

No. _____



To Mr. F. C. Nielsen
Centuria
Wisconsin

From
PFC A E Nielsen 36245727
(Sender's name)

H + S Co 1897 Eng Aun Bn
(Sender's address)

AP0705, San Francisco,

3-12-45

(Date)

Dear Folks,

Things are getting in bad shape when I can't find anything better to do than to sit thru a Gene Autry show as I did last nite. Anyway he beat up the villain as usual.

Last nite I ~~sat~~ ate a papaya. It's a fruit which grows on a tree and looks and tastes something like a muskmelon. There is a lot of fruit here; the tent next to us has half a dozen bunches of bananas ripening and some other have pineapples.

Whenever the Americans move in, they do as American pioneers have always done; tear out the forest. The first thing we use is a bulldozer. The japs don't; I've seen one building, evidently built by them, where the trees cover the roof completely. You could walk to within a few yards of it before you could see it. Other installations are the same way; they're clever enough all right.

Wish I were back on the ship eating navy chow.

V...-MAIL

Bill

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WRITE HERE

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INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

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Mr. F. C. Nielsen
Centuria
Wisconsin

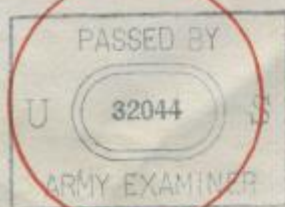
V — ... V MAIL

See
Instruction
No. 3

Rt. Nielsen 36245027
Hr. S. 1847 Eng. Ave. Bn
APO 705, San Francisco

No. _____

From



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To Mr. F. C. Nielsen
Centuria
Wisconsin

170AEN, Nielsen 36 243227
(Sender's name)

H+S Co 1897 Eng Ave Bn
(Sender's address)

APC 705, San Francisco, Ca

3-18-45

(Date)

Dear Folks,

If the bananas hold out I ^{should} get fat as a pig. This past week we've been out a couple of times to get a few and they're ripening fast. They're not as large as the ones you are accustomed to but they are very good. Tried to get some lemons too but all I got were wormy.

One nite this past week before the show we were entertained by a Philippine band, all prisoners. They were long on saxophones and short on a few other things and on a few fast numbers some of the players couldn't keep up, but it was better than anything we'd heard for quite some time. We have shows every other nite.

Have I ever mentioned all the barb-wire here. Some fields were enclosed by as high as eight strands of hog wire and four wire fences were quite common. Even tho they had wire, I've seen but few staples; but then some of the native timber is too hard to drive a nail into anyway. Some of the timber is soft enough tho. Got a couple of letters this past week.

V...-MAIL

Pfc Nielsen 34245027
H+SC 1897 Eng Avn Bn
APO 705, San Francisco, Cal

V...V MAIL

See
Instruction
No. 5

Inc
mch. 28

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Mr. F. C. Nielsen

Centuria

Wisconsin



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INSTRUCTIONS

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DO NOT
WRITE HERE

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WRITE HERE

Dear Folks,

A rat just strolled across the tent. He didn't seem at all scared either. One of the fellows who had seen it before had gotten a trap but the rat refused to set it and step in and we've never gotten around to it.

The mosquitoes are worse tonight than they have been for some time.

The last week or so we've been eating like kings. Fresh eggs, oranges, fresh spuds, cabbage, meat (beef, pork & mutton - and you ought to see the boys eat it) at least once a day, fresh apples. And at the same time the preparation of the food has been improving &

thinks.

2

Is your stomach back in shape yet Dad. We had a siege of that just after we first came to the Philippines and were living and eating in mud.

The Calculus is coming along, albeit slow. He is spending more time shulping another fellow with his trig.

Spent an hour tonight watching a guy turn out something on a lathe. Wonderful machines!

Our laundry is doing fine. For fifty cents a month they're doing a swell job. — time to go to show, maybe modelates

Back again - I'd seen it long ago

Got a letter from Myron this last week. The cancer had really

given it a working over.

You asked just how all that arithmetic on our pay went. Well, my base pay is 66 and then there is 20% for overseas and 5% for three years service. Anyway we haven't been paid for two months but I guess we will soon. That govt check I wrote of isn't on the way for we didn't get paid.

I'd better go to bed for this morning we nearly all forgot to get up for breakfast and I was just too late to get in orange.

