there was in view as we landed a large pink house a block or so from the docks where sailors were lined up for at least a block. We were informed that this was the local whore house. At St. Louis we were billeted in pyramidal tents on wooden floors with 4 officers to a tent.)

12 July 1943

Looked around the post. Got some letters mailed. Went over to see Codispoti in the 2nd Raiders and also saw Baugher and Eastment. Got tight on beer.

13 July 1943

Got up this morning with a hell of a headache. We went up in the hills this afternoon and fired our carbines. I sprained my right ankle pretty badly. Played poker with the boys tonight for a while.

14 July 1943

Layed around all day. Nothing doing. Saw "The Man I married".

15 July 1943

Still no action. Hiked up the road a couple of miles this afternoon. Saw "Idaho".

16 July 1943

Went into Noumea today with Gildo and Bob. Not much of a town. Got first letters from home since I left there. Saw "The Mark of Zorro" with Tyrone Power.

17 July 1943

Was OOD. Was made mail Censor and had to read letters all morning. Wrote Dad this afternoon.

OOD= Officer of the Day. As censor, had to be an officer, we had to read and determine whether any security info was included in the Marines' letters home. A very boring and difficult task since the handwriting was quite poor and grammar atrocious. A few laughs here and there though.

18 July 1943

Got our laundry back from the natives today. Say "Moontide" tonite.

19 July 1943

Nothing much doing. Thor and I went into town. Got some cards and mail for Coffey and him. Saw "This above All".

20 July 1943

Still nothing doing. Wrote some letters. Went with White around on pay call this evening. Saw "Women of Retirement".

21 July 1943

Read, wrote letters. Menuez, Gingher, and Dodds came in yesterday. Started reading "Arrowsmith". Didn't go to the movies. Wrote to Mary Love.

22 July 1943

Nothing doing.

23 July 1943

Fritz and Roge came in today. We were assigned working details today.

24 July 1943

Roge & Fritz got orders to shove off. Left but returned. Was OOD.

25 July 1943

Climbed the mountains with Whitey. Got back broken down! The 22nd Replacement came in tonite. Stubbs was with them.

26 July 1943

Nothing much doing. Had to get mess straightened out. Got my greens from Home. Got a letter from Mary Love. Answered it tonight.

27 July 1943

Got another letter from Mary Love and one from Halcy. Went in to see Schueler.

28 July 1943

Nothing much doing. Censored mail and sacked out all day.

29 July 1943

Still nothing much going on. Enjoyed shooting the bull with Chaplain (Lt.Cdr.) C. L. Castle. Party tonight in Pac. Club with the boys of 13th ROC.

Quite a party with a bunch of British Officers. Learned some of their drinking songs such as : "I don't want to be a Soldier" and "Drewery Barmaid". Very bawdy!

30 July 1943

Fritz and Roge packed to go and orders were cancelled. Bob and I got orders to move into Corps Headquarters. Moved to Camp Goettge. Nice set-up here. Got a letter from Mary Love (12 July) and answered it tonight.

31 July 1943

Went out to St. Louis to get Chewning (*remote controlled wrench*). Submitted requisition for tools, and request for ComSoPac Photo Pass. Went in swimming this afternoon. Got a letter from Mary Love (8July) answered it tonight.

(For our type of work Capt. Kauffmann and crew had made up two chests of special items for defusing and/or deactivating duds and other ordnance. Some of these tools were highly specialized. The wrench mentioned above could be attached to a fuse on a bomb and operated from fifty or more yards away using ropes.. One of the chests contained "expendable supplies" among which was five gallons of grain alcohol, and some acetone, and other special solvents. Needless to say after word got around that the alcohol was there we never got a complete set of expendable supplies. It was just as well for we never had a need for it other than that for which it was stolen-to bolster one's fortitude! Another special item furnished was an Eastman 35mm camera for photographing any new ordnance so we could forward the info to Washington to be distributed to all concerned. It was with this camera, and an official photo pass that I was able to take all the photos I did of any and every thing that interested me. With the addition of a dayload tank and chemicals I could at least get the negatives on the spot. And since 35mm movie film was readily available in 100 foot reels there was plenty of film, even if I did have to cut and load it under a blanket!)

1 August 1943

Got up and went to Church this morning. Went in bathing this p.m. Saw "Lucky Jordan".
(We were now at Camp Goettge, which is the camp for Headquarters troops for the Headquarters Fleet Marine Force located in Noumea. At this campsite we were located within 100 yards of an excellent beach and could swim morning and evening if we so desired. It was here that I gathered a lot of cat's eye shells that I later made into bracelets and cuff links)

2 August 1943

Nothing doing much. Got some tools from Brosseau. Saw "Cabin in the Sky" tonite.

3 August 1943

Cut some film today. Played cribbage with Butch. Saw "Crystal Ball" tonite.

4 August 1943

Took my laundry and T.P.A. in to town today. Plans to build a tent tomorrow. Went swimming. Fixed my tool box up. Wrote home & Halcy. Mailed \$1.00 to Camp Lejeune Officers' Mess. *What T.P.A. stands for, I haven't a clue. We had to build the framework for our pyramidal tent at this location, and that is what was planned. Brosseau and Fisher had been there a while and already built theirs. They had been in the BD class ahead of us. The \$1.00 to Camp LeJeune was a bill that had followed me since I left there in January! Seems I failed to check out when I left and this was dues for that month! They threatened disciplinary action if I didn't pay it right away!*

5 August 1943

Started building tent structure with Brosseau and Fisher. Got the floor and part of the studding

finished. Went to movie.

6 August 1943

Got framework finished today and put on screen and siding. Saw "Cairo" at movies tonite.

7 August 1943

Got the roof on. Steps up and moved into our new tent this afternoon. Dance tonight but not too much doing. Secured at 2115.

8 August 1943

Went out to St. Louis this morning with Bob to see Fritz and Roge. They left just before we got there, for the 4th Defense Bn. Saw Whitey, Thor & Gingham off to the Docks--17th Engineers. Clyde came over to camp with us and we went swimming and to see "The Meanest Man in the World".

9 August 1943

Went in to see the paymaster. Drew \$150. Played a little black Jack. Was made a censor today and had to censor letters. Did a little work on the tent.

Several laughable and some not-so-laughable items. One Marine had apparently been congratulated on a bouncing baby born right after he left home and asked how he did it. His reply was: "get down in the prone position, line up your sights and squeeze them off". Another marine later on was going around camp bragging that he had just got word his wife had given birth to a pretty little girl. One of the fellows said "hey Joe you've been gone for over a year" to which he replied, "that's nothing, it was two years between my brother and I".

10 August 1943

Worked on the tent. Started Kuzmicki's tent. Air Raid scare tonite. Picture "Stand By for Action".

11 August 1943

Continued work on tent. Cut out bunks. Screened Kuz's tent. Went over to MOB 7 to see "Flying Tigers". Air Raid "RED" tonite. Spent about an hour in slit trench with mosquitoes.

12 August 1943

Made bunks. Clothes rack. Went in after laundry this afternoon. Saw "Harrigan's Kid" tonite. Letter from home (July 27).

13 August 1943

Finished Kuz's tent. Went over to Raiders (3rd) camp for chow and lecture by Curry, Knoll, and Sarbacher.

14 August 1943

Made shelving and fixed lights in the tent. Wrote to Mary Love and Frank tonight while the others went to the movies. Bought a "Flame Grain Kaywoodie" pipe today.

15 August 1943

Received a letter from Mary Love this morning (26 July). Answered it. Big party tonight by Sarbacher for his anniversary. Saw "Casablanca" for the second time.

16 August 1943

Not much doing. Went over to MOB 7 to see "Air Force".

17 August 1943

Made a screen door for the tent. Went over to look at the Army Bomb Disposal set-up. Saw "For me and My Gal" tonite.

18 August 1943

Received a letter from Mary Love (28 July) and Dad (Aug. 1). Answered Mary Love's tonite. Had a little party today.

19 August 1943

Not much doing. Censored mail. Went in to see Colonel Card about Coffey and me working together. Started painting my gear. Played Blackjack. Won \$12.50.

(During all of this time and to last until late 1944, the Marine Corps had trained Bomb Disposal personnel and sent them to the field, but had not formulated any policy or instructions as to how they were to be employed. We had Engineer Military Occupational specialty designations to start with and that was later changed to Ordnance. The Engineers wanted to use us as ordinary combat engineers along with the other engineers. The Ordnance people didn't know what to do with us. So we were sort of in limbo and made our own rules as well as we could based on information we had brought from the school. We should have been kept at Divison, or Landing Force headquarters level, but instead were assigned to the letter companies of the engineer battalion where it was not easy to reach us when our services were needed.)

20 August 1943

Sorted and organized our tools. Packed the Po.P. X. Got a letter from M.L. One from Leroy and one from Halcy. Read "Hounds of God" tonite.

21 August 1943

Heard to day of my promotion to 1st. Lt. Censored mail this morning. Wrote to Leroy, Dad and Halcy. Went out to dinner with Wayne and Butch.

On receiving word of promotion I was directed to go for the physical examination to determine if I was fit. Here I ran into the problem of color blindness again.

To go back. When I enlisted I passed the physical with flying colors but had a difficult time reading the color chart. The Dr. noted that I read them with obvious difficulty, but it was

not disqualifying. So I was enlisted for Officer training. Later at Quantico when I had completed 8 weeks of the basic training I was called in to the Company Commander's office and told the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery found me unqualified to be commissioned by reason of color blindness. But they ordered me to take additional tests. I had to walk the two miles to the hospital in the heat of the day to take the tests. They gave me the Eldridge Green Lamp test, which I passed with no difficulty, but still could not see the numbers on the charts of dots except by moving the page in several directions and with the light coming from different directions. I went back to the unit and completed training and was commissioned, and thought nothing more about it.

On this occasion they showed me the book and I couldn't read it. They couldn't figure how I had ever gotten commissioned in the first place. Seems I had left the basic health record behind at Quantico, and had no record of what they had decided. Anyway I related the history to that point and the Dr. passed me for promotion. I had to go thru this same routine again when I made Captain. After that I was back at Quantico and picked up the original health record and had no more trouble after that.

22 August 1943

Wrote to Mary Love this morning. Got a V-mail letter from Mildred. Went on a steak fry this afternoon and had a wonderful time. Went to see "Mysterious Doctor" tonite.

23 August 1943

Finished letter to Mary Love. Went in after laundry.

24 August 1943

Got a letter from Mary Love (9 Aug). Answered it at noon. Went to see "Aerial Gunner tonight. Several shorts.

25 August 1943

Had Form-Y for promotion. Checked with Paymaster. Drew \$50. Big party tonite in G.I. Ward's tent.

(It was traditional that whenever anyone was promoted there had to be a "wetting down" party. And they usually turned into quite a wet time! The promoted had to foot the bill, so as a rule several got together to throw the party.)

26 August 1943

Orders today. Received 2 letters from Mary Love (Aug 7, 10) Also letter from Frank (Aug 8). Wrote Mary Love tonite after B.J. game.

27 August 1943

Not much doing. Crated my trunk and packed chests. Played 5 & 10 tonite. lost \$5.00.

28 August 1943

Checked my trunk in at Base Depot this a.m. Went over to Tank Camp this afternoon. Picked up my health record. Threw a drunk with the boys tonite.

29 August 1943

Got some pictures of the picnic back. Wrote Mary Love tonite and sent her 4 of them. Kuz and Davis moved out today.

30 August 1943

Rain all day. Went in to Ordnance Office and read Taylor's Report. Censored mail this afternoon. got letters from Dad (Aug 16) Halcy (Aug 16) Mary Love (Aug 14). Wrote tonite to Dad, Frank, Halcy, and Mary Love.

1 September 1943

Took some pictures from hill back of Goettge. Got orders to move to St. Louis. Took everything and arrived there about 2130.

2 September 1943

Came in to Noumea to Hq. to get TPA and Laundry. Said farewell to Curry, Sarbacher, Wayne and Shelley. Loaded and started for docks at 1100. Boarded ship USS Tryon at 1400. Good chow. Fisher, Coffey, Brosseau, Reger and Capt. Harding and I in Ward "D".

This was what was referred to as a Hospital Evacuation ship. It was fairly new and was designed and equipped to take casualties from the beach, give them first aid and when loaded high tail it back to a base hospital, or a hospital ship in some sheltered port. In addition to being well equipped, she was FAST.

3 September 1943

Got underway at 0730. Destroyer Escort broke down at 1000. and we had to return to port. Anchored off Il Nu . Played Hearts tonite.

In those waters, even with a fast ship, an escort was considered a necessity because of the prevalence of Jap subs.

4 September 1943

Got under way again at 0800. Led by a Can. Smooth sailing. Slept most of the day. Played Hearts tonite. Met W.O. Jack Keenan.

5 September 1943

Began to see islands this morning. Pulled into harbor at Buttons about 1400. Spent most of the day topside watching the scenery. Saw "The Duck" in operation for the first time. Keenan is going aboard the Columbia (56).

The Duck was actually the DUKW, an Army amphibian. It was a 6x6 cargo truck with flotation body and propeller. Could operate on land or water. Many of them were used up to the present day for tourist tours of various cities in the U.S. Within the past year there were 12 to 15 people

drowned in a lake in the midwest when one of these sank for some unknown reason.

6 September 1943

Washed this morning. Pulled out at 1600. Wrote Mary Love tonite. Its raining out tonite. Kinda rough.

7 September 1943

Smooth sailing. Slept on deck tonite.

8 September 1943

Islands all around this a. m. Dropped anchor about 1100. Disembarked at 1330. Hit Lunga Beach at 1400. Bade Brosseau and Fisher farewell as they left for the 10th Defense Bn. Sat around on the beach waiting for trans. Reported in to the 3rd Div, from there to 19th Regt. to 1st Bn. Colonel Montague commanding regt. Cold shower at 1930!!

