

9

SERVICE

5

WRITING TABLET



FRAZETTA

I Arrived in Leyte Mar., 1945. Stayed
there a few days and then
started out for Manila.
Went through the
and passed through
a narrow channel in which
both sides of land were control-
led by the enemy. We were
at General Quarters most
of the night and off shore
we could see the enemy's
lights. That part of the
islands were pretty well
neutralized. We passed
by without any trouble.
We then passed the islands
of Cebu & Negros. Of course
it was a pretty good distant
away, but still it was dan-
gerous waters. But an
unexpectedly good thing happened.

FORM 24, 1-9-45

was it fate or was it a
split time synchronism that
those particularly ~~held~~ &
probable dangerous held islands
were invaded?

Well, anyway it probably
saved our necks. The
Yips were too busy with
the American invading force
to bother us. So we passed
by unharmed again and
into what is known as
the deepest waters ⁱⁿ the
world. From there into the
China Sea and behold - a few
days later we sighted the world
famous fighting rock - "Corregidor".
Bataan was separated by a
small channel of water.
we were to go between the

2

two but it seemed that there still was fighting going on around there. It wasn't very important, just a few Japs trying to escape off one of the small islands, but were quickly killed & captured by a small navy cutter. We then proceeded into Manila Bay. Who dreamed that a few short months ago that our ship while in the Atlantic ~~had~~ would soon be in the Pearl of the Orient,

"Manila?"
For awhile it was pretty dangerous for our mailman, Calligan, to get the mail.

There were still many

Japs hiding out amongst
the ruins of the once proud
city of Manila.

While out in the Bay,
a few of the fellows had
liberty with an officer in
charge of the groups. For
there was still a little
danger lurking around.

Many tails were told. And
many arrived back with
fruits & Japanese invasion
currency. What made us
laugh was that much of
this invasion currency was
not only just for the
Philippines but of many
other American & British held
islands. And the best joke of
all was that they even

had invasion currency for
America. Yes, I said America.
They certainly were sure
of themselves.

Finally the day came for
us to tie up to the pier
in Manila proper. This
happened exactly one week
since our arrival in Manila
Bay. On Mar. 1945 we
tied up to a ruined pier
in Manila. PIER #1, in south
Manila.

Now the question arose,
how long will we have to
wait before we start supplying
power to Manila? Meanwhile
I had liberty also with
an officer to lead the group.
We wore dungaree for the
place was very dusty from

the ruins and dirt roads.
We visited Santo Thomas
the place where they (the
jap) kept the Americans
as prisoners. We also saw
the Bureau of Prisons, China
Town and many other
places of interest.

Exactly a week after we
tied up to the pier, we
started supplying power
to Manila, or rather the
important Army stations
around Manila.

We had quite a job hooking
up our power cable. We
had to tie floats on a little
at a time ^{so} until we could
tow the front beneath the
end of an adjoining pier.

Soon we were completely finished. After a thorough inspection by the Army engineers, our Engineering officer and Chief Electrician, we paralleled our plant with a smaller one somewhere in the city. It was successful! We now had one of our main generators supplying about 13,000 volts and about an average of 1500 **K.V.A.** Our watches were 4 on + 8 off every other day. And every four days we rated liberty.

In town, the place was in ruins. A close study would show that the main business

section was pretty modest. But as you slowly went away from town many houses weren't fit to live in. The slums were present everywhere. The people were in tattered clothes and a majority of them walked barefooted. But most of the people were happy. Many of the kids would put up two fingers and say "Victory Joe". That's what the people called us Americans, Joe. And that's what we called the Filipinos.

It's amazing in what little

short time - 2 mos. what a change has undergone in Manila. Many small dingy restaurants and bars or night Clubs arose almost overnight. There were many signs cautioning the people of poisoned liquor. But still the army + the navy drank. A few died, a few others went blind and still many others were paralyzed for awhile. Still that didn't stop the men. They still drank. Many didn't know when to stop. Black market flourishes very

much here. Many service
men get as much as 60¢ a
pack for cigarettes. Five
Dollar pens are sold for \$1.00
Many servicemen sold lipstick.
\$2 for a 10¢ tube. Everything
was high. Liquor was
expensive. Boy along the
streets sold liquor for
\$20 a quart. The servicemen
were glad to pay high price,
because to many of them this
was civilization compared to
New Guinea. Many servicemen
preferred Filipino girls to the
Wacos. This was their way
of getting back at them when

⑥

they were in New Guinea
and there weren't no women
at all. The Waccs there were
for officers only. Now the Waccs
here seem to resent it.

