Pfc John D. Decuster
M.D.F.T.B. San Clemente Is
% P.M. San Diego 4, Calif

Free

MAY
15
1944
ARRT R. BRE. SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF.

Miss Margaret Applgate
Indianapolis 4, Indiana
R.R. 12, Box 120

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received
May 19, 1944

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Margret

I got your address from one of my buddys he said you wanted some good looking marine to write you can live the good looking part out I am 6' 1" weigh 170 blond hair blue eyes.

I am from Ohio. I have a brother over seas he is a Sgt. an navagator on a bomber.

I do gard duty an teach the navy how to fire the rifle.

I lick to write but I cant no body can read it if you cant just take it to a Doc. and he will translate it for you.

I would lick to have a picture of you I have got one of me but it makes me look lick I am 20 by the way I just turned 18

There isent knothing to write about out here
I haft to go on post know so long

John

P.S. I will write you a longer letter next time

Pfc John DeCecluster
Marine Det F.F.B.
Sandomento 2 0/0 P.M.
San Diego 46 Calif.

Pfc John R. De Cenzie
Marine Det. F.T.B.
Sanclemente 60 % PM
San Diego 46 Calif

free

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
JUN
8
1944
FLEET P.O. NO. 100 ELEVENTH N.D.

Miss Margaret L. Applegate
R.R. 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44 Indiana

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received
June 17, 1944

June 4/44

Dear Mary.

I got your letter to day I have time to ans. it so I had better do it know.

I am from the northern Part of Ohio about 120 miles southe of cleveland a small town called Brewster it is around Massland and Canton in stark counting if you know whair that is.

I havent seen Bill for 2 days I will see him at chow this morning. I am in the gaurd house every time I tell some body I am in the gaurd house they think I am in the bridy. I just came back from chow but I didnt see him

Is all I lick to do is swimm play football and fight. You dident spell my name rong and if you did it wouent be the first one

My Sister got her first job the outher day she works in a dress shop

If you think it is hot back thair you aught to come out here it is just lick a oven

I would lick rarey much a picture of you but if you want one of me I will haft to get one taken they only have three of me when I was home and none of me since I have bean in the marines

The boys here are playing cards and I am trying to watch them and and write this letter I haft to go know So Long Sincerely yours John

Pfc John B. Deluosta
M.D. F.T.B. c/o PM
San Clemente Ds
San Diego 4 Calif

free

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
JUN
22
1944
REC'D. MAIL, SAN CLEMENTE D. M.

Miss Margaret Applegate
R.R. 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44
Indiana

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received
June 27, 1944

Dear Margaret

I got your litte she outhe day and I was glad to here from you

you ask if I had eney brothers or sisters I have one brother he is a Staff Sgt in the Marines he is a navator on a B24 he has bean over seas for some time he has bean in australia twice he cumplets fifty mishions then goes thair for a reast. I have a sister married she lives on a farm she has three boys. my outher sister is out of school yeat she works in the office you have herd of the Darling shop (well that Whan)

I hope you have beater luck with saving money than I did. when I was home I would get paid give my mother 50 dollers and then borow more than I gave her

you ask me if I went to college I never went there school I got up to the 10 grade then I failed two subject and quit I started to work on the railroad I would heat rivets and some times coach them I have work on farms when I went to school ohrue the summer. I work in gas staion when I went to school after school was out

well I cant think of any thing to say
I have a 12 to 4 on the pier to night S Long

John

Pfc John R. DeCuster
U.S.M.C.

free

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
JUL
15
1944
MCAS, SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF.

Miss Margaret Lapplegate
Indianapolis 44 Indiana
RR 12 Box 120

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received July 19, 1944

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Peggy

I got your letter some time ago I dont know why I didnt ans. it I guess I never had time

That picture you had taken if you send it to me I will get one taken when I go in on liberty and send you one of me you might be getting hook but.

The weather out here has been mild so far it hasnt been hot yet. If I was you under that shade tree I would rather have a mint ber in stead of water

all of those cherries and apricots

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

will come in handy in the winer.
when you go to collage you can lean
some stuff for me well I haft to
go know so long

John

Pfc John R. Decuster
U.S.M.C.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
JUL
31
1944
U.S. MARINE CORPS RECEIVING STA.