Lunga beach was the disembarkation point on Guadalcanal. Henderson Field was close by. As it turned out the 10th Defense Bn. mentioned above was located adjacent to the Engineer bn. so we were not far from Brosseau and Fisher while there. It was a long--10-15 mile ride over a dirty dusty road to the camp. By the time we got assigned to a tent and bunk it was well after dark and I will never forget the cold shower I took that night. It seemed as if it had just been pumped out of a refrigerator! Bob Coffey and I wound up being a team here and thru Bougainville.

9 September 1943

Reported in to Co. "A"; Bob to Co. "B". Spent day getting squared away. Went over to see Bill Rogers tonite. Saw "South of Pago Pago. Got a letter from "Bill".

10 September 1943

Contacted 12th Marines and found they have some 105 mm shells to dispose of. Having a hell of a time getting TNT and caps. Tried to contact 9th Marines. No success.

11 September 1943

Went out to 2nd Bn., 12th Mar area. They have quite a number of shells (105 mm) to be disposed of. Found a 2# A/P bomb unarmed. Deactivated it. Tried to get a jeep to go and see Merriman. No luck. Moved to "A" Co.

12 September 1943

Took cap and booster out of A/P. Photographed it. Saw "There goes my Heart" tonite. Merriman came down today. Letter from June.

13 September 1943

Got the 105 stuff and turned it in to H.P.(*Hell's Point--a dump run by the Army Island Command near Henderson field.*) Ammo Dump. Burned my hand today. Saw "Those were the Days" Had movie watch tonite.

14 September 1943

Investigated grenade area this morning. Got call from Wilcox about 75mm stuff. Wrote Mary Love this evening.

15 September 1943

Turned in 81 rounds of 75mm ammo. to H.P. Dump. Blew 14 grenades and 1 105 shell this afternoon.

This artillery stuff was damaged from weather and mishandling. But was safe to handle but not to shoot. Often we had to take the less safe alternative of disposal for lack of explosives and support in blowing the stuff in situ.

16 September 1943

Got word to move up to Corps job today. Made two trips by dump truck. Camped near beach. *At this time the First Marine Amphibious Corps headquarters was scheduled to displace from Noumea to Guadalcanal. They had sent a forward echelon to lay out the camp and the place selected was strewn with US and Jap ordnance. This was the first extensive and serious work we were called upon to do. As it turned out all of the BD officers in the division were assigned to the job.*

17 September 1943

Went on recon up the island. 4 dumps to clear. Noon chow at Corps camp. Coffey sacked out.

18 September 1943

Recon again. Deactivated no. of land mines. Took some pictures. Moved out 2 ea. 325# dud bombs. Played hearts tonite. Air raid at 3 tonite.

19 September 1943

Washed clothes this afternoon. Wrote to Frank, Mary Love and Dad.

Worked on an ashtray this p.m. Got letters from Boddorf (5 Aug), Halcy (Aug.22); two from Dad (Aug 8 & 30), Quantico Bank.(July 18) and Mary Love, (Aug. 23).

20 September 1943

Went up to Seabee camp and to 1- 100 # bomb. Tank Co. came in. Got my fingers full of Shrapnell from a detonator. Three planes shot down this a. m.

21 September 1943

First MAC started coming in. Saw Wayne and talked with him for a while.

22 September 1943

PA-21 came in and I went aboard to get some cigarettes. Got some cold cokes too! Bob and Reger got some beer. Saw Sarbacher and Curry. Also most of the other fellows of the First MAC.

23 September 1943

Got a letter from "Bill" (Aug.30){*nickname for sister Mildred.*} Halcy (aug.30), two from Mary Love (Aug 25,Sept 4) and Deane (Aug 4) Also one from Quantico Bank and a letter from Ruby (Aug 25)

24 September 1943

Don got back from Regiment. Bob and Sgt. Moss got hit by exploding fuze and booster. Went to movie "They all kissed the Bride".

During the previous battle for Guadalcanal there had been several naval battles in the area offshore from this immediate area which would be between Guadalcanal and Tulagi. This was dubbed "Iron Bottom Sound" because so much shipping had been sunk there. Two Japanese troop ships had been so damaged that their skippers beached them in order to save their cargo. They burned anyway. Several of us swam out to and climbed aboard one of them looking for souvenirs. I picked up two chipping hammers which I still have in my tool kit (yr.2000!) They were of no good as hammers because the head had taken all of the temper out.



25 September 1943

Worked I MAC area this morning. Went to Henderson this afternoon.

26 September 1943

Wrote Dad, Ruby and Mary Love. Washed my clothes. Went to a movie at C.B.'s "The Great Gildersleeve".

27 September 1943

Went up the line this morning. Got a truckload of UXP's. Moved to I MAC area this afternoon. Saw "Now Voyager" tonite.

28 September 1943

Wrote Mary Love. Worked on Dump.

29 September 1943

Worked on dump.

30 September 1943

Had an explosion in the water while dumping fuzes over the side. Two men in hospital. I got a small piece of shrapnell thru the lobe of my right hear. Not bad.
In order to dispose of all the stuff we were collecting we arranged for a boat (LCM) from the



*Fall 1943- unexploded ordnance
collected on proposed site for IMAC
Hdq., Guadal Canal.
In box are Jap knee mortar shells and
hand grenades.*



*Fall 1943-Guadal Canal.
Disposing of
unexploded ordnance by
dumping at sea.*

beachmaster to take it out to sea. Here the water dropped off to many fathoms just off shore, so we didn't have to go far out. We could drive a truck load of stuff onto the boat, go out a short ways and drop the stuff overboard. In this instance two Marines hoisted a box of what turned out to be something unstable so that when the box hit the water it exploded and detonated several pieces of other stuff. Shrapnel punctured lung of one Marine, the other Marine lost an eye. In addition a number of small holes were blasted into the side of the boat. This small piercing of the lobe of my right ear would prove to be the only injury I received throughout the war! and since I didn't go to the aid station, I missed getting the Purple Heart for it!

1 October 1943

Worked on dump. Went up to see Col. Keating about dump. Sgt. Jack came up. Don went back.

2 October 1943

During week got letter from Halcy (aug.30, Sept 13), Ruby (aug.26, Sept. 18), Lewis (aug.18), Mary Love (sept. 15) Also from Lacy (sept.14). Worked on dump.

In "worked on dump" we were receiving stuff from the outriders, and sorting it between safe to handle and not safe, and in some instances defusing so it would be safe to handle. The dump was in such a location that we could not blow anything up there.

3 October 1943

Washed clothes. Worked on dump. Wrote Halcy (so long!), Lewis, and Dad.

4 October 1943

Worked on dump this a. m. Moved bck to Co. "A" this afternoon.

5 October 1943

Went on landing operation today. Pretty rugged.

I believe this was the first instance where I had to climb down and then up a cargo net from the ship into the landing craft. And with a pack and rifle at sling arms it is quite a trying experience, especially in rough water. It is not so bad amidship, but near the bow where the net hangs free it has a tendency to bend back under you and you are descending almost on your back.

6 October 1943

Went on Supply & Evacuation problem today into the jungle. Had my first taste of "K" rations. *"K" rations were the most compact. It consisted of a rectangular box about 1 1/2" Tx3"Wx8"L. and contained a chocolate bar, cigarettes, Toilet paper, and I don't remember what else. Not a whole lot of food, but concentrated.*

7 October 1943

Went on hike to maneuver area (about 5 miles out). Dug and covered fox hole. Tired out tonite.

8 October 1943

Coffey and I went up to I MAC to get beer, rations and PX supplies. Letter from C.W.

(I MAC=First Marine Amphibious Corps; C.W.=youngest brother who had joined the Corps in early 1943)

9 October 1943

Went on an excursion around island to cape Esperance by boat. Got back at 2130. Stopped off at I MAC for a chat with the boys. Fired my carbine for first time.

10 October 1943

Had pictures taken of Regiment and Bn. officers. Squared away my gear. Cleaned my rifle. Wrote Dad, Mary Love, Ruby, Rebie, Lacy, June and Boddorf.

11 October 1943

Painted my chests and rebuilt one box. Squared away some of my gear.

12 October 1943

Went up to I MAC and got \$220 worth of PX supplies. Also 2 cases of beer. Got a flashlight. *I MAC was located about 20 miles over extremely dusty roads from our camp.*

13 October 1943

Stencilled chests and packed today. Junior and Ed came down. Went up to I MAC. Got 5 qt. of whisky. Saw Bill Mills (Capt). Got a letter from Mary Love.

14 October 1943

Squared away pack and chests most of the day. News: 1,000 planes attacked Rabaul. Wake bombed Oct. 5. Saw "All thru the Nite".

15 October 1943

Got out a big laundry this morning. Wrote to Frank. Moved under shelter halves. Shad, Mac, Chuck & Maxie threw a hell of a drunk tonite.

We didn't know it at the time, but we were preparing for the landing at Bougainville. These were the first steps toward that goal.

16 October 1943

Struck tent. Got sea bag & clothing roll ready for storage. Wrote to Mary Love. Saw "Orchestra Wives". Drew \$70.00.

17 October 1943

Slept thru breakfast. Crapped out most of morning. Wrote Dad and sent him a M.O. for \$100.

18 October 1943

Procured a "jungle" hammock. Got pack finally squared away. Sent gear to beach.

This was an innovation. It consisted of a regular hammock with loops under to hang a rifle;

attached all around was a mosquito net with zipper openings, and this was topped with a rubberized water-proof fabric. When suspended it protected from the rain and from mosquitoes.

19 October 1943

Went aboard the USS Crescent City. Sailed tonite. Got a letter from Mary Love.

This was an attack personnel ship (APA) and was loaded with a combat Battalion, and all of its gear and equipment. The equipment had been loaded in the holds so that what was needed first was loaded last. Getting the ships "combat loaded" was quite a science and personnel were specially trained for this duty

20 October 1943

Smooth sailing today. Slept most of the day. Got dope on operation.

This was the first information we had received as to what our mission was to be. We were to establish a beach head on Bougainville so that the Seabees could built a fighter strip from which to bomb Rabaul and New Guinea preparatory to future landings there in carrying forth the plan of island hopping all the way to Japan proper.

21 October 1943

Arrived at Esperito Santos this morning about 1000. Checked boat loads. Had meetings, etc.

But before that we had to make a "dry run". Practice landing, followed by a critique, followed by changes in schedules and loads.

22 October 1943

Practiced debarkation this a.m. Wonderful chow aboard. Played a little poker.

Despite what we knew was ahead, we Marines always looked forward to getting aboard ship. Here we could enjoy clean sheets, and good chow prepared from frozen supplies instead of from a can!.And served by stewards on linen tablecloths!

23 October 1943

Hit the beach. Got back aboard about 1500.

This was the first time I had ever witnessed the evolution of boats being lowered, troops climbing over the ship-side to them via cargo nets; the boats rendezvousing and heading for the beach in waves. It was an awesome sight. This was later to be more awesome when we witnessed the bombardment of the beach by naval guns, and dive bombers prior to the boats hitting the beach.

24 October 1943

Conferences & meetings. Went to church this a.m. Am enjoying the excellent chow and good quarters.

25 October 1943

Hit the beach at 0455. Set up C.P. {command post} and got unloaded in record time. Night spent ashore in jungle hammock.

26 October 1943

Completed reloading. Shoved off to _____ for repairs. Beautiful harbor & scenery.

I am not sure, but think this was New Georgia; and I am not sure what kind of repairs were required.

27 October 1943

Took aboard supplies. Lay in harbor all day. Saw "Secret of Dr. Kildare".

28 October 1943

Got under way at 1500. Washed this a.m.

29, 30, 31 October 1943

{No entries}

1 November 1943

Hit Bougainville. Hectic Day!! Moved up the beach.

This was the most awesome sight I had ever witnessed. When dawn broke the troops had already been rousted out of their sacks and fed STEAK AND EGGS, AND ICE CREAM! {Last meal!!} and were standing by their boat stations waiting for the boats to come alongside. Navy warships were blasting away at installations on the beach and our fighter planes were dive bombing. Then the bombardment lifted and the first wave of boats, already in position, headed for the beach. At predetermined intervals the succeeding waves followed. I don't remember just which wave I wound up in, but when our boat hit the beach it broached, and I noticed that others had done the same. The surf turned out to be six to eight feet, and forecast had been for two to three. The Crescent City lost 31 out of 33 boats on the first trip to the beach! And that portended a disaster, but the beach on the right of ours was somewhat sheltered by a small island, and they did better. After hitting the beach and heading inland--no opposition there--within 50 feet there was swamp and water. Just barely missed being strafed by a ZERO which was shot down by one of our fighters a little way down the beach. Dug in and waited for remainder of unit to get ashore and assemble. There was a small island, Puruata, to the right of the landing beaches and a 70mm gun had not been knocked out with the bombardment. It created havoc on a number of boats before it was silenced. Meanwhile the ships were disgorging their cargos and the APA American Legion took a bomb from a stray Jap aircraft. It went down the open hold to the double bottom, but fortunately was a dud!

All opposition here was soon eliminated, since most of the enemy positions were beyond the swamps. I spent the night in a fox hole over and in which I had erected the jungle hammock. During the night my body heat had evaporated the moisture from the ground and it condensed on the underside of the waterproof top. Whenever I moved I got a shower of water! Things were quiet thru this night.

2 November 1943

Moved again. To Coconut grove.

To the right of the beach I landed on was a large coconut grove, {Torokino Point} and on the

second day I moved in that direction and was able to make a more comfortable fox hole--sort of a dugout, At this point Bob Coffey caught up with me and we started checking the various command posts drumming up business.

3 November 1943

Fixed up dugout. Deactivated 2 ea 100# bombs. Gathered up some fuzes and grenades

The Navy SeaBees had landed on D+1 and were getting set up in the coconut grove. It was here that the airstrip would be built. And it was their bulldozers that located the bombs. They immediately set up a kitchen and we managed to filch a few hot meals off of them. It was here one morning that I heard someone from across the clearing yell: "Hey Schumaker"! It turned out to be Kenneth Beale from Scottsville. He was my dry cleaner when I was in Engrg school, and he was there as a SeaBee! Small world!! No.1)

4 November 1943

Moving dumps inland. All pretty quiet. Saw Fisher & Jenkins

5 November 1943

Saw Brosseau. Located our chests of tools. Still quiet. Saw Kenny Beale Slept in hammock tonite.

