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News from Elmirans in Service

By MARGARET KENNEDY

Our first call this week was at St. Casimir's Parish, where we picked up some interesting news from Pfc. Walter Augustine, of the Sixth Marine Corps, who is spending a thirty-day furlough at his home after 27 months in the South Pacific.

Walt joined the Marines in October 1942. He trained at Parris Island, N. C., and Camp Lejeune, N. C., and in December 1942, just two months after his entry into the service, he was sent to the South Pacific Area. Samoa was his first stop and later he went to New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, four of the Marshall Islands and finally to Guam. We had quite a struggle getting Walter to tell us of his adventures during the past two years. These Marines always have the situation well in hand except when it comes to talking about themselves.

Guam was his last station before he returned home and he told us quite a bit about it. The natives are called [illegible]. Most of them are Catholics and a majority are educated. In recent years several of the natives have been sent to colleges in the United States and have then returned to the Islands to teach in the native schools. There are modern towns on Guam, with banks stores and schools. The Island has practically been rebuilt since the Americans drove the Japs out and almost all this work was done by the Seabees.

In many of the Islands, Walt tells us, the men have planted gardens and fresh vegetables are a welcome addition to the Army menu, and some of the gardens even boast a watermelon patch. Most of the natives realize the value of the American dollar and sell souvenirs to the boys. Canes, shell necklaces, grass skirts and many other trinkets are among the items for sale. Among themselves the natives use a trade system instead of money for exchange. Walt told us of one incident in the New Hebrides, where a man traded a wife for a pig.

Religion plays an important part in the lives of the men in this area, where Walt has been stationed. He said that 75 per cent of the men in his outfit are Catholics. They have a Chaplain and hear Mass everyday. During the nice weather, Mass is offered in a field but during the rainy season they find an empty building for their services. We asked him if he had met many missionaries. He said there is evidence that they had been in the Islands because of the show of faith among the natives. However, most of the Missionaries were made prisoners during the Japanese occupation. Walt said he only saw one mission that was at New Caledonia. The time he was in the Islands and Missionary was there and some French Nuns. The Chapel was dedicated to St. Theresa and a beautiful shrine, in her honor, has been placed there.

Recreation in the Islands plays an important part in the daily life of the men when they are not engaged in fighting. Movies and USO shows are tops on the list. Ping Pong and cards are among the indoor amusements and swimming, baseball and basketball hold forth when the weather permits.

Meets Elmirans

We asked Walt if he had ever met any boys from Elmira and he has quite a list, among them were [illegible] Kesplerk of Grant Street, [illegible] Smith of West First Street, George Huyler of Roe Avenue and Billy Hughes of Davis Street.

The food was not bad Walt told us, but he did not always get the things he most wanted. He said, when he arrived in San Francisco, he passed up a steak dinner for two quarts of milk and several hamburgers. The last two items having been off his menu since he left the States.

Walt holds the Asiatic Pacific campaign ribbon with two battle stars. A graduate of St. Casimir's school and the Academy, Walt was employed at the American Bridge Company before he entered the service.

Walt was quite happy over the prospects of renewing a friendship formed at Guam. A friend, whom he calls his Foxhole buddy, John Caughlin, of Buffalo, is planning to visit him and the two friends are anticipating a pleasant weekend, talking over their adventures together in the Islands.

Walt has two brothers in the service. One, Pvt. Stanley Augustine, whom we reported as having been injured at Iwo Jima, in last weeks Courier, has written to his parents that his injuries were to his hand and are not serious. Another brother, Seaman 1/c Chester Augustine, is stationed at Miami, Florida.

Walt, Stanley and Chester are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Augustine of 315 Fitch Street.

From St. Anthony's Parish we have some news about Pfc. Claude W. Brown, who has been in the Army since March 1943. Claude received his training at Ft. Riley, Kan., and Camp Chenango, Pa., and in July 1943 was sent to Iceland and is still stationed there. He is a member of the Military Police and is stationed at Reykjavik, the Capital of Iceland. He says he is getting used to the place now but it was very hard at first.

