

On Or About This Day In Phil's Archives

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Buddy's Letter to Home - March 21, 1954

3/26/2024

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Here is another letter from Uncle Buddy. He mentions his brothers Jim, John and Eddy in this letter and his sister Ann (my mother). As you read this letter I note Buddy talks about Ann's wedding - but it is not the wedding to my father. Growing up, the subject of my mother's boyfriends and number of engagements (before my father) was a running joke and source of lighthearted teasing. Enjoy. More to come.

Author

I have been interested in preserving family history for many years. Hope you enjoy.

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21 MARCH 1954
SUNDAY 4 AM
ENROUTE IWO JIMA

DEAR MA DAD AND ALL,
WANT TO GET A FEW LINES STARTED JUST IN CASE MAIL LEAVES THE SHIP LATER TODAY. WE ARE OUT AT SEA AT PRESENT AND HAVE BEEN THESE LAST FEW DAYS. HEARD THAT MAIL MIGHT GO OFF SOMETIME TODAY SO I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU KNOW YOUR FAIR HAIRED SON AND BROTHER WAS AND IS IN THE BEST OF SHAPE.

THINGS ARE STILL THE SAME AROUND HERE AND THAT'S NOT SAYING MUCH FOR IT. NOTHING NEW, THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN WRITING ANY TOO OFTEN. AFTER A COUPLE OF MONTHS OVER HERE IT GETS DEAD AND NOTHING BUT THE SAME OLD DEAL DAD AFTER DAY. BUT WE'RE ON THE LAST HALF OF THIS CRUISE, GOING DOWNHILL AND WONT BE LONG BEFORE WE HIT THE STATES ONCE AGAIN. THEN L-O-O-K O-U-T!!!!!! ----- TOO EARLY TO SAY ANYTHING DEFINATE YET ABOUT LEAVE. REMEMBER HOW IT WAS THE LAST TIME???? ONE DAY I HAD LEAVE THE NEXT DAY -NO LEAVE AND SO ON FOR WEEKS ON END. THINGS LOOK FAIR FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS LEAVE WHEN WE HIT THE STATES. I DON'T GO FOR THAT AT ALL. WOULD MEAN I'D GET HOME AROUND THE 29TH OF JUNE AND HAVE TO RETURN ABOARD SHIP ON THE 8TH OF JULY. SO THEY SAY. BUT SIL, DICK GERGELY AND I ARE OUT FOR OUR 30 DAYS. ALL THREE OF US ARE ON THE GOOD SIDE OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE SO THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT. IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF MONEY (THAT I DON'T HAVE!!) TO TRY AND MAKE IT HOME ON A TWO WEEK LEAVE. BUT BEFORE TODAY IT WAS SAID WE WOULD START IN OPERATING AROUND SAN DIEGO 7 DAYS AFTER WE ARRIVED IN THE STATES. JUST GOT A NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER (THAT'S THE 'BOY' JUST BELOW THE CAPTAIN THAT MORE OR LESS RUNS THE SHIP AS FAR AS ADMINASTRATIVE DUTIES ARE CONCERNED) ABOARD AND HE PUT OUT THE WORD HE WILL TRY TO GET 50% OF THE CREW TWO WEEKS LEAVE UPON ARRIVAL AND THE OTHER 50% TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING THAT. LIKE I SAID TOO EARLY YET. JUST HOPE SIL'S FOLKS COME OUT TO CALIFORNIA TO MEET THE SHIP AND ALL OF US DRIVE BACK TO CHICAGO. SURE WOULD SAVE 'US' A LOT OF MONEY.

LEFT SASEBO AROUND THE 8TH OF THIS MONTH AND DID A

TWO
LITTLE OPERATING WITH A COUPLE OF OUR SUBMARINES BEFORE WE ARRIVED IN
YOKOSUKA. ONLY STAYED THERE, YOKOSUKA, FOR TWO DAYS WHEN WE PULLED OUT
FOR KOBE, JAPAN. ARRIVED IN KOBE TWO DAYS LATER. THIS WAS ANOTHER ONE
DAY STOPOVER LEAVING THE NEXT MORNING, THAT WAS THE 16TH OR 17TH. WE HAVE
BEEN OUT SINCE.