6 November 1943

Twenty first Marines came in. Also Acorns. Still pretty quiet. Good news from other areas.

7 November 1943

Enemy made landing on left flank. Heavy fighting there.

I believe it was about this time that I first witnessed the hauling of dead Marines into the locally established cemetery. This was before the days of "body bags" and the bodies were stacked like cordwood and in all stages of manglement. The Graves Registration people had the task of identifying, wrapping them in their blankets and burying them. A most gruesome task, and most difficult if their dogtags had been lost.

8 November 1943

Got 13 letters today. 4 from Mary Love. Used artillery against enemy. Had one hell of an aerial battle today. Army landed. Our outfit moved to Yellow 1 (beach).

This would be the pattern thru most of the campaigns. The Marines, especially trained for amphibious operations would establish a beach head and later the Army would come in and take over. And the Marines would return to their bases and prepare for another landing!

9 November 1943

Saw Col. White and Col. Montague. Got permission to stay on point. Dried out locker box. Air raid tonite.

As I recall Col. White was the Division Personnel Officer. He was responsible for making assignments. Col. Montague was the Commnanding Officer of the 19th Marines (Engineers) and Coffey and I were attached to his regiment, but for this operation we were with A company and it

was in support of the 9th Marines(Infantry). Colonel Montague was one of the carryovers from peacetime where everything was spit and polish. He carried some of this into combat and when he ordered the Reserve Captains to measure and cut logs for corduroy roads to an exactly measured length, and a few other asinine things he was relieved of command. He had been pretty sure he would be made a General here and as evidence they found he had a set of General's tags under the seat of his jeep! Don't know what finally became of him.

10 November 1943

Cleared out a case of knee mortar and hand grenades this morning for Col. Kirk. Galley moved away this a.m. In last two days about 600 Japs have been killed with artillery fire and bombing and strafing.

There was rain almost every day, and the hot tropic air and wet clothes brought on an onslaught of fungus--athletes' foot, and jock itch. There were some extensive swamps all across the front with dry land to the front on the right flank only. It was here that I first saw "Athey Trailers". These were trailers with tracks similar to those on the bull dozers, and bull dozers were used to pull them with supplies to the frontline dumps. Beyond the swamps the terrain rose up into a ridge along most of the front and it was here that most of the frontline battles took place. As always the Marines gave names to these places. the only one I remember for here was Hellzapoppin Ridge, where there was an especially fierce battle that raged for several days. It was across the swamp area that the above mentioned corduroy road was built, and even that was not enough to support the traffic. It kept sinking. In one instance a TD-9 International bull dozer got stuck off the trail and before it could be pulled out it had sunk to where only the exhaust stack was visible!)

11 November 1943

Air raids galore. Picked up some Jap stuff.

The Seabees had made good progress on the fighter strip on Torokina point, and this was the main target. Not many of the Jap planes survived our antiaircraft fire.

12 November 1943

Doped off.

13 November 1943

LST's came in. Second Bn., 21st Marines also. Went down to I MAC and spent the nite. Chatted with the Padre of Bougainville

It was an indication that the beachhead was fairly secure when the Navy risked landing LST's! They could bring in rolling stock more readily than offloading it from an AP or AK. The Padre of Bougainville was the missionary who had been on the Island before the Japs came and acted as a lookout and reported to the Marines via two-way radio before we landed.

14 November 1943

Came back to cape about noon. No sleep tonite!!

We were still required to be on hand to take care of any duds or other stray ordnance that might

interfere with the airstrip construction. Must have been a number of air raids that nite.

15 November 1943

Got orders to move back to Bn. Went up to front on 4-mile search for land mines. No luck. No sleep again tonite.

This was the first operation for the Third Division where they had Bomb Disposal personnel aboard. And so far there were no orders or instructions extant as to how we were to be employed. The Engineer Command expected us to be used as combat engineers and go out and probe for mines. This was further reenforced by the fact that we had been given Engineer Military Occupational Specialty(MOS) numbers. We opposed that and tried to explain what our mission and special training was intended for, all to no avail.

6 November 1943

Went to see Col. Card about this mess of the 19th. No help. Moved to 1st. Bn.

Col. Card was the Division Ordnance Officer, and had some knowledge of our mission, but was not a very strong person and didn't want to stir up any controversy. It was about this time or a short while later that Marine Corps Headquarters came out with directives to change our MOS to Ordnance, and things eased a little.

17 November 1943

LST's came in. No sign of 2 boxes. Got word that 6 boys of "A" co. looted beer and cigarette box. Picked up a couple of tents. Air raids off and on all day. APD sunk last nite--about 200 casualties. Saw Col. White today. No help. Am just about ready to give up.

18 November 1943

Got letters from Ruby, Rebie and Mary Love. M. L.'s father died Oct.31. Wrote her my regrets. Also wrote Frank. Pitched pyramidal tent. Drew new shoes, socks, and dungaree trousers.

19 November 1943

Not much doing. Bombs hit pretty close last night. Hair-raising experiences every night! *Seems we were set up near Div. Hq. in a dry spot near the center of the front and about a thousand yards inland. We were expected to go and pick up ordnance, but was never given transportation on a regular basis. It was catch as catch can, and in many instances it was on "Shank's Mare" that we got there! The Japs were bombarding us with artillery, as well as air raids. We could hear the shells whistle overhead. The word was if you could hear it you didn't need to worry! It was while at this bivouac that a number of us got diarrhea and that added to the other maladies made life most uncomfortable.*

20 November 1943

Had report of two UXB's this a.m. at Div. C.P. Dug up shrapnel of one in road. Found an A-3-A nose fuze. Low order detonation. Other had definitely exploded. Signs of gas in hole, however set off a charge of 12 lbs. in hole of entry. Spent remainder of day in Recon.

21 November 1943

Fooled around all morning. Straightened up tent and gear. Nother pretty heavy raid last nite.

22 November 1943

Spent day in hauling out and dumping defective 75mm ammo for Dog Co., 12th Mar. Got a call to go to front to pick up a 90mm mortar. Nips shelled 155 btry today. Bombs dropped pretty close last night!

Mortar shells were much more hazardous to handle than other ordnance. They used a fuse wherein a pin pierced a detonator. The friction did the work. In a dud the pin might be stuck in the detonator and any sudden movement could cause it to come out and the friction on removal could explode the shell. Most ordnance used an impact type of detonator. The cap or detonator waas stuck a blow. If it was a dud, there wasn't much danger of a later detonation.

23 November 1943

Started out to front in jeep for Capt. Waldrep. Got to 3d Mar and found nothing as usual. Got the jeep buried in 2 ft. of muck. Got it out and to "A" co. Hiked back from Piva Village. A hectic day. Heavy raids last nite. Bombs almost got us. Nips shelled LST's today. Knocked Brosseau and Fisher out. Got a letter from "Bill", June and Dad. Thanksgiving turkey arrived today.

24 November 1943

Wrote letters this a.m. Sent signature cards to the Bank Savings Acct #5615. Bal. 1st. Sept 1943 \$187.39. Turkey was served this afternoon. Good chow. Got word of a new bomb. First plane landed on strip. SBD #165.

25 November 1943

Light raid last night. Condition Black this afternoon. Threw a scare into every one. Was subjected to heavy artillery from 2 Jap guns. Saw new type bomb, C-2-A fuze.

Condition Black--Enemy expected to make a counter-landing--had to prepare to defend our rear! It was a scary feeling to see the artillery all along the beachhead turn and direct their fire seaward! Got a feeling of what the Japs felt when they saw us coming in behind them! Fortunately our Navy intercepted the Jap landing fleet and destroyed it before it got to our area.

26 November 1943

Report of 6 UXB's (unexploded bombs) on strip. False alarm. Letter from Ruby and C.W. Condition Black this p.m.

27 November 1943

Pretty heavy shelling from the hills last nite. Boy, it was a horrible feeling! Wrote C.W., Leroy, and Dad. Got some al. from Jap "Zero" and made a watch band. Also a cribbage board of mahogany from Guadal.

28 November 1943

Wrote Mary Love this a.m. LST's are in. Pretty quiet last night.



*a little blurred but
not to b. Don't worry
about those bandages -
they are to keep the flies
off some jungle sores.*

*December 1943 - On the beach at
Bougainville, Solomons Island*



*1943
2nd Lt. Schumaker at
Camp Goettge, New
Caledonia*

29 November 1943

Slight shelling last nite. Hit a fuel dump and burned . 155 Gun Bn. getting ready to move up.

30 November 1943

Spent the day squaring away my tools. Standing by to move. Paratroopers took quite a walloping yesterday. Quiet last night.

This was one of the most embarrassing operations of the war for the Marines. The Paratroopers had touted themselves as being superior Marines, and since there was no air drop mission for them here they were used to make a flanking landing to the right of our beachhead in order to protect the airfield and to extend the beachhead. They were put ashore and began shooting at shadows, and each other. They used up all of their ammunition in a day, and started calling for reinforcements, which weren't available. The Navy had to bring shipping and evacuate them. It was a real bruhaha. Later they were landed in our rear and moved up to relieve the Ninth Marines who had been on the front lines for more than three weeks. They lasted less than 24 hours when the Ninth Marines had to be moved back into the line!

1 December 1943

Wrote Mary Love. Quite a rain today. Bn. moved up.

Our new location was inland from the swamp, and in the foothills of the mountain chain the front line was established on.

2 December 1943

Bob went with Don to get a dud. I went up to Bn. with truck. More rain today.

It is difficult to imagine the intensity of tropical rainstorms if you haven't experienced them. The thunder storms we call "frog chokers " last for only a few minutes, in the tropics they can continue at that rate for an hour or more!

3 December 1943

Bob went on recon with I MAC Group. I went up to Co. area with trucks. Came back and had to winch trucks thru. Much scuttlebutt.

4 December 1943

Spent a.m. packing to move. LST's are in. Brought in Piper Cubs (4). Germans in defeat in Italy. Meeting of A.B.C. in Cairo this week. Moved most of the gear out. We go tomorrow.

5 December 1943

Truck didn't come down. Chuck and I went up to get one. Too late to move. One more night here. Chow at 71st. C.B.

6 December 1943

Truck came down and we moved up to front to Co. "A" area. Chuck is leaving us. Montague is leaving us. Got fly up and moved in.

7 December 1943

Went forward on Recon. Found nothing. Went down to beach to look for gear. Strip almost complete. Air raid last night.

8 & 9 December 1943

Nothing of importance or interest.

*Along with building the airstrip the Seabees had built an excellent road to the front along the right flank where there was some solid ground. I forget what we named it, but there was a big sign the Marines put up as tribute to the Seabees, which read: **When we reach the Isle of Japan/With our hats at a jaunty tilt./We'll enter the city of Tokyo/On the roads the Seabees built.***

10 December 1943

40 + planes landed on field--fighters, mostly. Some DC-3's

11 December 1943

Mail today. 2 letters from Frank; 1 from Jinny, Margie & Mary Elizabeth. Found some knee mortar shells and flare.

12 December 1943

Took flare in to I MAC. They are moving out the 15th. We go the 21st.

I MAC was the overall headquarters for the operation. They would be moving back to the Guadalcanal Bivouac.but we didn't go on the 21st as is shown later

13 December 1943

Went forward on recon. with Capt. Waldrep. Found land mine and deactivated it.

By this time we had pretty well neutralized the Jap forces to our front, and there was a lot of reconnaissance out front to determine who, and how many were still there.

14 December 1943

Wrote Dad and Mary Love. Sarbacher, Curry and Lawrence were up for a while.

15 December 1943

Went on recon w/ Capt. Wardrep of trails. I MAC pulled out.

16 December 1943

Went with Kuz on a wild goose chase. Went with Fifely up to Hill 1000. Saw Capt Fowler, Major Boehm, Col. Randall, Capt. Fairburn, and Shockley.

17 December 1943

Did some blasting on ditch near E. W. trail. MacArthur announced that 6th Army w/ Marines (1st Div) had hit New Britain yesterday.

18 December 1943

Took land mine in to D-2. Went down to Strip and watched the planes take off. Had chow with Rogers. Got a cot from Kenny. Quite an air raid last night. 5 planes in the lights--not a one hit!

19 December 1943

Went up to Helzapoppin Ridge (taken last night) and deactivated 4 100# bombs. An-M-103 N. Fuzes. and 1 60mm mortar shell. 2 had gone home. 2 unarmed.

20 December 1943

Got Cat. (TD-9) stuck with WPU (Water Purification Unit) attached. Bob took out another ANM103 unarmed. Duplex Red also.

21 December 1943

Ships, LST's came in. Went to Duplex. Got out 155mm dud. Also blew experimental rocket 300 yds in front of MLR (Main Line of Resistance). Duplex White (Dresden with me) Recovered 2 grenades and 2 land mines.

22 December 1943

Went with Capt. Wardrep on Recon. of north Trail. Bob and Don went after rocket. No could find. Got 3 cans beer per man tonite. Drank one. Went to movie at 36th C.B. Don Ameche in "Girl in Trouble".

23 December

Japs shelled central area last nite. Our artillery knocked out a bat. of 4 Jap guns. Bob and Don went after 155mm duds (Duplex Red) Also got 3. Also another 100# w/AN-M-103--armed. Got Cat out of mud hole!

24 December 1943

Christmas Eve on Bougainville!! Started off with a bang. Air raid this morning. Night fighter got 2 planes. About 0630 got quite an earthquake and before 0800 had 2 more, followed by 4 more today and a bigger one tonite!

The landing zone here was about 20 miles from a smoking mountain, which was really a quiescent volcano. It chose this date and time to erupt. And when it did it set off a series of earthquakes. When dawn broke on this morning we could see black clouds of smoke reaching way into the sky from this mountain. It continued to erupt for days and we continued to get varying strength shocks each day for a week or more. When the first quakes arrived we were all sleeping in our hammocks, and when they started to swinging we thought someone was playing tricks on us until we looked out and saw the trucks rocking back and forth.