The people were not a bit friendly but are gradually becoming acquainted with the Americans and Claude tells his wife, they are even coming to the USO Dances. He says the climate is never warm, it rains every day and they have extremely high winds. However Uncle Sam provides for that kind of weather and the men have heavy clothing and for outdoor wear they have fur-lined parkas and specially treated boots. He says they live in Nissen Huts which we understand are similar to the pre-fabricated barracks used [illegible] in this country but built to withstand intense cold and high winds.

Claude, who is a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] worked at the Remington Rand before he entered the service. He is married to the former Miss Anne Cardone who is living at their home, 222½ Harmon Street.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was last on our list. Up there we gathered some news about Corp. James R. Collins, who has been in the service since March 1943. Jim trained at Camp Mackall, N. C., Camp Crowder, Mo., Holabird Depot, Md., and went overseas in January of this year. He is in the South Pacific but his family does not know his location. They have received letters from him but they were written aboard ship enroute. Jim's wife told us that while at Camp Mackall, his Chaplain was Father John Maloney from Elmira. Jim was graduated from St. Patrick's School and the Academy and was a member of the State Police before he entered the service. He is married to the former Miss Kathryn [illegible] who resides at their home at [illegible] Winsor Avenue.

Promotions Go To 4 from Corning

Corning — Mrs. Angelo A. Buffomante, 79 E. First St., received word recently that her husband, Lt. Buffomante, has been promoted to the rank of captain. A former well known local dentist he is serving with a hospital unit in France doing dental surgery. Captain Buffomante entered the Army in February, 1944, and was sent overseas last October.

Michael R. Gullo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gullo, 117 W. Market St., has been promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant at Cherry Point, N. C. He is stationed there as an ordnance man with a unit of the Ninth Marine Aircraft Wing.

S. Sergeant Gullo enlisted in the Marine Corps in Sept., 1940, and is a veteran of nearly 18 months in the South Pacific area. His marriage to the former Miss Elizabeth M. Rathbun of Elmira by Msgr. Michael A. Irwin, pastor of St. Paul's Church, New Bern, N. C., was announced recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Aloysius W. Ruppert, 148 W. First St., have been informed that their daughter, Second Lt. Veronica R. Marks, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant with the Army Nurse Corps in England.

Before entering the service in March, 1943, Lt. Marks was a member of the staff of the New York State Department of Public Health. She has been overseas since June, 1943.

Daniel J. Bulkley, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Bulkley of 60 Davis St., has been promoted to watertender first class, U. S. Naval Reserve aboard an escort aircraft carrier of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Watertender Bulkley wears the ribbons of the American European-African and Asiatic-Pacific theaters of war.

His wife, the former Miss Rose Marie Malakum, resides with her parents in Corning.

Before entering the service he was employed at the Ingersoll-Rand Co., Painted Post.

Two Kinds of Streets

A city street that is busy and wide
is ground by a thousand wheels,
And a burden of traffic on its breast
is all that it ever feels;
It is dully conscious of weight and
speed and of work that never ends,
But it cannot be human like Main
Street, and recognize its friends.

— Joyce Kilmer.

St. Collette

[illegible] virgin, was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis and was instructed by that Saint [illegible] [illegible] to undertake the reform of the Order. By her inspired [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Council [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Pope.

Boylemarx

CAUTION

To Those Buying Used Pianos

On several occasions in recent weeks, we have been called to bring pianos into our shop for repairs, that have been purchased by individuals, from private homes — only to find that because of Loose Pins, Moths, Cracked Sounding Boards or Cracked Plates these pianos were practically worthless. In fairness to the seller, we wish to state that these conditions could easily have been unknown to them . . . nevertheless, the purchasers suffered complete loss—and still have no pianos. We give these words of caution because, for 48 years, this firm has been looked to for reliable facts and information about pianos. You have had faith in our advice; so we feel an obligation to bring you this information.

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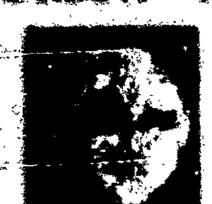

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