Miss Margaret I. Applegate
RR 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44
Indiana

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received August 5, 1944

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Peggy

I got your letter to day I had letter ans. it while I have time

I have bean off of my crutches for two days know I hurt my ankle I walk around but it still hurts a little

If you send me a picture of you the next time I go in on liberty I will have some taken I hope to get some taken to send home for thay havent got ney of me. But If I send one I am afraid that you will stop writing

You ask me some thing I do as a marine well when I was home know one told me what to do I just do my part and go on about my business but in here I hoft to take orders and some of theas times some one is going to tell me to do something and he will wake up in the mitle off next week

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

you ask me about the conventions in chicago well I am one of then kind of a gay that dont care if thay dont even have a presedint and dont care what happends bon one min to the nest I realy would lick to get off of here and go an fight that is what I joined this outfit for knot ~~to~~ gaurd a bunch of swobis dick this plact well I haft to go for know So Long

For John

Pfc John R Dolcester
U S M C

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
SEP
1
1944
REC'D. AREA AIR SERVICE U. S. M.

Miss Margaret Lapplante
R.R. 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44
Indinia

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received
Sept. 7, 1944

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Margaret

I have bean trying to ans this letter ever since I got it but it all I got done was to address the end hope for the day. I am sorry I will try and do better the right time

You said that I was keeping the enemy from the mainland if they was going to take the funited States. This would be the last place they would stop

We are haven a little March weather out here boy is it windy.

Name one person that dont want this war to get over and if there is such a person he or she aught to be spot.

My ankle is O.K. now I go around O.K. just lick I alwase did

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

I dont care what you tell
me if you come out with the
stright blope it is the way I
do and that the way I lick to
get it
when I get a furlow or I mean
if I get a furlow I will stop by
that way and see you, for I think
I will go that way.
my folks just went back
my sister mother and dad went out
they havent chang a bit. So I
am knot redy for a furlow yet
but if I get one I shure will go
home will So long

John

Pfc John R. DeCiastro
U.S.M.C.

FREE

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
SEP
13
1944
FLEET P.O. DEC. SAN FRANCISCO

Miss Margaret J. Applgate
R.R. 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44
Indiana

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Received
September 18, 1944

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Margart

I got your letter the outhuday So I had better ans. it while I have got time

Right know I am one of the happies marines on this side of the world we are going to get transfured I think we are going to go to Camp Penafolin and be thair for a while then go across

I would lick to go the fair back home boy we ust to have fun at thin I ust to allaways go to the country fair its all that would go was a bunch of farmers

My sister went back to school she lick it that is the differnel betwine me and her

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

I hope your thun is better by
Snow. Boy I hate to hurt my fingers
becawise you cant do knothing when
you do
I just ate a clark bar and spilt my
canteen all ove the lot I an writ on
well it is 9:40 so I had better go
to bed So long

Love
John

Pfc John R. DeCuster
B. Co. 11 Bn. 4th Inf Trng Regt
T.C. F.M.F. S.D.A.
Camp Pendleton
Oceanside, Calif.

U.S. NAVY
OCT 10
11-AM
1944

free

Miss Margaret Lappligate
RR 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44 Indiana

Received
Oct. 14, 1944

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Margate

I suppose you wonder whair I have bean I told you that I was going to get transfered and with luck I did well I an back in the marine corp agined in stead of the navy the way they talk we will be here but a cuple of month then go over with a replacement Battalion. Boy will I be glade when we go over and get away from some of this traning they realy treat you rif out here we went swimming to day we work out all day then then went swimming we was in the water for two hours an wasn't alout out. well it is time for lights to go out and you can't read this so I hoft to go So long John

Pfc John R De Geyster
B. Co. 11th Bn. 4th Inf. Trng Regt
T.C. F.M.F. S.D.A.
Camp Pendleton
Ocean Side Calif

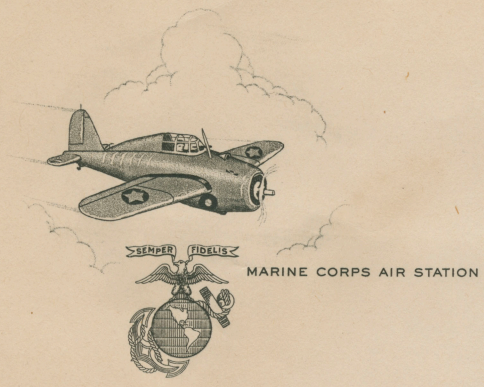
Pfc John R. DeCuster 910242
Co "D" 22nd Replacement Draft
Training Command F.M.F. S.D.A
Camp Pendleton Oceanside Calif

U.S. NAVY
NOV 14
6 30 PM
1944

free

Miss Margaret Lappgate
RR 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44 Indiana