25 December 1943

CHRISTMAS DAY!! Nothing doing much at all. Couple more earthquakes. Broke out a can of boned chicken and had coffee to go with it. Had 2 cans of beer tonite. Army came in.

26 December 1943

Had Turkey Dinner today. Went down to see Brosseau and Fisher. Japs shelled pretty heavily tonite. Wrote Lacy, Rebie, Ruby, Frank and Edna.

27 December 1943

Went down and got 2 more rolls of film from Brosseau. Went up to Evansville and looked around. Army replaced 9th Marines this morning.

28 December 1943

Went down to see Capt. Simpson. Got some chicken and other stuff.

29 December 1943

Started packing to move out!! Chicken and dumplings for chow tonite!!

30 December 1943

Struck tents and sent gear to beach.

31 December 1943

Went over to see Kenny Beale at Bomber strip. Took him some copper tubing.

1 January 1944

To the beach this a.m. Ceremony at cemetery. Abd. ship at 1700. LST 334. Sailed at 1800. Hot shower, good chow and soft bed once more!!

General quarters tonite, but nothing showed up.

When General Quarters are sounded, all hands aboard ship head for their battle stations. Guns are manned, and damage control teams are put into place. Troops put on their life vests and stay out of the way!

2 January 1944

Had a quiet and comfortable night aboard ship. Had duty as Police Officer assigned me. Smooth trip today.

The primary duty of the Police officer with troops aboard was to inspect troop quarters for cleanliness and order.

3 January 1944

Didn't sleep very well last night--too hot! Went out on deck and watched dawn break. Docked at 0945 at Koli Beach. Was back in camp getting tent squared away by 1200.

Apparently the powers that be had known when we left that we would be returning to this campsite. It was set up in a large cocoon grove, with a wide expanse of open field to the front. Most of the Third Marine division was camped in this area.

4 to 15 January 1944

Spent in squaring away tent. Making a burner from coleman lantern. Gravel for deck, etc.
We were quartered in pyramidal tents (these were about 12'x12') set up on wooden floor with wooden framework. There four of us to a tent, bunked on canvas folding cots. Hanging clothes were hung on the center pole. These were not screened, so to protect from mosquitoes we used mosquito nets supported by T-bars.

15 January 1944

Got film back. Some good pictures.1

16 January 1944

Rain for the past 4 or 5 days. Everything is flooded. Rained all day today.

When it rained, it rained buckets of water, and everything became soggy from the humidity if not from direct rain. We would sit on our cocoanut logs with ponchos and pith helmets on and watch the movies at night as long as the rain wasn't so heavy we couldn't see the screen!

20 January 1944

Was made Bn. Malarial Control Officer

In this capacity I was required to supervise the teams that went around spraying puddles of water, and inspecting to make sure any unnecessary standing water was eliminated. Also had to make sure the unit commanders had an adequate supply of atrabine--the substitute for quinine. It was a court-martial offense if you failed to take your atrabine!

20 to 31 January 1944

Nothing new much. No letters!! Mud up to our knees and still raining.

Mildew, and mustiness everywhere, and in everything. Foot rot and jock itch flourished.

1 February 1944

Got some shells from natives. Made a couple of bracelets. Traded one for 1 qt. Three Feathers!

Got a letter from Mary Love tonite. Oh Happy day! Wrote her

3 February 1944

Still raining. Got 3 teeth filled today at I MAC. New Major took over. Ellison. Got beer from PX tonite.

4 February 1944

Did some soldering on sprayers this morning. Went to QM to get clothes and check on boots.

5 February 1944

Worked on shell necklace. Saw "They all Kissed the Bride" tonite.

6 February 1944

Went hunting today. Fired my carbine about 40 times. Turned out to be Cowser's. Letters from

"Bill" & Rebie. Wrote Mary Love, Dad, Jinny Coffey tonite.

13 February 1944

Received 3 letters from MLL this week. Also one from Dad, Ruby, Frank & Mildred. Wrote Ruby last nite and MLL tonite.

14 February 1944

Started teaching demolitions to Corpsmen today
The reason for this escapes me! I can't conceive of any use Corpsmen (Army: Medics) would have for knowledge of demolitions!

15 February 1944

Taught class. Worked on my gear. wrote Dad tonite.

16-17 February 1944

Taught class in Demolitions. Harry Ball came over.

18 February 1944

Went to Ria Suva to blow up some duds for 1st. Bn. 9th Mar. (2-5" Naval shells.)

19 February 1944

Harry came over this afternoon. We had a little party and went over to I MAC tonite. Played soft ball this afternoon.

20 February 1944

Wrote MLL. Played soft ball. Harry pitched . Saw Ann Miller in--?

21 February 1944

Got letter from MLL and Willie Duncan (33,642,081 76 QM, APO-960)
Wrote Lacy, Dad and Willie tonite.

23 February 1944

Stood OOD. Clifford got in from Noumea.

24 February 1944

Started work on new tent.

25 February 1944

Was transferred to Hq. Co. today. Bought a Zippo lighter (\$2.00).

26 February 1944

Letter from Paul McGuire (Sgt. Hq. Sqd. M.A.S. P.) Moved into new tent today.

27 February 1944

Wrote Paul McGuire, C.W., Dad, Mildred, Leroy & Emily, June, Rebie, Frank, Marjorie, and Mary Love.

29 February 1944

Got a letter from Junie. Wrote Ruby and sent her a MO #7537 for \$50, bought on 28 Feb. 1944. RO# X5275.

1 March 1944

Started gettin my tool chests squared away and repaired.

3 March 1944

Painted tool boxes. Packed box to send home. Harry Ball came over tonite Took some photos of Bob and I.

4 March 1944

Got word that B. D. NCO's had arrived at IMAC. Had a regimental parade. Took some pictures of it. Wrote Dad tonite.

5 March 1944

Ball was over and we went to I MAC for supper. 2 letters from Mary Love. (Feb 21, 29).

6 March 1944

Started to Ammo school. Caught hell about M.C.(*Malaria Control*) Saw "Courtship of Andy Hardy. Wrote MLL.

7 March 1944

Wrote Lacy giving him dope on box I'm sending.

I had picked up a small chest on Bougainville which had Japanese markings on it. I made a cover for it with a piece of tin and under the cover I secreted some negatives. This I shipped home, and the last time I saw it it was in the tin building behind Buddy Ransone's shop.

9 March 1944

Finished Ammo school

10 March 1944

Mailed box to Lacy. Got tools squared away.

12 March 1944

Got intel. bulletin 57 from B.D.S. Wrote Mary Love and Dad. 14th Def. Bn. coming in today.

18 March 1944

Operation called off. Wrote MLL and Dad

It seems to me there had been some rumors that we would be heading for Rabaul. This is what was called off.

19 March 1944

Played 2nd. Bn. officers softball and beat them 13-2

22 March 1944

Been pretty busy with MC {*Malarial Control*} last few days. Wrote Leroy Hurt tonite. Letter from Jinny, and Easter Card from Mildred.

25 March 1944

Had the surprize of my life this evening!! C.W. showed up here about 1800. We shot the breeze until 2100 and I walked him back to camp. He's with 14th Defense Bn. Had a letter from Dad and one from Mildred.

26 March 1944

Played H & S officers this morning. Beat them 9-5 C. W. came over about 1030. We took him to NCO mess to eat--Bob, Harry and I. Played 2nd Bn off this afternoon, beat them 7-5. Sprained my left ankle. Took C.W. and Harry home after the show.



27 March 1944

Got a letter from MLL and Frank. Wrote Dad, MLL, and W.G. Duncan.

29 March 1944

Wrote Paul and Frank. Letter from Paul.

30 March 1944

Wrote Halcy this afternoon--first time since last Oct. C. W. came over and we went to a movie.

31 March 1944

Took inventory of PX this morning. Wrote Dad telling him about \$25 allotment starting with May. Wrote Rebie and the Bank telling them about the change in allotment.

1 April 1944

Had change of CO's. Col. Campbell and Major Davis now.

2 April 1944

Had letters from June and Mary Love. Also a birthday card from Mary Love. Went to MAB 8 to

see Shad. He was evacuated on 30 Mar. Saw 4 pretty Navy nurses! Wrote Mary Love tonite!

4 April 1944

Moved to 4th Base Depot. Surveyed dump.

The Hell's Point Ammo dump, located not to far from Henderson field was bombed and set afire the latter part of December and shells and bombs exploded in all directions. After the fire was put out, or died out there was a large area of damaged ammunition scattered here and there and some that was just slightly damaged. The Army had command of the island and were in charge of allocating space. At this time, the Marine Corps needed additional staging space in preparation for future operations. The only area the Army would give included the ammo dump. The Marine Corps brass had the Bomb Disposal people evaluate the hazards of clearing this area, and the feasibility of making it safe for use of a depot type of operation. Captain Merriman, the senior BDO, along with a couple of others, agreed that we could clear up to a certain line with acceptable risk. We were all moved to that location and organized to do the work.

We were assigned a number of men as working parties, and three or four DUKW'S (This is the 6x6 amphibious truck). The plan was to load the DUKW and proceed overland to the beach. From there several hundred yards out to sea and then toss the ammo overboard. The shore dropped off precipitously only a few hundred yards out. Following entries set for the quantities of ammo disposed of.

5 April 1944

Started work on dump. Coffey, Reger, Merriman and I with 40 men.

6 April 1944

Hauled out 60 tons of ammo in DUKW's today. Brosseau and Fisher came in.

7 April 1944

Piled duds. Went up to Bn. and saw C.W.

8 April 1944

Hauled out 13 loads of ammo (50 tons). Went up to C.B. camp (53rd) to get bomb. Spent night. Saw "The More the Merrier".

9 April 1944

Blew up a 325 # depth charge in situ. Came back to 4th Base to Tetere. Had evening chow there. Saw "Government Girl." Letter from Ruby.



*April 1944 - Disposing of unexploded ordnance at sea from DUKW
(Stuff from Hell's Point ammo dump
fire of Jan. 44)*



Spring 1944 - Brothers Dave and CW on Guadal Canal

10 April 1944

Worked on dump. Hauled out 165 tons of duds. Wrote Mary Love tonite and Dad.

11 April 1944

Hauled out 55 loads of ammo (160tons).

12 April 1944

Hauled out 63 loads of ammo (185tons).

13 April 1944

Hauled out 60 loads of ammo (180tons). Secured job tonite.

With all that movement of damaged ammo we had one minor injury. On a DUKW as one man reached down for a shell his head met another coming up and he got a goose egg on his forehead. We had not disposed of all of the ammo by any means. We had drawn a line showing the extent to which we could go in relative safety. From there on we were faced with damaged hand grenades, and would not assure any work without possibility of one or more casualties. The powers that be took our word for it and put a fence at that point. The rest of the stuff may still be there for all I know!

14 April 1944

Moved back to Bn. Awaiting orders to Brisbane.

In order to keep the Bomb Disposal personnel in the field updated on newly discovered ordnance, the Navy B D School had set up refresher course in Honolulu and Brisbane, Aus. Division Headquarters had been advised that we should be sent to Brisbane for a refresher course.

15 April 1944

Drew \$40 from PM. bought a watch from Zieg. Seem to be getting shaft on trip.

It appeared at first that I would not be included on the group going to the school.

16 April 1944

Got word this morning that orders are being written. Packed. C.W. came up today.

17 April 1944

Stood by to pick up orders at 1300. Got \$100 from Jake; \$25 from Kuz; \$20 from C.W.; \$25 from Duke to get him a watch with. Got orders at 1600. Reported in to 4th Base Depot at 1700. Saw "Inermezzo" tonite.

18 April 1944

Awaited transportation. Read and slept. Played hearts tonite. Leave tomorrow a.m.

19 April 1944

Up at 0400. Left for Henderson at 0440. Boarded plane and took off at 0600 (DC-3). Esperinto

Santos at 1000 for 30 min. Tontuta at 1400. Left for Noumea at 1430, arr. at 1600. Bunked at I MAC. Chow at Pacific Hotel. First today. To bed at 1930.

20 April 1944

Got "greens" from 1st BD. Also tickets for tomorrow a.m. on PBM to Brisbane. Wrote Dad and Ruby.

21 April 1944

Caught PBM at Il Nu. Left 0700 arr. Brisbane 1300. Saw Bill Dees and others. Will get 2 wks. in Sydney. (*For Rest and Recreation!*) Got a room at the Canberra Hotel. Having a hell of a time getting used to this Aussie Money and driving on the left side of the road. Got my first glass of milk in 10 months this morning. Navy Officers Club Tonite.

22 April 1944

Looked around town this morning. Wrote Mary Love.

23 April 1944

Wrote Frank today. Walked about town. Caught a cold last night. Slept most of day.

24 April 1944

Was given 20 min. notice to catch plane for Sydney. Left 1330. Arr. at 1700. Difficulty in getting place to stay. Thru Red Cross we took Nadia Gundry and Lorraine (Tuti) Andrews to dinner at Romanos. Cost of the evening 11 lbs. including 4 lb for taxi. Slept at Bondi Beach.

25 April 1944

Anzac Day here! Got a room at the Oriental Hotel. Very nice. (Bob, George and I) Met Nadia at 1300 and we looked the town over. Ferry ride up the harbour. Show tonite and much petting afterwards. Made date for Thurs. nite.

26 April 1944

We went to Grace Bldg. to get supply of liquor. Also cigarettes at Ships' Service. George rented an Austin today. He and Bob and Fritz went to show tonite. I called Nadia and then went to bed.

27 April 1944

Wrote Dad, Mary Love, C.W. Made reservation at the Roosevelt Club for 6 tonite. Spent a very enjoyable evening with Nadia. To her place at 11:30. Left her at 12:20. P-r-e-t-t-y NICE!!! Date for tomorrow nite.