While on liberty here I've seen
and snapped pictures of many
interesting things... The Presidents
Palace, Chinese Cemetery, China town,
Chinese market, Jap machine gun,
the ruins of Manila and many
other interesting things.

While in Manila, we received
news of Germany's surrender.
Only to find out it was untrue.
About a week later it was
the McCoy. Everyone was happy
yet grim, for we still had

another even more treacherous
enemy to fight, Japan.

It so happened that the
day of Germany's surrender,
I had liberty. Joe Broich,
Bill Griffen and I celebrated
in a quiet sort of way, yet
enjoyed ourselves. We took
a few pictures and thus ended
the 6 years of war and misery
which Germany had caused.

I remember awhile back
when we were out in
the bay anchored, I and
a few others went out on
a salvaging trip to some of
the many Japanese sunken
ships. There were somewhere

around three hundred sunken ships in the bay. On most of the ships the damage was almost beyond repair. I saw my first dead Jap on one of these ships. He was burnt pretty bad. The stench was terrible. ⑦

On June 13, I ended up in the army hospital in Manila. It seemed like my stomach and breathing has gone on the burn. Ex-rays were taken, but nothing has showed up and as yet of 11 days here I am still untreated.

Meanwhile the war is getting along fairly well. Luzon +

Mindoro is pretty near cleaned up. Okinawa has fallen, the Australians invaded Borneo and some soldiers with over 85 points to his credit are slowly being discharged. Little by little more and more men are coming to the Pacific. More ships are coming here every day and more and more super-fortresses are bombing Japan.

Frank Scaduto is in the Medical Eng. school in Tacoma, Washington. Andrew Scaduto has joined the Navy. John Trapani who was wounded

in Italy and had his foot ⁸
blown off is going to get
a wooden one. Gnd Paul
Blefair who was wounded
in the counter ~~attack~~ in
Europe last ~~the~~ Dec. is home
with a limp. Gnd many
other of my friends are
scattered all over the globe,
in the same shoes as I.

On June 13, 1945, Wednesday,
I entered the 49th General
Army Hospital located where
the former Manila Jockey Club
was. Here, I had a fairly
good examination. A proctoscope
leading to stomach ex-ray.
at the end of a little over 2 weeks
in here, I first of all had a rest
which did a little good. The
doctors' diagnosis was, a little

enlargement of the spleen
which takes in the blood
& distributes it. This he said
was nothing that would
affect me very much.

Next they must have found
a very slight case of malaria
which at first they thought
might have been the trouble.
But since I never had
malaria before that let's
leave it out. Next & most
important was my bowel
nerves & stomachic nerves which
he thinks caused all the trouble.
They think it was caused
way back when I was a
young child & got frightened
very bad & in some way
it's just slowly getting until
my bowels wouldn't function

and my short breath would
affect me, which in turn
makes all my nervous system
react & cause sometimes
pains, nausea, twitching
and other symptoms which
I have. The cure? That is
the most bad news to me.

It's relaxation, don't worry,
time, time & time. As they
say, "time heals all wounds."

Then again they say it might
last forever. For in the
service they don't have the
certain doctors who specialize
in my case & usually medicine
can't cure it. So his suggestion
is to save my money & when
I get out of the service
to see a specialist. It might
cost half of my earnings, but
that's the only cure.

Sometimes I wonder if it is worth all this living & suffering. What do you get out of all this? But then right now, life is pretty dear to me. If others fought their way thru life, then I guess I can also.

Am back to standing watches on giving power to Manila. Lately I, Breich, Griffin & sometimes Thallhammer have been going swimming up to some private club. The admission is either 3 pesos or 2 pesos. Or $\$1\frac{1}{2}$ or $\$1$ respectively. While swimming it really makes you forget your troubles & makes you feel as tho you were back home.

After the swim we'd usually ⁽¹⁰⁾
buy some ~~bananas~~ bananas.
I then go to the Snack Bar
operated by the Army & get
some coke, cookies or candy.
From there we'd usually go
to the Red Cross and get
some free lemonade and sand-
wiches. Then back to the
ship in time for our beer
ration of two bottles.

Lately the war in the Pacific
has become intensified.
Okinawa has been taken!
B-29 bombers & all kinds of
fighters have been bombing
and attacking all parts of Japan.
Rumors that a large amphib-
ious force was being assembled
for the attack of Japan.

Finally one day Aug. 1945 an
important news flash came.
U. S. has dropped one ~~4000~~ lb.
atomic bomb! A new & terrible
weapon. That 1 bomb destroyed
about 60% of (Nagasaki) The
following day Russia
declared war on Japan.

