



## With the Colors

12/8/44

Troit McCoy writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther McCoy of near Hunt City, from New Guinea:

"I am kept busy all the time. I like it that way. It takes lots of work to keep the machines going as it is so hot.

"We don't sleep in hammocks. We have metal bunks four and five high, with springs like a cot. I am getting lots of letters now. They mean more to me than anything else out here. I go to the show about every night. It'll be a western tonight.

"Three of the men in the shop are getting thirty day furloughs back to the states. They sure are tickled. They have been here twenty some months. I am sleeping in the shop, since they left. It is cooler than down below. I was on a ship the other day that had an up to date soda fountain. I took on a few soft drinks.

"There is not much I can say about things out here. I have seen lots of ships and have been aboard lots of them. I have seen some Jap dougouts and foxholes. Some of the trees are shot up and they are many bomb craters here. There aren't any wild animals out here and very few snakes.

"I see a few natives. They are small and very dark with fuzzy hair. We call them fuzzy wuzzies. They don't wear any clothes; only an old shirt wrapped around them. Once in a while one of them will have on a sailor's hat. Most of them work for the government in malaria control.

"I haven't seen a mosquito since I came aboard. What I wear out here is overall pants and blue shirt. We call them dungarees. I had a big dish of ice cream on one ship we were working on. Things like that sure taste good out here, it is so hot.

"The fellows in our shop usually get close enough to the ice box to get a handout now and then. I got a package from the Jasper County Farm Bureau. They sent tooth paste, writing paper, two candy bars, peanuts, and a sack of caramels. I sure was glad to get them.

"We have church on the ship every Sunday. I have missed two Sundays lately as I was working on another ship. I am feeling fine. I had dinner on the ship I was working on, yesterday. We had chicken, potatoes, carrot salad, soup, hot rolls and pie with ice cream, so you see they feed us pretty good. It seems funny that it is so cool back home when it is so hot here. I feel a bit stuffy this evening as we had our Thanksgiving turkey and all the trimmings. I went to church at 10:00. A chaplain from another ship preached the sermon. This is the first Thanksgiving I can remember that I didn't go hunting."