28 April 1944

Went down and got 3 bot. of wine. Made a tour of the Botanical Gardens taking pictures. Arrangement at Prince's for tonite. Big Party at Prince's. All present but Reger and Merriman. Much fun. Said goodnite on the roof. No is the answer.

29 April 1944

Slept in this morning. Met Nade for lunch. Took ferry to Manly for a little tour. Took some pictures. Saw first sharks. Saw "This Land is Mine" tonite. Long goodnight.

30 April 1944 (Sun)

Slept in this a.m. Met Nade at her apt. at 1200. Had lunch and went to Nat. Park. Wonderful afternoon hiking and rowing on the river. Beautiful scenery and sunset. Got back to town at 1900. Had dinner and said goodnight early. The other boys are leaving in the morning.

1 May 1944

Moved out to 32 Cranbrook Rd. this a.m. Drew liquor ration and got wood. Went to see "The Gentle Sex" tonite. Another long good nite.

2 May 1944

Went in and got beer and cigarettes. Slept most of the day. Had chow here tonite. Very good. Spent quiet evening at "home" with Nade.

3 May 1944

Wrote Dad, Mary Love, and Leroy this a.m. Went to "Stagedoor Canteen" tonite. Made plans for Sunday picnic. I must be careful or we'll fall in love with one another!

4 May 1944

Called Nade today. Got chow coupons. No date tonite. Sat by fire and bot "blotto" and entertained Geo and Bob's dates.

5 May 1944

Went shopping this a. m. Bought steak and Vegetables for Sun. Nade and I went dancing at the Roosevelt Club tonite.

6 May 1944

Spent the afternoon with Nade in her apt. Lot of smooching. Went to see "Hello Frisco, Hello" w/ her.

7 May 1944

Went to National Park with Nade. Cooked steak and chow in a nice secluded spot on the cliffside. Had our boat stolen! Had a glorious time. Spent the evening at her apt. Got word that plane won't leave in a.m.

8 May 1944

Had a hell of a time getting squared away on tran. back to Brisbane. Finally got word and got tickets on PBM for tomorrow a.m. Took Nadia to see "North Star". Told her goodbye tonite-- Nice Girl--well met.

9 May 1944

Called Nade this morning at 10. Left for plane base at 1030. Took off at 1300. Arrived Brisbane at 1630. Hectic night in Ascot Stables tonite. Got word we have to be back by 15 May!!
The word was that our units had been committed and we had to hurry home. This meant the schooling we were to get in a week had to be condensed into a few days.

10 May 1944

Off to school this morning. Long full day of lectures. Turned in film to be developed. Moved to Selwyn tonite--a low-class flop house. Went down to W.O. Club tonite. Much mail today. None from MLL.

11 May 1944

Another long day in school. Final party at Club with boys tonite. Part of them leave in the morning. Got negatives back.

12 May 1944

Another, and final long day of school. Orders tonite. Wrote MLL, Nadia, and Ruby. Leave tomorrow a.m.

13 May 1944

Got up at 0545. Plane took off at 0800. Steak dinner aboard. Arr. Noumea at 1500. Saw Curry and Burton at Pacific Hotel. Spent night in Old Corps Engineers Office again. No blankets! Head and chest cold much worse.

14 May 1944

Got trunks packed and filled out form sending them home. Made plane arrangements for tomorrow morning. Another night at CEO. Hit jackpot (10cent) twice for \$10 each at Pac. Hotel.
I may have noted earlier, but when we were transferred from 1St Mac we left our service uniforms and paraphernalia packed in our trunks and stowed with the Depot there. At this time we were advised to order them shipped home.

15 May 1944

Today I am 25 years old! Up at 0230. Bus to Tontouta and plane took off at 0830. Saw Fritz, Reger, Leon, Butch and Fisher at airport. Plane was grounded at Espirito Santos--Engine trouble. Out to S.C.A.T transient camp for tonite. Must be at field at 0400 tomorrow a.m.

16 May 1944

Up at 0300. Plane failed to take off. Met navigator Bill Dennett. Got off at 1230. Navy pilot Floyd Favreau, "Black Cat" pilot, plane # 38. Arr. Guadalcanal 1700. Chow at 4th B. Depot. Back to camp at 1900. Got word of shakeup in B. D. personnel. Bob's going to 4th Marines. Big party tonite. Drank up all the stuff we brought back from Australia.

17 May 1944

Turned in our orders. Got gear squared away. Received instructions on operation. Saw Col. Cord and read despatches. Have been authorized a 4x4 one ton truck. C.W. Came up tonite.! *At this point we had been assigned to the Division Ordnance Officer, but still billeted with the Engineers. Some limited instructions on the method of our employment were beginning to filter down to the field.*

18 May 1944

Spent day getting photo pass and orders and trying to procure truck. Don came in last nite. Bob picked up his orders. Beer came in tonite. Expendables for BD came in.

"Expendables" for Bomb Disposal included five gallons of acetone, and five gallons of ethyl alcohol. These were used in deactivating certain ordnance, but fortunately we never needed any of the alcohol, because the boxes always came in with the alcohol cans empty or missing! Word had gotten out as to what the "expendables" contained, and the alcohol with a little grapefruit juice made a mighty powerful cocktail!

19 May 1944

Golebiewsky reported in this morning. Got him squared away on tools, etc. Bob shoved off today at 1400. Still trying to trace my orders. Bought up much beer. C.W. Was up tonite. Took him back with 2 cases of beer.

As part of the "shakeup" mentioned above in BD personnel, we were now to operate as a team of an officer and an NCO, whereas heretofore we operated as a team of two officers. Golebiewsky was my Sergeant and he would be with me for the remainder of the war.

20 May 1944

Gave a lecture to the men at 1100. Picked up my photo pass, my orders and pay this afternoon. \$188 (\$126 per diem). Pass # 1090. Also got 100 ft. film. Got blotto tonite.

21 May 1944

Got packed up this a.m. C.W. came up. Got a haircut. Went aboard ship at 1300. USS President Adams. Pretty nice! Shot the bull with Captain (Jake) Waldrep tonite.

22 May 1944

Took more troops aboard this a.m. Got underway at 1400. Had fresh eggs for breakfast!! Was made Police Officer for 1st. Div.

23 May 1944

Made landing at Cape Esperance. Not much doing. Back aboard at 1600. Saw "Now Voyager" tonite.

24 May 1944

Under way at 1000. Dropped anchor at Tetere and started debarking at 1300. Snuck back to camp by 1430. Little party tonite. C.W. was up.

25 May 1944

Finished squaring away my gear. Down to MOB 8 with Doc Bilton. Saw Ball. Gooch and C.W. came up tonite for supper. Went down there for a while. Came back and had a little drinking session with Harry and the boys.

26 May 1944

Went up to 4th Mar. and got Bob. Saw Don and got S.O.P for Bomb Disposal. Party tonite. Had to take Harry home and put Brownie to bed. Had picture of Bn. officers taken.)

27 May 1944

Bob went back this a.m. Went out to Range this afternoon and fired pistol.

28 May 1944 (Sun.)

Wrote Dad, June, Ruby, Frank, Mildred, Mary Love & W.G. Went out to range to fire pistol with Gooch, C.W., Chuck, Fred, etc. Saw "Remember Pearl Harbor".

29 May 1944

Drew diagrams for lecture this morning. one hour lecture this afternoon. Put front sight on pistol (lost yesterday). C. W. came up tonite.

Classes were to familiarize the Engineer troops with types of ordnance they shouldn't try to disarm or dispose of and how to get in touch with one of us.

30 May 1944

Lectured at 0800 & 1300 to 2nd and 3rd platoons of "A" Co. Got letter from Bank about allotment.

31 May 1944

Got gear packed. Tried to get a staff rate for Skee. Big party tonite. C.W. came up about 2100

1 June 1944

First anniversary of this log. Made up my blanket roll. Wrote Halcy, Nadia, Mary Love and Rebie.

2 June 1944

Stowed my B & C Cat. luggage this morning. To beach at 1100. Went abd. Adams (AP 19) at 1330. Movie tonite "The Gay Caballero"

3 June 1944

Meeting at 0900. Was made police officer for 1st Div for trip.

4 June 1944 (Sun)

Got underway at 0730. Spent morning getting police details squared away.

5 June 1944

Met Lt. Gall & Schultz. Also Junior Meyer

6 June 1944

Got word over radio tonite that Allies invaded France.

7 June 1944

Landing in France proceeding with success.

8 June 1944

Arrived at Kwajalein at 1100. Took some pictures. Gave the film to Dr. Fisher to develop.

9 June 1944

Went ashore this afternoon with Meyer and Hogey. Took a no of pictures. Found out tonite other pictures were no good. All pictures taken on Sunday picnic in Sidney and since. Also those ashore. Shutter stuck open on camera!!

10 June 1944.

Repaired camera this a.m. Took a few test shots.

Extreme humidity had permeated the lens seals and caused the shutter sections to rust and stick. Disassembled the lens and carefully cleaned up the pieces and lubricated them. Camera functioned for remainder of the war, more or les satisfactorily. This was a rangefinder Eastman Kodak, 35 mm, with an f.3.5 lens. Several "portrait" lenses of different strengths had been supplied with the camera for taking close-up shots. The only problem was in trying to aim the camera thru the rangefinder which was set for regular lense.

11 June 1944 (Sun)

Max came abd. today. Took a picture of him. Quiet day. Wrote Dad, Ethel, & Mary Love. Got underway at 0530 (12th?)

15 June 1944

Marines hit Saipan. Stiff resistance. Task force hit the Bonin Islands and B-29's bombed Japan. W-day has been posponed.

W-day was the day we were supposed to hit Guam. The Task Force Commander had provided only one Division in Reserve for both operations. This was the 27th Army Division. And with the stiff opposition the Reserve might have to be committed, which happened, there would be no backup or reserve for our attack on Guam.

16 June 1944

Jap Navy is coming out. Naval Battle pending. Getting good chow.

17 June 1944

Army was committed at Saipan. Under control now.

18 June 1944

Not much doing yet!!

Word began to filter thru that we would be delayed in attacking Guam until another division could be loaded and arrive as backup. Turned out to be the 77th Army Division. It had to be loaded at Pearl Harbor and proceed to Guam. Which took much time. Thusly what was supposed to be a week or two aboard ship dragged on to 52 days!!

19 June 1944

Naval battle!! Our carrier forces inflicted heavy losses on the Japanese navy. Sank 3 carriers, 1 destroyer, and shot down 400 planes. Also damaged about 10 other ships including 3 oilers sunk. Our losses : 59 planes, and a hit on S. Dakota!

20, 21, 22 June 1944

Still cruising around out here. Playing hearts.

In order to keep the Japanese on alert the taskforce steamed west toward Guam all day, and then steamed east all night. For days and days!

23 June 1944

Out of the States one year today! Been aboard this ship 3 weeks today. Played Pitch (setback) for the first time tonite.

24 June 1944

Same old routine. Watched some fair boxing and wrestling tonite among the men.

25 June 1944 (Sun)

Headed back for Enewetok tonite.

26, 27 June 1944

Nothing much doing.

28 June 1944

Arrived at Enewetok this afternoon

During this interlude, we aboard the Attack Transports (President class, etc.) had it real plush. But not so for the poor souls aboard the LST's. Troops were crowded into hot and poorly ventilated spaces. And supplies had not been brought along for such a long interim. Troops were exercised ashore where the coral wreaked havoc on the shoes, and other equipment took a beating

29 June 1944

Got letters from Dad, Ruby, Nadia, C.W., Halcy, & Mary Love.

30 June 1944

Went ashore to Pii island today. Swimming & hiking. Got quite a suntan. Letters from MLL,

Halcy and Mildred.

These were uninhabited islands. Just coral and sand and an occasional palm tree.

1 July 1944

Letter from Dad. Wrote Dad, Mary Love and C.W.

2 July 1944 (Sun)

Went ashore today. Same routine.

3 July 1944

Went over to the Jackson and picked up some film and "spirits" . Saw Harry Ball and the other officers of our Bn. Hq. *(These "spirits" consisted of "sick-bay alcohol" or Ethyl alcohol 200 proof! or maybe beer to be taken ashore for beer parties.)*

4 July 1944

Went ashore. Quite a rainy 4th.!! We (Brown, Nelson and I) "kept warm" under my poncho!

5 July 1944

Slept and played Pinochle w/ Brown. Saw "Gov. Girl" tonite for the second time. BDO Lt. Cliff and Ens___ are on Kincaid.

6 July 1944

Went ashore. Short swim. got 10 letters. All back mail (Apr. 10-23) Saw "Campus Rhythym" tonite.

8 July 1944

Wrote Dad, Leroy and C.W. Recd letters from Dad and 2 letters from MLL.

9 July 1944 (Sun)

Went over to Monroe to see Don and Butch and Fisher.

10 July 1944

Word this a.m. that Saipan is secured. Went ashore. Wrote MLL and Halcy.

11 July 1944

Played Poker tonite. Won \$15. No mail.

12 July 1944

Played tonite. dropped \$5. Anniv. of my arrival at Noumea.

13 July 1944

Games broke up today. No mail.



*July 1944 -
Captured Japanese
Suicide boat. Cooper
and Dave got it running
and toured streams after
island was secured.*



*July 1944 - Agana Beach, Guam.
One of horned mines found along
beach without arming horn.*

*July 1944 - Agana Beach, Guam.
Buried horn mine with horn protruding.
Horn contains acid in a vial. When bent,
the acid drains into a dry battery cell,
forming a short circuit which
detonates the mine.*



14 July 1944

No more going ashore. Won \$2 tonite.

15 July 1944

Skipper's inspection topside. Started readin "Random Harvest". Good book. Went to smoker this afternoon. Watched Jackson get beat. Won \$11 tonite. Got letters from June and Dad.

A "Smoker" was a form of entertainment for the troops. They usually set up a boxing ring and volunteers would put on a boxing contest. Jackson was one of our NCO's

16 July 1944

Wrote MLL, Dad, Ruby, Nadia, C.W. Went ashore and played ship's company officers softball and drank beer. Finished "Random Harvest"..