Received
Nov. 18, 1944



Dear Margaret
I suppose you thought that I was dedd or something well I am knot dead but I am just about I am throu with my training and I am know standing by for sailing orders
I finly got what I wanted. The reason I never wrote I lost your address and happend to be going throu a book and found it their isent much to say eept that I dont do knoching but eat and slep dont you wish that all you had to do. Their will be know use writing to me here for I will be gone by the time your letter gets here I will write you just a soon as I get my new address. well I have more letters to write so So Long
John

Pfc John H. DeCenzo
Bkg. 1st Bn 22nd Marines
6th Div. San Francisco Calif

NAVY AIR MAIL

Miss Margmant Lapplgate
RR 12, Box 120
Indianapolis 44 Indiana

Passed by
N.K.
Naval Censor

Recieved
Feb. 17, 1945

Dear Margaret

I suppose you thought you would never hear from me. I think the last letter was in September when I was going to live San Clemente Island

There is not much to say around here I finly got over here so I can't beat my guns about that I guess I will have to start Regten then about going back

I wrote you a couple of other letters but when I would go to mail them I would have a change

Pfc John R Delcuster

of address I have had thru
since I have been here
There is not much around
here we wash are close in
the river and are stiff
What ever happend to
Tilor a bunch got transferred
from the Island I suppose
he got transferred to I got a
letter from my sister one
of my buddyes got transferred
to Pensilvania his maneuvers
Fine he was in the first
Pl. team with me I suppose
you don't know him
Well that all I can think
of
John
Pfc John R DeCusati

Pfc John R. De Cenzo
B Co. 1st Bn 22nd Marines
6th Div. % Post Master
San Francisco Calif

AUG 12 A.M. 1945

VIA AIR MAIL

PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR
JOK

Miss Margaret L Applegate
RR 2, Box 120
Indianapolis 44, Indiana

Received
August 17, 1945

SEMPER FIDELIS

U. S. MARINE CORPS

Dear Margaret

I got a letter from you just before we left but havent had time to ans. it. I wrote you a letter while I was in the hospitle but tore it up becaus I thought the address was wrong But found out it was right I was wounded on Guam a snipe shot ~~and~~ thru the nose mean even broke a bone I got a purple hart two days ago and am going to send it home to day I suppose you are out of school by know an wish you was back than or are you going to collage well I hoft to go to the denest a filling fell out yeasterday.

well than isent much news hear expet that my brothe is back over here and he is going to try and be corpe a polit I will write you a longer letter when I get one from you John

Pfc John D Beverstein
Bco 1st Bn 22 Marines
6 Div. % Postmaster
San Francisco Calif

PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR
JRK

Miss Margaret J Applegate
RR 12, Box 120
Indianapolis Ind.

Received
Sept. 4, 1945

SEMPER FIDELIS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Margart

I just got your letter so I had better ans. it while I have got time.

When I was walkin up here I was thinkin of you and got here a your letter was on my back. of corse it was all by it's sealf if I got two letters in one day I think I would fall over.

I have sean lought of things but I have only been on five outher Island since I have sean you by the way I can tell you that I an on Guam know. It is pretty nice here except that it is kinda of hot here an it rain quite offten but out side of that it will do.

~~we~~ I had some pictures taken here the outher day and one of my buddyes took them home

Pfc John R DeCenzo

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Dear Margaret

I just got your letter the other day
and it seems I have got time.
When I was working up this I was thinking
of you and got the a your letter was on my
desk. I was all by it. It's hard to
get two letters in one day I think I would
fall over.

Today I was thought of taking that I have
only been on five weeks behind being I have
been up by six weeks I can tell you what
I am on Saturday. This further moves me
right what it is thinks of that that on
it rain quite often but out side of that
it will do.

We had some pictures taken the other
day and one of my buddies took them and
gave them to me.

Yours RDLewis

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

with him he is going to send them back when he get some more ~~made~~ of made from them they wont be much good but it will at last, be a picture.

You ask when I would come home I dont know but dont hold that parad up for me you will proply be about 45 by the time I get home Layen all kidin aside I dont know when I will get to come home but I hope so soon.

I haven't celebration yet I suppose I will be one of thoes who dose it when he get home then I can celebration twice

when I got the mussel I was in my sack just about asleep. well take care of your sealf and dont jump off of know raylm

Thanks for that punpkt I know you was at least thikin of me

John

P.S. Thes are boys are in my Pltoon. The one that has 2 tanks taken fare away ~~they~~ the names may be mixe up so if they ever find out who that are or which is which I let you know. I was hit before then

Pfc John P. DeCuster

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Few buildings remained standing amid the wreckage

remaining in the US Army eturning to the Marine Corps :orporal, Chamberlain chose han four months duty in the d duty in a combat area. he once more went out to n request to carry on the r security reasons it has been is story until now.