Bill



(EDITOR'S STAMP)

To Mr. F.C. Nielsen
Centuria
Wisconsin

See Instructions No. 2

From:

WAE Nielsen 26745027
1145 So 1897 Englewood Ave
APO 221 - Fresno
9-17-45

(Sender's complete address shown)

Dear Father,

Chicken noodle soup for dinner today. It wasn't Campbell's ever - strictly McCormick, the first cook. I'd say it was made from real chicken too.

Oh, I forgot to mention we got paid about two days ago. A whole two dollars for three months. Maybe Uncle Sam is getting hard up for cash. He's got to get it all back there the P.M.

I'm a defeated nation, the Japs seemed too defiant. Maybe we should have dropped a few more atomic bombs before we talked turkey with them. Of course it's good to see an end so close but there's nothing like doing a thorough job.

Got your letter postmarked the nineteenth today. How fast do they get home?

This morning the preacher said something about the hair of the head being numbered and the quip is from of me nodded to the one next to him - how true, how true!

Got another short haircut - figure it will have time to grow out before I go any place.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

8-30-45
31

Dear Folks,

I'm a little pretty now?
I should, for I just took my third
bath so there should certainly be no
B.O. You see I was on KP today.

It's coming around often as the high
point men and old men going taking away
some KPs and getting others promoted so they
don't have to do it.

Speaking of points, if they start
counting about now I'd have at least
86 and maybe 91. It should maybe
get me home for Christmas. But of
course we don't know how when
Mac says the word.

The money situation is getting
critical. We haven't been paid since

May 31 - well, we did get ten bucks
once - and there is no sign of getting
paid soon either. And then they talk
of the morale effect of paying troops
regularly. Maybe it's the fearful
shortage for to pay us off in the size
of bills we run so far will
take a truckload per company

No it wasn't dry either!
We were just discussing in
the shower what the show was.
But one fellow said that was an
idle question cause we'd go anyway.
Kind of the truth.

Had a letter from Bob
the other day. Have you
heard from Leo lately; I
haven't for some time.

Our outfit has been awarded the meritorious service unit plaque for a job in the Philippines. Unfortunately it gives no points.

Heard the Ht army radio from Chungking several times today.

Say what is Ht going to do with all of the outabags? If they are no ~~more~~ more attractive than dehydrated spuds, I can't see a very great ~~market~~ market for them. Speaking of the K ration plant in New Richmond ~~that~~ as Moths did, we've had some of them.

We evidently didn't make as much of the surrender as you did. All in all, it was taken very quietly here. Some of the fellows claim to have seen the white plains but I couldn't spot it. Time for show
Child

P 5

Instead of going to show I wound
up playing ping-pong. It must
be a dangerous game for one fellow
got a kink in his back and is still
in the hospital.

We are getting a fine ~~land~~
hedge of some kind of cane or sorghum
right near our tent. It must be
growing about as well as the corn
Dad wrote of.

Sordinit

Quild

8
9-6-45

Dear Folks,

Well censorship is off they say. To start out right, we are on the Motoku Peninsula. In case that doesn't clarify anything it is the peninsula on the northwest corner of Okinawa pointing toward Seijima - where Pyke was killed - and on the southern part of the peninsula. The strip cuts across the peninsula; originally there were to have been two of them side by side, but they cut out work on the second and made a service and parking apron of it.

To go back a bit, I've told you where I was south of the equator - now to get to the Philippines. As you guessed, the first place was Lytle. We came into the harbor on the morning of the 24. Oh by the way, by your turn ^A day was on the 19, but by ours on the twentieth. That afternoon we beached at Dulaog and unloaded during that night and the next morning. I forgot to say we traveled on an L & T, as always. It must have been just before midnight when I got off; I tried to get a little sleep but it was pretty cold. To the East there were some flashes which I thought were lightning. The next day it developed that it was likely gun fire from the naval battle. Oh, yes, while