17 July 1944

Sailed at 1400 after getting everything in shape. Read "Captain Ebony" today.

18 July 1944

Started repairing shoes. Read July 10th "Time" (Mag.). Washed 2 suit of khakis.

It seems I had been talking with one of the officers who had some troops aboard the President Adams. He reported that several of them with outsize shoes couldn't be fitted with new ones. We found that there was something of a shoe repair shop on the ship, but no one who could do the work. I volunteered to give it a try. As I recall it was quite hot down there and the repairs were made by nailing the soles on rather than sewing them.

19 July 1944

Repaired shoes. (6 soles, 4 heels) Washed dungarees. Won \$3 in poker tonite. Saw "A Night to Remember". Tojo resigns as Chief of Staff Military.

Tojo was the big warlord of the Japanese. The licking he had taken in the naval battles and then the drubbing on Saipan resulted in his eventually committing harikari, I think.

20 July 1944

Got pack and blanket roll made up and orders and Ident. destroyed. Our convoy escort sank a submarine last night.

This was the last day before the landing. All was tension and preparedness. Last minute checking equipment, etc.

21 July 1944

Lay off Guam at dawn. Naval Barrage to remember. First wave hit beach at 0720. No opposition on beach. We debarked at 1030. Arrived on beach at 1200 about 20 min. after mortar started hitting the beach. One hit within 15 feet. Bruised from flying rock. Much mortar fire fell on the beaches. Dr. Epply of the USS President Adams was killed. The 3rd. Mar. are having trouble on the left flank. Brownie and I shared a foxhole together. Not much sleep. The sky was

lighted with flares all night.

This was the first time that we had been able to watch our dive bombers give a beach area a real workover. We had complete air superiority, with no opposition except ground fire. It was a real joy to see them dive in and the explosions that followed. We wondered how anyone could still be alive when they got through. But of course there were! It was later revealed that the bluffs and mountains were honeycombed with tunnels and caves.

At this particular landing point there was a reef that extended out about 500 yards from the beach. We were offloaded into boats for the run to the reef where we transferred to Amtracks (Amphibians that used their treads for propulsion in water as well as on land) There were a number of the men who came in with us that were wounded and were sent back to the ship on the same Amtrack! There was a large crater in the beach from a previous bomb, and several of the men took cover in it only to be hit by a mortar shell. I initially crouched down behind a coconut log until the barrage lifted.

22 July 1944

Defuzed and dug up 11- 60kg bombs. Checked 2 dugouts for booby traps.(found a Jap flag in one and pistol in the other. Also money and pictures) Removed 3 tape measure mines from beach. Defuzed 3 more bombs on Asan Point.

Where we landed was a little cove with Asan Point jutting out to our right. A dirt road ran around the beach and onto the point, and there were a number of caves in that point. From here we received a good bit of sniper fire the first day, but then the engineers blasted them shut. In the process they discovered the 60kg(120lb) bombs planted as mines. They had dug a hole and set the bomb in tail first. Inserted the nose fuse and armed it, so that anyone stepping on it or a vehicle hitting it would explode it. We had gotten the commands indoctrinated as to our mission by this time, but we still were sent ashore without vehicle or tools. Most of the fuses could be removed by hand, but in one instance a piece of shrapnel had burred the bomb where the fuse screwed in. I used the point of my entrenching pick as a drift punch. Set it against the fuse, and reached around for a piece of coral to hit the pick with and saw my sergeant assistant hightailing it away! Removed it without any problem.

23 July 1944

Dug out 6 mines from road near causeway! (conical , one-horn mines); 13 mines on end of causeway; 5 bombs, 13 and 5 tape measure mines. Got 6" and 5" duds out of Piti.



Took 3 rocket duds, 3-6#, 2-1# incendiary and 1-6" dud from 4th Bn. 13 Mar.

Stood on beach and watched our planes strafe and dive bomb the hills to our left in a never ending stream.

We still had to hitch a ride when we got a call. The causeway mentioned here was the one that enclosed Piti Navy Yard, about two miles to the right of where we had landed. I still have a screwdriver, and a spanner wrench I picked up some place there.

The horn mine was a conical mine which weighed about 50 lbs. The fusing was electrical. The horn contained a vial of electrolyte. When the horn was bent from a vehicle or otherwise the vial broke and the electrolyte drained into the cavity which completed the circuit and exploded the mine. There was evidence later that the Japanese used laborers to set the mines, and an expert to later come along and arm them, since a number were found on the beach to our left and in Agana, without the horns screwed in.

The tape measure mine looked very much like a metal cased 100 foot tape measure. The fuse was screwed into the center, and the mine buried in the ground--road or trail. These could be equipped with anti-personal or anti-vehicular fuses. The former could be very sensitive, as was proved later when Reger was blown up.

24 July 1944

Out at daybreak. No breakfast. Answered a call to 3/9 CP (500# bomb dump). Removed 3 cases 81 mortar (Nip) from sickbay at ACp. Located 2 bomb dumps up Nidual River--100 and 500yds from Road respectively. Broke out the first bottle of beer here. Drank it with Capt Davidson. Pulled a Jap truck and "City Boy" and "Snake" got it running. Now I have to get tires for it.

This was a six-cylinder Cheverolet truck, 1 1/2 ton. Up to this point we deactivated the ordnance and then stowed it in dumps here and there. There were too many troops and equipment around to blow all that stuff. I don't remember what finally became of it. It was probably dumped at sea by the Army who took over after we left. By this time our chests of tools had come ashore and we had what we needed to work with.



25 July 1944

Spent morning getting tires on truck and getting it squared away. Got permit for it from Lt. Henry{740}. Spent tonite at A Co. waterpoint in my hammock for first time.

One of the major missions of the Engineers was to furnish potable water to the troops. They were equipped with purification units to use when good fresh water was available, and distillation units when sea water had to be used. The various units had 300 gal water trailers they pulled to the water point for filling and distribution to the troop.

26 July 1944

Not much to report. Everybody is moving up. Cas. are mounting, but all's going well. Sgt.

Easton and Woodard of A co. killed. Reynolds not expected to live.

27 July 1944

Picked up and dumped 5-63kg bombs and 15 conical mines. Spent the nite with A co.

28 July 1944

Picked up and dumped 18-60kg bombs. Don and Murphy helped. Blasted in cave for Major Davis on Asan Point.

29-30 July 1944

Lt. Edward Davis of B Co. reported killed. Didn't do much work.

31 July 1944

Don went to Corps. Lt. Verol Reger, B.D.O, was blown into a million bits at 1000 and I became the only remaining BDO in the 19th Regt. Skee and I were transferred to H & S . Set up and given a jeep and telephone. Working directly under Col. Williams. *I was in the act of reporting to Col. Williams when Reger came by with a box of tape measure mines in the back of his jeep. I questioned him about hauling them without defusing them He said he was going to do so when he got to his dump, just a short distance to rear of the bivouac. A few minutes later as I approached Col. Williams, dugout there was a loud explosion and stuff showered down thru the palm trees. Turns out it was parts of Reger raining down! I seem to remember that one foot was the largest part we found of him. His corporal who was working at the dump was also injured, but not badly. He said he heard Reger drive up and looked around to see him get the box out of the back of Jeep, then he went back to what he was doing and at that point the explosion occurred. We presume he must have stumbled and/or dropped the box and detonated it.*



1 August 1944

Went to Agana to clear streets ahead of bull dozers. Recon. was blown up by 100kg bomb last nite. A jeep killing a major this morning. Saw MacFadden for first time on beach. His men are checking roads also.

Don showed up with Bob Coffey and Hooper. We defuzed about 30 bombs (50% 100kg) Coffey stayed with me. Had to go up and check Agana channel at 1830 tonite (Col. Fojt). *I have some pictures of the dozer in three pieces! There was so much debris on the paved streets of Agana that we decided we would ride the blade of the dozer as it scraped the stuff along and*

watch for bombs or mines that was uncovered and stop the dozer before the tracks could run over them! Living dangerously! The Major was killed when he ran into a wire stretched across the road. In combat early the jeeps were operated with the windshield laid down, and the wire was stretched at the right level to decapitate the driver or passengers. Later we welded an upright piece of pipe to the front bumper to run interference! Had to learn from our mistakes!

2 August 1944

Hoop came up today. Checked area around Div. CP in Agana. Also Navy Yard streets. Moved up to Ball Park. Took out several tape measure mines. Defuzed several cases and defuzed 30 + 60kg bombs.

3 August 1944

Still busy as hell. cleared 25th CB area of mines. 40 bombs; 5 horned mines; several tape measure mines. Checked Duncas Beach for 3rd Amtrac Bn. Camp.

4 August 1944

To airstrip and pulled out 25 60 & 100kg bombs (already defuzed). Had to turn in my truck to Div for Civil Affairs. No other trans. supplied.

5 August 1944

Down with Dengue fever of 101 degrees this a.m. Sack duty.
Hadn't felt like this since I had malaria at age ten at Scottsville. Every muscle and bone in my body ached. This is carried by a mosquito in much the same fashion as malaria. It is of short duration, but is intensely debilitating.

6 August 1944

Sack duty--nothing doing much. Coffey and Hoop kept busy. Many natives being moved into camp next to us. Rec'd a few letters. Wrote Dad and Mary Love. Got a letter from Clarence asking for some money.

I guess this was the beginning of my looking after Clarence.(It would last another 44 years!) Seems he and everyone else thought I was making a fortune being in the Marine Corps. If it wasn't a request from him it was from Ruby. I was already sending money by allotment back to Dad to repay him for the money he gave me to go to the University.

14 August 1944

Moved to new Camp area at Yona. Had to go back to 25th NCB to pick up flare this afternoon. Murphy and Clark are both down with Dengue. Skee dragging around. Left Coffey and Hooper awaiting trans. to 4th Mar.

All organized resistance had ended on August 10th and the command was readying camps the interim stay while getting ready to move back to Guadal canal for regrouping, reequipping and retraining for the next operation which would be Okinawa.

15 August 1944

III Corps moved out for Canal. Capt. Merriman came out today and got jeep to move. Murphy and I took 15 mines out of 9th Mar area (beyond Ylig River)

It was here on the beach at Ylig river that we found the first and only instance of a booby trap set by the Japanese. They had put a piece of primed explosive next to a 70mm shell and ran a trip wire across the beach. The trip wire would have ignited the fuse and exploded the shell.

16 August 1944

Worked on tent. Made several calls.

At this point we were set up in pyramidal tents, and everyone scrounged around to find lumber to put in a deck and strongback. Took calls to clean up areas from time to time, but the major work was done.

18 August 1944

Went down to see Butch and Bill at Sumay.

Butch and Bill were with the 155mm Gun Battalion which came in late. This is the unit that brother Charlie was with, but he came in a little later.

19 August 1944

Called to V A.C. for dud. Picked up 5" and 8" shells. Also snatched a pyramidal tent!

20 August 1944

Pitched tent and got squared away on it. A letter from Frank reporting that Ben McGuire, Rog. Tapscott, Cleo Mundy and Forrest Butler all KIA.

21 August 1944

Got some lumber in Agana to make table. Also to Barrigada & 3rd Mar.

22 August 1944

Stayed in and made a table, shelves & stool while Don went on a call to hospital.

23 August 1944

Don stayed in this a.m. Skee and I went to D.M.T.' to get duds. Also picked up a spare for jeep and some fuzes. (B-2-A & B's & B-3-b) C.B. Cat. blown up by 250# bomb on hill coming E. from Agana. Call to V A.C. this p.m. Defuzed 3 100# bombs (Mk219 nose, ANM 100A.ser in tail) Also found new bomb--250# w/ large suspension lug and filled out tail cylinder and fins. Note from Butch to come down there.

24 August 1944

Call to 21st Mar. 3 1/2 hour ride up there. 8 mi. N>E> of Dedio. Saw Bob and Light Horse Harry. Defuzed one 100# (112 tail) and one 500# (112 tail). Removed 2 5" duds. Went to 14th Def. Bn. this afternoon. C.W. landed Monday. He's looking good. We were glad to see each other. Drove back in 55 min. (18 Mi) Total 70 mi on jeep today! Letter from Dad. Add Sherman

Par to KIA list from home. Also letter from MLL.

25 August 1944

Put jeep in shop. worked on tent with Don. got it pretty well sqd. away. Had chicken, sweet potatoes & cake for chow tonite!

26 August 1944

Checked Ylig Bay for landing beach. Went down to see Richardson about ammo accident. Crapped out this afternoon

27 August 1944

Worked around tent this a.m. C.W., Butch and Bill came up this afternoon for a while. Went to check on D.M.T. area. Picked up some artil. (20cm) from Asan Pt.

28 August 1944

Went up to Barrigado Rd. and picked up 38 orange parachutes. Rigged one up in tent. Crapped out this afternoon. Gave Co.. Campbell a 20 cm Art. fuze.

29 August 1944

Went to Asan Pt. to take pictures of new bomb. Also picked up some more Art. (20cm 7 75mm)fuze. Dehorned a number of fuze for souvenirs. Went to Agana this p.m. and checked several caves. Found a Jap razor, some money and a couple blue wool flags. Also a cache of stuff to be dug up later.

30 August 1944

Don checked some stuff in Agana. Blasted well with 60kg bombs.

31 August 1944

"B" Category started coming in. Snake Taylor moved in with Don and I. Big party on Bacon and Sake for other fellows.

1 Sept. 1944

Went to 56 C.B. DC-8 was blown up. Found 5 yardstick mines nearby. (not in place). Checked road for them with detector.

2 September 1944

Made some furniture. A table & wash stand & stool. Then got word that we are being transferred. "Chuck" gave me the a. qt. of Rye, and Don and I tapped it tonite. Started packing.

All Bomb Disposal personnel were being transferred to Honolulu for the purpose of organizing Bomb Disposal Companies! We were finally getting the recognition we had been striving for since arrival overseas in mid '43!