AT PRESENT WE ARE OUT ON QUITE AN OPERATION. IT IS
THE LARGEST ONE THIS SHIP HAS EVER BEEN IN IN THE TWENTY-SIX (26) MONTHS
I'VE BEEN ON HERE. MUST BE EIGHTY SHIPS IN ALL. IT'S A MARINE DIVISION
LANDING EXERCISE OR MARDIVLEX AS THE NAVY CALLS IT. WE MADE A PRACTICE
EXERCISE THE OTHER DAY ON AN ISLAND CALLED HA HA SHIMA. ALL WENT SMOOTH
SO WE WON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT FOR THE FINAL EVENT THESE NEXT
FEW DAYS; REALLY EXPECTED A WORKOUT BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE\$ ANOTHER SHIP
AND US CHANGED PLACES AND WE GOT A MORE OR LESS SOFT TOUCH. THE FINAL
OPERATION WILL BE HELD OFF AND ON IWO JIMA. SHIPS CARRING MARINES WILL
TAKE THEM UP TO THE SHORELINE AND THEY WILL ENVADE THE ISLAND. OUR JOB
WILL BE TO PATROL THE AREA AGAINST ANY OF OUR OWN SUBMARINES IN THE AREA
ACTING AS ENEMY. THERE WILL BE PLANES (OUR OWN OF COURSE) ACTING AS ENEMY
AND THE SAME FOR SHIPS. YEAH, NOTHING TO DO BUT PLAY GAMES. WHAT A LIFE!!

WE ARE DUE BACK IN SASEBO AROUND THE 27TH OR 28TH.
WILL BE GLAD TO GET BACK AS WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY MAIL DELIVERIES SINCE WE
LEFT THERE AROUND THE 8TH. JAMES THEY COULD USE A GOOD MAIL MAN AROUND
HERE---THINK YOU'LD LIKE THE JOB??? BY THE WAY HOW ARE YOU MAKING OUT ON
THIS NEW DEAL I'VE HEARD ABOUT. KEEP ME INFORMED ON YOUR PROGRESS. NEVER
SAID ANYTHING BEFORE 'CAUSE I WAS AFRAID EVERYONE WOULD LAUGH BUT I'VE HAD
MY EYES ON THE CITY FOR SOME TIME NOW. LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE I CAN'T MAKE
TOO MANY PLANS YET. BUT JUST A WEEK OR SO MORE AND I'LL HAVE A YEAR AND
A HALF TO DO IN THIS OUTFIT LEFT ---- 3 1/2 YEARS DOWN THE DRAIN!!!!!!!!!!

THE WEATHER IS GREAT AROUND THESE PARTS. HAD HOLIDAY
ROUTINE TODAY AND GOT A CHANCE TO STRIP TO THE WAIST. GOT A VERY LIGHT
SUNBURN. ONLY STAYED OUT FOR 45 MIN AS IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SUNBATHING IN

THREE

ALMOST A YEAR. SHOULD GET A CHANCE TO SOAK UP A LITTLE MORE SUN TOMORROW MORNING. RATHER THIS MORNING I FORGOT WHAT TIME IT WAS. HAVE THE AFTER-NOON WATCH. JUST GOT OFF WATCH AT 3:45. I HAD THE MIDNIGHT 'TILL 4AM IN THE RADAR SHACK. IT'S A LITTLE HOT SLEEPING IN THE COMPARTMENT SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP IN AT THE RADIO SHACK WHERE I'M AT NOW AND GET THIS LETTER OFF TO YOU. THE SHIP'S LAUNDRY IS IN PART OF OUR COMPARTMENT AND ADDS A BIT TO THE HEAT. CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING.

SO WHAT'S NEW AROUND THE CORNORS??? MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GARFIELDIAN RAN OUT AND I'M NO LONGER UP ON THE NEWS. HAD A LETTER FROM EDDY AND MRS ROSS A LITTLE WHILE BACK. GAVE ME SOME OF THE NEWS.

HOW IS ANN COMING ALONG WITH THE PLANS FOR HER WEDDING??? HAS SHE FOUND THE HALL YET??

GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR NOW. IF YOU SEE JOHN TELL HIM I'M WAITING FOR THAT LETTER FROM HIM. WROTE TO MARY THE OTHER DAY.

BEST REGARDS TO ALL,

*Love,
Bud*
H

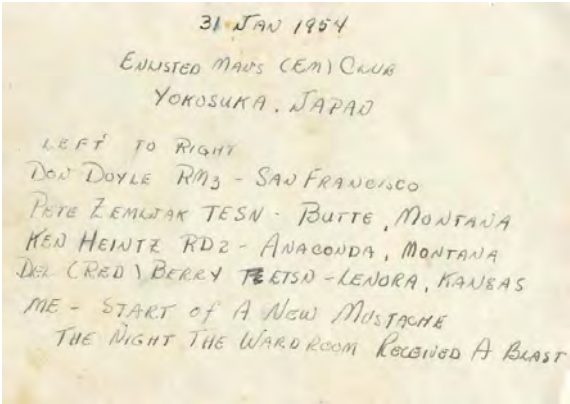
*Didn't get off today after all. Won't leave
now 'til the 27th. Better late than never.
P.J.*

SASEBO, JAPAN
METRO BAR
SAKE PARTY

JESS SCHMIDT
CORN FED
SHARPIE
MARICO

O.B.
DICK GERGELY





0 Comments

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