we were still on the ship, ² about supper time a few Jap
planes came over. One of them made a run on the long line
of L's on the beach. We were at the South end of the line
and he dropped a couple of small bombs ^{or} two hundred yards
short. Somehow or another he got by the whole line without
getting downed. The ~~first~~ ^{night} ~~into~~ ^{from} we moved a couple of miles inland -
the strip we were assigned to hadn't been secured yet - to an
area near one of the Dugay grass strips, and set up temporary
housekeeping. About the second morning Jap planes took us up
stroking the strip where there were a few of the navy planes
from the submarine carriers. No damage done. One into we saw a
huge flash on the beach just after we had touchdown; it was one
of those ammunition dumps you possibly read of; plenty of
fire works ~~for the~~ to watch for the rest of the into. After a couple
of days we moved out near a little town named Jolito and
commenced work on the San Pablo strips near Barroman. The
first pm they tried to stroke the one strip and went right by our
area so you could see the red balls and the flashes of the
guns. No one yet had fox holes so I grabbed my M-1 and thought
if they came back I'd at least do something instead of just
standing there; but that was all for that day. Once afterwards
they came close enough so we could see the meat balls. A couple
of fellows set up a fifty cal. mg and they got one for sure
and claimed another another one. It started raining and the

and everything became a sea of mud. The strips couldn't be worked. The Japs had had grass strips there but we had to cut the strip the road, fill ^{surface}, compact and lay track and it got too wet first. Most of the guys thought if they had laid mat and ~~excavated~~ put in a little more drainage they could have gotten a strip in A.S. The work was abandoned and we moved up to Tananauan to build one night on the sandy beach. Tananauan is just south of Palo. They knocked out the coconut trees and pushed them in the ocean, shaped a runway in the sand, surfaced it with coral and laid track on the strip and one tapping in short order. It was for this deal that we got the meritorious service unit award.

From there we went to Palawan behind the 41 division or rather one regiment of it. We went by way of Mindoro, laying over there for several days. The Japs were pretty sure Harold and Ivan were there, none of us could get ashore. My day was 29 Feb and we came the next day. The whole operation was a snap, with only one Jap encountered the ^{whole} first day. I had hid down a Jap strip there, concrete, but it was only a mess of bomb craters. Our job - with an additional eng. company was to extend the strip about 3000 feet and repair the existing strip. The plans were hatched both as to the filling of the craters and as to ~~the~~ whether or not mat was needed. A subee outfit built our tapping which was used mostly for navy planes. In a quick move, we left the ~~the~~ tapping incomplete and came up here. On the way we had quite a number of sub alerts. Oh I forgot to say that on the way from ^{over}

Lytle to Mindoro one of our escort was hit by a torpedo.
At Iloilo the strip was used by the Marines and 5th
air force. At Sanrafor and Palawan it was the
same units from the 13th air force plus some navy planes and
a few others staying from there occasionally. Here it was to have
been the 5th. Enough of this.

We got paid yesterday for June and July. There should
be one \$50 money order coming sometime dated July. This
is enough for one time. Oh, yes, they changed the value of the
Yen again so we got a lot of paper out of it deal.

Ogusaka

Oct 27 [1945]

Dear Folks,

In case you have never heard of this place, it is the location of a replacement depot about 25 miles from Nagoya.

How long will be here, we don't know. According to all the news stories we shouldn't stay longer than 48 hours but so far they haven't sent a single man out of this camp. Officially they are waiting for ships and the ships are waiting for Nagoya harbor to be cleared of mines. We should leave within a week.

A few things are quite certain. We have turned in our yen for exchange to dollars. After we leave here, we

enter the states thru Seattle. Wisconsin,
and some Minnesota and Chicago boys
go thru Camp McCoy. Two other
definite facts are that it is cold and
the food is nothing extra.

We got in here night before last and
were nearly frozen to death. The camp
is at an airfield and we live in flap
barracks. Before we leave we will get
one set of winter clothes - underwear, shirt,
trousers, sweaters.

From what I have found out I should
Matthew may be in the depot but in
another company which must be at some
distance from here and we have not
leave for long. We will be grouped by
companies to which we will go when we
leave so I may see him yet.

You should see the chow lines here -
two lines often 150 yards long before they
start feeding.

I can't write to this address. You
can start expecting undiverted mail
coming home to me.

Maybe the atomic bomb was the
excuse, but it didn't beat Japan. She
was finished before it came.

As a parting gesture, the 6th army
gave each of the returnees as a captured
Jap. weapon. Being that I went to Kyoto
after our Battalion. Stuff, I was given
first choice and ~~got~~ took a Luger type
pistol; a sword would be nice, but too
hard to carry.

And