★ ★

ıps in the area. No one fired notor, we pulled close to the ls from shore we turned the and, as we slipped over the ened wide the throttle.

and it was difficult swimming oes on. I was glad when I got gh to wade in. When I got to the only person close by. We from the others.

rough the nearby jungle, our ıd climbed over the first small hacienda, where we learned that a Captain O. E. Vera was operating a guerrilla band which had its headquarters in the nearby mountains."

July 8, 1942

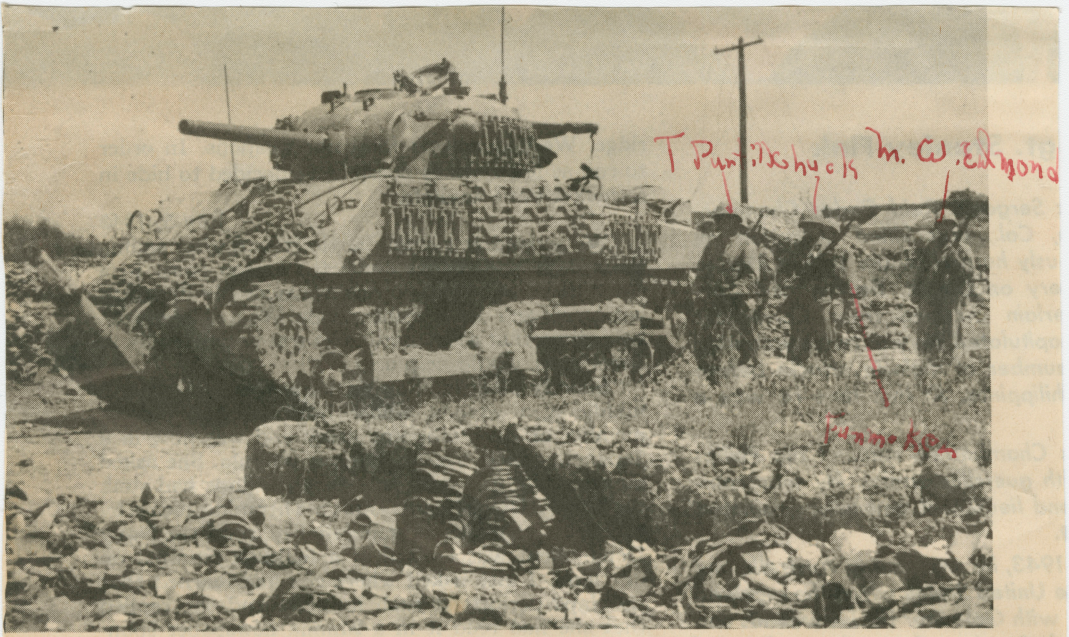
"We arrived at Capt. Vera's headquarters shortly after noon. He was a medium-sized, slender man with long, black, straight hair that he combed back in a sort of pompadour style. He had black, flashing eyes and a narrow, long mustache. He looked like a movie version of a suave villain.

"The captain appeared very glad to see us and to learn we desired to join his band. He brought out a quart of tuba, native liquor made from the juice of the heart of the coconut tree. Vera, his aide, Army and I proceeded to empty the bottle.

"Army asked Vera how many men he had in his organization.

" 'Five hundred, perhaps 600,' he replied. 'My men, they wish me to hold a higher rank than captain but my intentions are purely patriotic, my friends, so I do not wish to assume a higher position.'

"I felt Vera was a liar and made up my mind I would remain with his band only long enough to procure his aid in moving further south. However,



Marine tanks on patrol move into outskirts of capital

gt. Stanley Fink

*: Sergeant Reid Carlos Chamber-
, Cal., was killed in action on
usly he had fought with a Marine
ery on Cavite, Bataan and Cor-
erlain escaped from Corregidor
apitulated. He was twice wounded
umber of malaria attacks before
hilippines. At that time he was a*

*: Chamberlain roamed the Philip-
th guerrilla armies. He was com-
nd lieutenant and later promoted
t.*

*1943, he was sent to Australia and
e United States where he received
with Gold Star for his wounds and
d Service Cross from General
hur for "extraordinary heroism in*