The reason was to stop
this war quickly & help
make the world peaceful.
About 5 days later we
offered Japan to surrender
under the Potsdam terms.
He replied yes if they could
keep Hirohito. At this time
many he began celebrating
all over the world. But
we replied on one condition

and that was to have a (11)
supreme commander over
him. Presumably Douglas
McArthur. Within the next
60 to 72 hrs. the world
was all intensified to
receive her answer. And
then on the great day of
August 15, 1945, Japan accepted.
All night the bells were
ringing, horns blowing,
sirens screaming & flares
were shot. No one could
sleep for quite awhile.

As yet the Pres. Truman
said V-day will not come
till the surrender terms are
signed. General McArthur was
assigned as supreme command

of Japan. Messages were sent
to have the Japanese
commander to arrive in
Manila to sign the surrender
terms with McArthur.

Meanwhile the Army had
announced that they
planned to lower the point
system to about 50 + probably
will discharge between 5 +
5½ million men within the
next 18 mos. The Navy

has not yet announced
what they planned to do.
Rumors all over the ship
were of different point
systems the Navy planned
to use. But of all those
systems I still would be
able to get out for quite

sometime. Until then we are ⁽¹²⁾
all anxiously wait the
real Navy point system
for discharge.

x x x x x x y x \$1 USA = 2 PESOS
x x x
x x
x

Listed below are some
of the Manila prices of different
articles & souvenirs:

- Bananas - 10 centavos to 20 centavos each.
Fans - 5 to 8 pesos
Shot of whiskey 1 to 2 pesos
admission charge to a high joint - 1 to 5 pesos
Pt. Whiskey - 7 to 12 pesos
U.S. good Whiskey qt. - as high as 80 pesos.
straw pocket books - 4 to 10 pesos.
combs - 1 peso
U.S. cigarette PK - In black market 1 to 2 pesos.
Coin made rings - 4 to 10 pesos.

These are a few of many
of the high prices in just
Manila.

When we first came here
Pom Pom was from 3 to 5 pesos.

Then slowly it started rising.
When McArthur closed the
places. It was harder
to get so the price rose ^{from} ~~to~~ ^{to}
10 to 15 pesos.

On Sept. 2, 1945, Pres. Truman
proclaimed V. J. Day. On the
 Battleship U.S.S. Missouri all
the high ranking U.S., China,
British, Russia, Australia & Japanese
officers signed the ~~treaty~~
of unconditional surrender.
McArthur & many men are
starting the occupation of
Japan.

The Navy has finally
come out with a Navy
point system. Forty-four
is the amount. One-half
point for each month in
the service. Ten points
for any amount of dependents

and $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each year ⁽¹³⁾
of your age. All mine
totalled up make 34 points.
Many of us are dissatisfied.
It seems like the older
men have preference. And
also the shore based personnel
are considered as good as
we are. Many fellows
had complained about it.
Finally the Yaoy has
decided to give $\frac{1}{4}$ point a
month for each month
overseas. I now have
 $38\frac{3}{4}$ points. The men with
44 points or more before
had left. And now there
are more men with
over 44 points considering sea
duty. There is a good chance

that they might leave.
But there'll be a big brain
on the ship. Especially the
Electricians.

There is rumors of an electrical
barge coming in ~~some time~~
sometime in the middle
of Sept. and that we may
leave for the state shortly
after. I hope so. Time
will tell.

Here it is Oct. 8. Time for
me to write of a little more
of what is going on around
the ship and Manila.

Do you remember in my
last paragraph of me talking
about the electrical barge?
Well, as yet there is no
news whatsoever of it.

So it seems like we are

here to stay for a little while longer.

Already the second bunch of 44 pointers have left. A happy lot they ~~were~~ were.

Now a third group has come thru. All men with 3 or more children may be discharged. Eight men on our ship are eligible and the day after it came into effect, they left.

The Navy has promised that they might lower the point system to 40 by Nov. 1. I certainly hope so. For by Nov. 24, I will have 40 points & will

be eligible for discharge.
Already Mr. Bogue, our
engineering officer & Mr.
Aldrich, our communications
officer has left. Good Riddance
Now it just leaves old
"zipper ~~Lebe~~", Or "Watertight";
Our Executive officer. I know
he isn't loved at all
on the ship. So, we are
anxiously crossing our fingers
for his departure.

The only good thing that
Mr. Bogue has done toward
us is to give almost
everyone of us a recommenda-
tion for our certain work
that we have performed.
We thank him for that?

THIS BOOK SHOULD

NOT BE OPENED UNTIL

JULY 15, 1946 IF OF

ANY CASUALTY OF OWNER

J.S.