3September 1944

Packed all morning. Getting everything in readiness. This afternoon tried to get thru to see C.W. at 14th Def. Mag 21 bomb dump's going up prevented it. Word at dark tonite to be at airstrip at 0630 tomorrow.

4 September 1944

Got up at 0345. arr. airport at 0600. Chow at 14th Def. Saw C.W. and chatted w/ him. Also Butch & Fisher. Took off at 0730. Arr. Saipan 0900 via DC-3. Left at 1000, arr. Enewetok at 1900 (watch 2 hr. ahead). Spent nite here.

5 September 1944

Plane leaves tonite. Was at Off. Club at 1100 and got soused on 8 beers and at 1200 we found no NATS plane till Thurs. Smiley came thru. Decided to take TAG to Kwajalein in a.m.

6 September 1944

Takeoff at 0700. Stopped at Engebe. Arr. Kwaj. at 1100. Wunnerful chow at GRO PAC 2. Boat to Ebye at 1400. Couple beers at Club. Takeoff at 1800. Crossed Intl. Date Line. Arr. Johnston Is. at 0740. Watch ahead 1 1/2 hrs. Breakfast. Takeoff at 0840 Arr. Pearl at 1500. (Watch ahead 12 hrs.) Customs inspection. Whew!! To transient Camp and all the gang of BDO's! Big party tonite. Going to activate 2 Companies. Snowed the troops of new officers!

7 September 1944

Got squared away around camp. Bought shoes. Went to Sub Base & bought khaki. Also at Ship's service. Received Station photo for I.D. cards. Saw Mar. Barnes (FMF PAC, Ord). Don gets 3rd. Phib. co. and all the old gang, except me. I'm in V A.C. Co. w/ Smiley, Baker, Capt. "Mike" Clark as comp. cdr.

8 September 1944

Went down to the Moana and got haircut & facial massage (\$2.35) Made reservations for Tues. & Wed. of next week. Wrote Dad.

9 September 1944

Awaited orders. Beer party tonite. Sent out some laundry. Went to Camp Catlin Club for a few drinks this afternoon. Then to Marian Weaver's fora while!

10 September 1944

Went out to M.E. I.U. #4. Very cool reception. Missed noon chow. Lt. Mackay got us a jeep back. To Camp Catlin tonite for a while.

11 September 1944

Orders are in to activate Company. Started wheels rolling with Supply Service & G-4. To Marian



Weaver's (1513 Thurston Ave.) this afternoon. (Don, Ed & I). Charlotte Meese Mary Barstowe went to a Hula Rhumba for dinner & dancing. Don got awfully drunk.

12 September 1944

Spent day getting around to see people about equipment. Had dinner date tonite at Moana Hotel. Don, Ed, Marian, Mary, Charlotte & I. Back to camp for the nite.

Tent Camp
Oahu

13 September 1944

Still organizing. Ed got word he's staying for a while. Big party at the Moana tonite. Levitt relieved me as Exec.

14 September 1944

Worked on TBA today. Wrote Dad. Spent nite at Moana. Co. Area set up. Some men came in.

15 September 1944

Wrote MLL.

17 September 1944

Nothing doing much. Wrote Dad, MLL & Ruby. Went to the Moana early this afternoon. Had a Ham & Egg dinner at Marian's. Big party with some "fly-fly" boys afterward. Capt Hap Simpson of Round Hill (?) Va. & McInerny.



18 September 1944

Don got his Recon (*truck*) this a.m. Big crap game tonite. Picked up \$40.

19 September 1944

Wrote bank for \$300. Went out to Schofield Bks. to see about Driver School. No luck. Rode around tonite after a few drinks at the Catlin Club.

20 September 1944

Duty today. Cleaned my weapons. Shot craps tonite. Lost \$8. Letter from MLL

21 September 1944

Got pictures back.

22 September 1944

Went to Schofield with Don. Read tonite while Don &



Ed went out. Went up the mountain and got some nice views of the city and area.

23 September 1944

Crapped out most of the day. Went to Marian's tonite. After the Hula show at Univ of Hawaii.

24 September 1944

Played poker. Lost about \$35. Went swimming at Waikiki this afternoon. Wrote Mary Love and Dad tonite.

25 September 1944

Don wrote up letter for my transfer.

26 September 1944

Don got ok on leave. Gave me the scoop. Letter approved.

27 September 1944

Saw Don off this a.m. Worked on a field desk.

28 September 1944

Followed requisition thru for tools to be made. Saw Maj. Winsborough about TBA. Won \$2 in crap game.

29 September 1944

Saw Capt McCalla about mine school. Saw Col. Fojt. Beer bust at Nimitz Beach. Ed got me riled tonite. Orders for transfer to First B.D. Co. came thru today. Assumed command of First Co. Letter from Dad. Wrote Mildred, Nadia and "Jake".

30 September 1944

Spent day working on orders for mine school. Went to see Cory at T.C. Saw Maj. Winsborough about Special tools. Received check from bank for \$300. Balance \$1287. Played poker tonite. Lost \$20

1 October 1944

Went on a steak fry at Nanakula. Developed some film. Not too good luck.

2 October 1944

Spent the day fighting the QM on trucks, tools, "what-have-you". Got OK on Mine School. "Ranch" & I printed some pictures tonite. Letter from MLL.

3 October 1944

Check cashed. Wrote MLL at noon. got names in for mine school and blueprints on tools. Printed some more pictures tonite. Wrote Dad & Clarence (\$30 to Clarence; \$30 to Hallie)

5 October 1944

Letter from MLL (Sept.10) Left mly camera at shop and ordered some rubber stamps. Bought drill set from Brownie (\$20)

6 October 1944

Letter from Dad (8/27) trunk had arrived. Requisition for trucks finally submitted.

7 October 1944

Requisition for trucks disapproved. Will get M3A-1 Scout Cars. Orders came thru to Mike on Mine school. Ate chow at Moana tonite.

8 October 1944

Big picnic and steak fry at Nanakula today. Slept all afternoon.

9-13 October 1944

Company activities went on as usual. Raised co. office and Rec. tents. Also NCO tent. Still no word from Don. Wrote Dad, June, & C.W.. Sent package to C.W.

13 October 1944

Joined 16 men. Checked on remainder. Letter from Mll and Bill.

14 October 1944

Bought a grass skirt for MLL. Inspection of troops.

15 October 1944

Men started raising tents. In officae all day getting tools and lumber for tents.

16 October 1944

Finished raising tents. clothing inspection. Still no word from Don. Joined w more men. Making 2 BCNCO's under strength. Got Marine Drivers' license.

17 October 1944

Drew censor stamp. Wrote 3MarDiv for TPA. Tot gravel for Co. Street. Picked up rubber stamps downtown.

18 October 1944

Everything pretty quiet. Continued work on tents.

19 October 1944

Saw men off to Mine School. Copy of signal supp. shipment received. Took requisition for safe down.

20 October 1944

Had to fight for storage area at 8th FD. Got tents pitched. Went down to the Moana tonite. Wrote Coffey & Wayne. Also C.W.

21 October 1944

Went out to Mine school this evening. Bought a waterman pen at Schofield. Wrote Dad & Lacy. Mailed grass skirt to MLL. Also pin to June.

22 October 1944

Slept all morning. Wrote MLL. Letter from MLL. Printed some pictures tonite.

25 October 1944

Checked on sig. equipment. Not ready. Picked up safe. Letters from Don, Frank, & Ruby. Wrote Ruby tonite. Also Bank to send her \$200.

2 November 1944

Picked up jeeps nos. 115057,8,9,&60.

13 November 1944

Rec'd pictures from Sydney, NSW that I ordered in May. Letter from Don. He sailed the 8th. Developed 4 rolls of film.

14 November 1944

Bought an album and started putting in pictures. Wrote Dad and Frank.

15 November 1944

Letter from MLL & Dad. Men arrived from III Phib Corps. Don came in tonite. Happy to see him return.

16 November 1944

Busy today turning company over to Don. Schnibby and Sitterson were down tonite. Big party. Air raid & Blackout from 1037 to 0045.

18 November 1944

Went to see about sending another dispatch on the boys from Guadalcanal.

20 November 1944

Drew nine (9) M3A1 Scout cars. Incomplete!

21 November 1944

Coffey, Fisher, Strowbridge, Hooper, Tilson, and Schongala arrived from Guadal. I'm now platoon leader 3rd Platoon. Wrote bank to put \$300 in checking acct. for me.

22 November 1944

Masterson and Outlaw arrived this a.m. I'm now Motor Transport Officer.

23 November 1944

Thanksgiving Day!! Big Turkey Dinner at MB in PHNY (*Pearl Harbor Navy Yard*). Supper another Turkey dinner at Navy Officers Mess. Went to see the "Virgin Bride" at Park theater.

24 November 1944

Worked on trucks today. Wrote Dad and MLL tonite.

25 November 1944

Had dinner at LeRoy's tonite.

26 November 1944

Officer of the Day. Worked on my truck. Made up some requisitions for parts. Drew \$50. Letter from bank. Cashier's check for \$200 to sign (for sis). Balance as of 31 Oct 1944: \$1187.39.

27 November 1944 to 24 December 1944

Brosseau transferred out. Bob Coffey Exec. I have 1st Plt. Curry to states (2 Dec.). Kuz, Pelletier and Lindholm thru to states. Notice from bank: \$300 withdrawn and put in checking acct. Frank's Boy born!

24 December 1944

Big party tonite. To bed at 0130.

25 December 1944

Quiet Day. Packed. Two Turkey dinners--evening at Navy Yard Mess!

26 December 1944

M.E.I.U. boys came down for big party at Catlin, and back here. Big beer brawl.

27 December 1944

Continued to pack. Tilly is leaving tomorrow a.m. with Schongala as forward echelon.

28 December 1944

Saw Tilly and Schongala off this morning. No word yet of when we are leaving. Wrote MLL & Dad.

29 December 1944

Still packing. Did a little shopping and got a few personal matters squared away. About halfway thru "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn".

30 December 1944

Got word on ships. Played a little poker after seeing Laraine Day in "Bride by Mistake".

31 December 1944

Got all trucks loaded. Everything packed. Went to see "When Our Hearts were Young and Gay". Wrote MLL.

1 January 1945

Embarked LSM 174 with drivers and vehicles. Back to Navy Yard Club for chow tonite. Finish loading tomorrow.

2 January 1945

Don and remainder of men aboard at 1030. Standby to sail at 1400. Sailed at 1630. Skipper: Lt. Ward; Exec: Ens. Rushford; Engr. Ens. Antkiew & Ens. Rosants. Fifth officer Ens. H. P. Butler.

3 January 1945

LST broke down. Had to wait for it. Broke down again at 2100 tonite. Almost rammed it. Most of the men are pretty sick. Took some pictures.

4 January 1945

Some of the men still sick. KB and Don, also. Read "Barefoot Boy w/ Cheek". Started "Low Man on a Totem Pole" Nice weather. Little rough!

5 January 1945

Shellback meeting. I was made Royal Barber!

6 January 1945

Read "L M ON T Pole"

7 January 1945

Read "Bishop Jaegers"

8 January 1945

Started "Spirit of the Border"

9 January 1945

Completed preparations for initiation. Davy Jones came aboard. Song fest topside tonite. Took some pictures of transfer of Jurick to LST. (*He had cut his hand and the only doctor along was aboard the LST*)





*January 1945
Bomb Disposal
motor pool on
Guadal Canal*

*January 1945 - life at sea
aboard LSM 174 en route to
Guadal Canal*



*January 1945
more life at sea aboard
LSM 174 arriving in
Solomons Islands*

10 January 1945

Held initiation of all PollyWogs this morning. Gave some terrific haircuts! Most of the men are bald. Finished "Spirit of the Border". Started "The Passionate Witch". Played Hearts tonite.

11 January 1945

SKIPPED IT!! CROSSED THE 180TH MERIDIAN! (INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE!)

12 January 1945

Not much doing. Hit a few rain squalls. Played Hearts. Developed some film. Started back on Atabrine.

14 January 1945

Took a fresh-water shower in the rain. Played Hearts. Developed some more film.

15 January 1945

Wrote Dad. Caught cold. Awful sneezing fits. Held rifle inspection. Played Hearts.

16 January 1945

Sighted and sank--with gunfire--a mine float. Played poker with some of the men. Won \$25. Played some 4-hand cribbage. Should make port tomorrow.

17 January 1945

Arrived Tulagi. Went ashore tonite at Turner City and had a few drinks at the Haba Haba Club.

18 January 1945

Lay in the harbor all day. Don caught ferry to Guadalcanal. Got the cold shoulder at Purvis Bay Club tonite, so went to Haba Haba Club.

19 January 1945

Lay out of harbor at 0700 for Guadal. Debarked at 1400 to 1700. Arr. Bivouac area at 1800 in coconut grove Tetere.

20 January 1945

Worked on camp. Went around and had a pow wow with Kenny Beale tonite.

21 January 1945

Finished screening tent, and squaring away.

22 January 1945

Made arrangements to get work done on vehicles at III A.C. First chow in our mess hall tonite. Wrote MLL, Aggie, & C.W. tonite.

30 January 1945

Saw "Going My Way" w/ Bing Crosby & Barry Fitzgerald.

31 January 1945

Was decorated with Bronze Star this a.m. along with Skee & Capt Merriman. Maj. Gen. Murry awarded them. Maj. Gen. Geiger got Legion of Merit. Wrote Nadia & Dad. Played soft ball w/ men.

1 February 1945

Printed many pictures. Played soft ball w/ men, lost 6-3. Letters from Ruby, and MLL

2 February 1945

Played a little poker. Broke even.

3 February 1945

Finished writing Frank. Sent valentine to MLL. Got one from her. Got word from ADC, 1st Mar. Div to move out tomorrow. Tilly & KB went up today. Made preparations for getting underway..Got typhoid vaccine & Tetanus shots.

