

mud trees. The steps other than that were rocky atolls or jungle messes. Tarawa was certainly a discouraging sight. To think that a barren atoll like that cost so many American lives. But the Navy and Marines learned a good lesson the hard way there and didn't make the same mistake again.

I was stationed in New Guinea for a month and it was a hell-hole. The heat was terrific - very hot and extremely humid. The natives were fuzzies-waggies and quite primitive.

Here in the Philippines it's much better. This island is hot, dry, and dusty but a cool breeze is present most of the time. The rainy ^{season} doesn't start on this island until April. The countryside is green and rolling with a good river running right beside the air strip.

A nice little town is next door. There are many houses, all with red tile roofs; also there is a sugar mill, an ice plant, a lumber mill, and a narrow gauge railroad with miniature cars. At night