4 February 1945

Got a Lifetime Shaeffer today (\$5.50). Headed for beach at 1230. Boarded the LSM 78 (Ens. Gallagher & Captain (Lt.SG) MacFarlane). We all went back to camp for a couple short ones.

5 February 1945

Sailed at 0900. Arr. Pavuvu at 15530. Debarked at 1700. Bivouacked with Engr. Bn.

6 February 1945

Made the rounds of all pertinent personnel and finally got each squad attached to each CT with ordnance.

7 February 1945

Reported to sick bay and got treatment for this head cold contracted over the last few days. Tilly and KB drew camouflage nets and got men started on them. Sacked in most of the day. Started reading "The Sun of My Undoing".

8 February 1945

Crapped out most of the day. Met up with Eddie Sehl and had noon chow with him. Started camouflaging vehicles today. Gave tonnage data to Lt. Bailey of 3rd Bn., 1st Mar. Lost \$40 in a poker game.

9 February 1945

Drew hammocks and some khaki for the men. Sacked in.

10-14 February 1945

Read "The Sun is My Undoing" by Marguerite Stein.

14 February 1945

Drew \$30 of emergency pay on my orders.

15-19 February 1945

Drew 21 Flannel shirts, 21 field jackets, 21 woolen undershirts, 4 pr. shoes for men. Prepared trucks for loading.

20-22 February 1945

Loaded vehicles. Received and studied maps.

23 February 1945

Embarked this morning at 0900 aboard the USS New Kent (PA 217). Sailed for Sunlight Channel at 1400.

24-28 February 1945

Lay at anchor. Went ashore the 25th for exercise.

1 March 1945

Underway at 0530 for Guadalcanal & maneuvers. Wrote MLL & Dad.

2-8 March 1945

Maneuvers off Cape Esperance. Stayed abd. ship. Returned to Pavuvu.

9 March 1945

Went ashore at Pavuvu and worked a little.

10 March 1945

Stayed aboard. finished reading "Northwest Passage" yesterday. Started "Wuthering Heights". Went ashore tonite with Oscar Holmes and had a couple of drinks.

11 March 1945

Wrote Dad & MLL. Finished "W.H."

13 March 1945

Went ashore on beer party. Got looped.

14 March 1945

Went ashore again w/ men on beer party.

15 March 1945

Underway at 0600. Joined up in convoy and headed north around noon. Read "David Crockett".

16 March 1945

Sailing as before. Read "Botts in War, Botts in Peace" and "Taps for Private Tussie".

17 March 1945

Gave my men dope on operation. Read "Elmer Gantry" by S. Lewis

18 March 1945 (Sunday)

Sailing as before. Read "A bell for Adano" and started "Rogues' Company" by H. H. Kroll.

19 March 1945

Finished "Rogues Co.". Read part of H. L. Mencken's "newspaper Days 1899-1906". Sailing as before.

20 March 1945

Started giving men physical drill. Began "Discovery" by R. E. Byrd. Took a chance on Anchor Pool.

21 March 1945

Wrote to MLL, Dad & June. Dropped anchor at Ulithi at 1640.

22 March 1945

Letters from Dad, Nadia, and Junie.

24 March 1945

Went over to APA 13 to see Don, Fritz, Bob, Ed & Brownie. Also saw Tilly there. Letters from Dad & Ruby. Wrote Dad, Ruby, MLL & Bill Bellano tonite. The Franklin, Enterprize, and yorktown came limp in today with damages. The Franklin pretty badly from Tokyo Raod (?).

27 March 1945

Underway for target at 1530.

28 March 1945

Pretty rough water. Test fired my Jap pistol. Finished reading "Razor's Edge by Maugham.

31 March 1945

Got all in readiness to debark tomorrow. Had a red alert tonite.



January 1945 - Preparing to disembark at Guadal Canal Beach.

*April 1945
Bomb disposal platoon
encampment on Ie Shiwa, Ryuku
Island.
Platoon was engaged in clearing
ordnance from airfield and
surrounding area.*



*April 1945
Okinawa rice paddy.
Bomb disposal truck and jeep*

1 April 1945

First waves hit the beaches at 0830 and pushed inland against negligible resistance. Troops on New Kent debarked at 1630. Several air attacks tonite.

2 April 1945

Back in transport area this a.m. Continued unloading. Still slight opposition on beaches. Lines at LT 5. Debarked at 1720 into crippled LCM. spent night in LSD #8 getting repairs.

3 April 1945

Repairs made. Hit Yellow 3 at 1000 at same time Tilson landed. Camped tonite with company Headquarters. Reynolds also got ashore O.K.

4 April 1945

Spent day looking for 1st Mar. C.P. No luck. All of co. got ashore without casualties. One truck (Masterson's) was submerged.

5 April 1945

Looked for C.P. again. No luck.

6 April 1945

Found C.P.! Marines and Army are across island at all points. Whitey was injured pretty badly by flak in a plane raid. We shot down 9 today.

7 April 1945

Co. moved with Corps. My plat. moved to Ord. Co. C.,P.. Got set up. Marine Air wing came in today.

8 April 1945 (Sunday)

Started eating at Ord. Co. galley. Developed some film. Crapped out this afternoon"

12 April 1945

Coffee & Schlachman were caught stealing 6 pistols from Div. Ord. Made them P.A.L.'s

13 April 1945

Got word that F.D.R. died last night. Took Coff. & Schlach. up to Co. Hq.

14 April 1945

Div. Ord. moved to new area.

15 April 1945

Moved today to Ord. Co. New Area. Terrific air raid tonite. 50+ planes shot down north of here.

16 April 1945

Made recon. of area for 1st. Bat. 5th. Jeep to Co. Hq.

17 April 1945

Blasted a couple of caves. Defuzed a 14" shell.

18 April 1945

Stood by. Picked up a 16" shell.

20 April 1945

Got orders to stand by for transfre to 77th Army Div. Don came down this p.m. Coffey & Schlachman returned.

21 April 1945

Detached from 1 Mar Div and ordered to 77th . Arrived beach at 1030. Spent day getting dope on transportation. Camped on beach.

22 April 1945

Still awting transportation

23 April 1945

Sent jeep to Co. Hq. for mail. Word on trans. Moved to beach proper about 2030. Rained all night.

24 April 1945

Waited on beach all day. Loaded on LCT 1391 at 1700. Spent one miserable night aboard with 100 army personnel. Rained all night.

25 April 1945.

Underway at 0600. Arrived Ie Shima at 0930. Debarked at 1200. Got set up this p.m. Reported to 77th . They're moving out tomorrow. Referred me to Island Command.

27 April 1945

Got squared away w/ Ensign Mill, USN Bomb Disposal. Fixed saddle on Tilly's truck. Made recon of air strip for 1902 Aviation Engrs (Army). Swept large area for mines.

27-30 April 1945

Busy as hell clearing out mines in Village roads, airstrip and fields.

28 April 1945

Bucci, Ashman, Baumann and a Seabee were hurt by exploding "knee Mortar fuze". Bucci, & Baumann in sick bay)

*April 2, 1945 -
Okinawa landing area -
BD truck about to be lowered
over the side!*



May 20, 1945 - Ie Shiwa - BD expert Dave at work



*May 27, 1945 -
Flooded BD camp near
Futima, Okinawa*

*May 27, 1945 -
Flash flood*



*May, 1945 -
D.W. Schumaker
removing fuse from
sea mine that floated
ashore. "We didn't get
many of these!"
Island of Ie, near
Okinawa*

3 May 1945

Went to Okinawa. Picked up mail, points for jeep, etc. Bob went to P.H. Sunday. First & Sixth Mar. Div. committed in south. Spent the nite.

4 May 1945

Reported to G-3 on work. Drew clothing for men. Returned to Ie Shima.

5 May 1945

Discontinued minesweeping. Will concentrate on removal. Was made coordinator of mine detecting & removal by Island Engineer tonite.

6 May 1945

Started coordinating. Kept very busy.

7 May 1945

Continued coordinating. Got radio hooked up. Music tonite!

13 May 1945

Was relieved by Capt. Wilson of Army B.D. Standing by for movement orders.

15 May 1945

Celebrated my 26th birthday with Harwood's.

17 May 1945

Got a 2.5kw generator.

19 May 1945

Received movement orders. Also a large bag of mail. Awtng. transportation.

20 May 1945

Saw two planes shot down this evening and one crash into LST 808. Picked up a trailer (1 ton).

22 May 1945

Embarked in LSM 87 at noon. Arr. Okinawa 1745. Lay in harbor all night.

23 May 1945

Lay in harbor today.

24 May 1945

Debarked at 1830. Arrd. Company compound at 2000. Big air raid nonite.

25 May 1945



*June, 1945 -
Unexploded ordnance
dump of stuff we
gathered up on Ie
Island, near Okinawa*



*June 1945 - Capt. Dave
Schumaker on the roof of
Headquarters Building, Naha
University, Naha, Okinawa,
Ryuku Island, Japan*



*June 1945 - Okinawa
Developing film using makeshift
darkroom, hard at work getting out
pictures to send home*



*June 1945 - Okinawa
Three Bomb Disposal officers
having lunch!*



Pitched tents. Hooked up radio. Japs landed suicide squads on Yontan last nite and blew up several airplanes.

26 May 1945

Rain all day today. Got caught up on all the gossip and news.

27 May 1945

Water came up sorta sudden like and flooded entire area with exception of my tent. Spent day trying to get equipment above water. Took pictures.

28 May 1945

Water is down. Rain slackened. Continued salvaging. Moved to new area on top of hill. Strung wire to radio.

29,30,&31 May 1945

Spent squaring away new area between showers. Worked on new trucks.

1 June 1945

Second anniversary of this "journal".

2 to 11 June 1945

Routine work. Drew one 6x6 truck and 2 Recons. Turned in three panzers on 11th to 7th Field depot.

12 June 1945

Made a trip to Naha on recon. of new area. Rec'd 16 letters today.

13 June 1945

Moved to Naha University. Pretty fair campsite.

15 June 1945

Cleared area for 8th Marines dumps. Ran into Dave Laurie, Merrifield, and Major Warner of OCS. Printed some pictures tonite.

16 June 1945

Not much doing. Got area graded. Wrecked building. Loaded some spools tonite.

25 June 1945

Salvaged a Jap MT boat. worked all week repairing it.

1 July 1945

Put boat in water and tried it out. Hull weak.

2 July 1945

Went to Yellow Two in boat. Arr. about 1500.

3 July 1945

Picked up another hull. Tilly is repairing it.

4 July 1945

Had two ice cold beers at Hoop's placae. Got word to stand by to move out. Pulled motor on my boat.

5 July 1945

Got word to be on beach at 0400 tomorrow. Loaded all vehicles.

6 July 1945

Arrived Beach White One at 0300. In line by 0500. No ship til 1800!

7 July 1945

Started loading at 1100. Stopped at 1300. Laid off tonite.

8 July 1945

Hit P-1 at 0530. Started loading at 0700. Finished loading at 1030. Ready for sea at 1100. Retracted at 1800.

9 July 1945

Lay in harbor

10 July 1945

Underway at 1100

11-15 July 1945

At sea.

16 July 1945

Sighted land this morning. Disembarked at Cabras Island at 1800.

10 August 1945

Got word tonite that Japan has sued for peace, to keep Hirohito. Big Party. Many pictures.

12 August 1945

Peace dealing still underway. Took Don and Fritz to Transient Camp tor trans. home.

27 August 1945

Received word that my relief had been ordered out from P.H. on 21 August.



*May 1945
Ie Shiwa just north
of Okinawa*

*September 1945 - Capt. Dave and Sgt. C.W. on Guam after the surrender of Japan and
just before the Captain headed for home!*





500 pound Japanese dud! Blew in situ

August 1944 - Guam

Freak bomb landing: U.S. 100-pounder failed to arm, skidded and landed tail first in a coconut tree about 2' from the ground.



Close up of booby trap showing fuse lighter and trip wire

Buried 100 KG bomb with just exposed. Used as a land mine.



29 August 1945

Made Captain as of 31 July 1945.

2 September 1945

V-J Day!!!

16 September 1945

Still no word from my relief. No word from the fellows who have gone home either.

17-19 September 1945

Loaded ship as Asst. TQM. The USS Skagit.

19 September 1945

Finished loading. Said good by to all the boys. Fitzgerald (my relief) arrived tonite. Turning everything over to him

20 September 1945

Was detached today. Took my orders to Transient Center tonite.

21-25 September 1945

Moved to quonsetts. Saw C.W. on 23rd. Took a lot of pictures.

26 September 1945

Went down to Inarajan Merizo taking pictures. Got word to move to T.C. tomorrow. Packed tonite.

27 September 1945

Moved to T.C. this morning. Going out tomorrow morning. Date tonite with Marjorie Labo, (A.R.C.) at 3 AC

28 September 1945

Up at 0500. Left at 0700 for Docks at Sumay. Went aboard T.E.S. Antiqua at 0745 at "J" dock. Not too nice a ship. No linen. No water. Two extra cots per stateroom.

29 September 1945

Cast off at 0700. Cleared harbor at 0745. Proceeding at 16 1/2 knots. Watches ahead 1/2 hour tonite.

30 September 1945

Smooth sailing. Getting to know my roomates quite well. Watches ahead 1/2 tonite.

1 October 1945

Making good time. Chow not too good. Water hours 0730 to 0745 and 1700 to 1715. The four of us shaved and showered in 15 min. by pouring water over one another.

7 October 1945

Docked Honolulu Harbor pier 11 at 0730. Bought shoes at 6th B.D. Liberty this p. m. Saw Capt Kauffmann at Catlin. Sent cable to Mary Love Lewis that I'll be in Frisco the 13th.

8 October 1945

Took women and children aboard this morning. Cast off at 1200. Underway at 20 knots by night. Took lots of pictures

(THUS ENDS THE WAR JOURNAL)



This is the photo of Mary Love Lewis taped to the inside cover of the journal.

Many of Dave's war letters to Mary Love and Ruby are in the possession of Dave's eldest daughter Cathy Tyler. Perhaps at some future time they will become an addendum to this record.