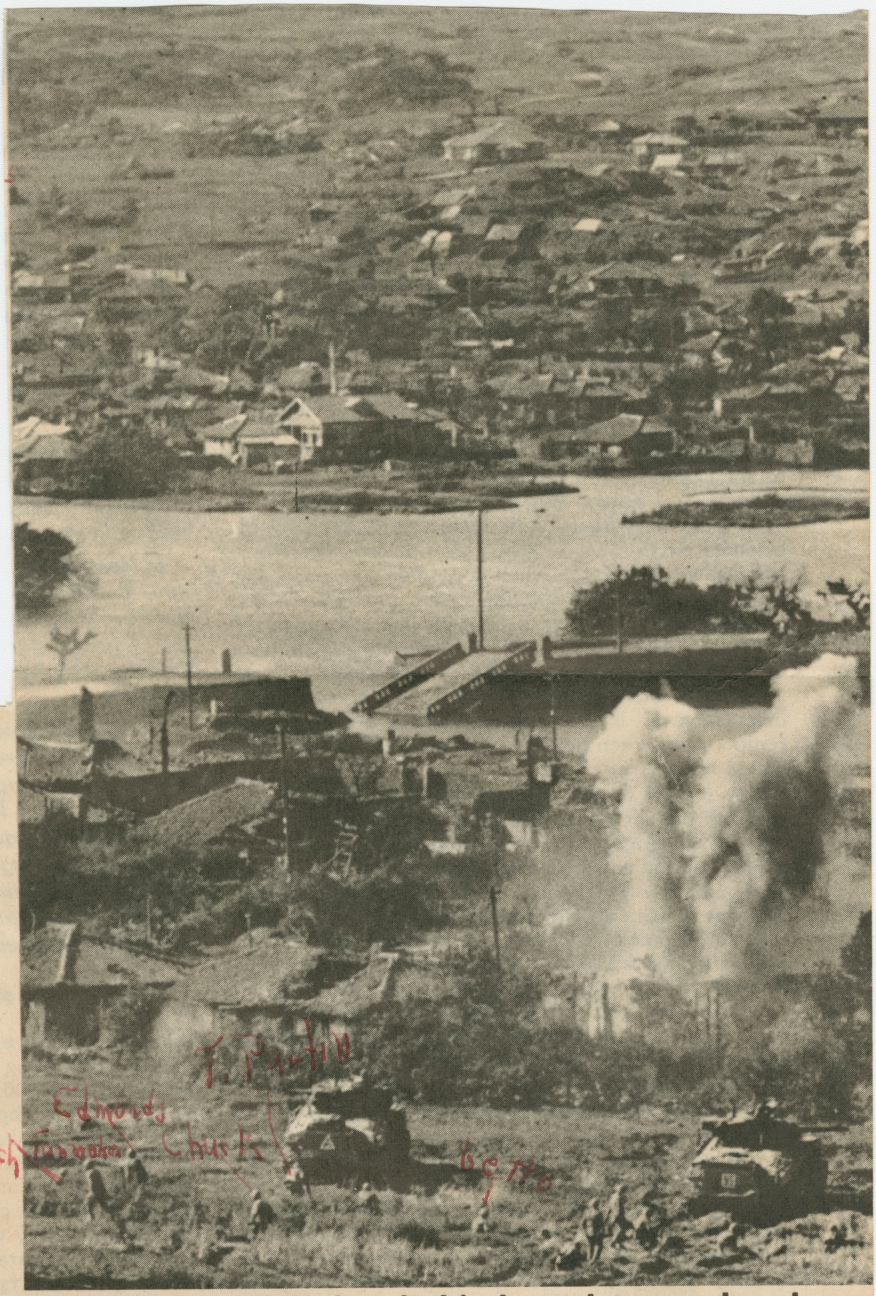
ridge. We had neither food nor weapons. In order to run as few risks as possible we decided to hide in a thicket until daylight."

July 5, 1942

"We arrived at a small barrio (town) after sailing three days and nights down the Luzon coast in a small sailboat, encountering considerable difficulty with reefs and unfavorable winds. We had been told by natives that a Spaniard, who was very friendly to Americans, would help us.

"Shortly after landing we were approached by a middle-aged woman whose husband had been a member of the Philippine army and was now in a Japanese concentration camp in Manila. She asked me seriously if it were true that the Japs had sunk the "Navy Department." I placed her mind at ease by telling her that was an impossibility, since the Navy Department was housed in a building situated on dry land. I also asked where she had learned that the Japs performed such miracles and she replied that she had read it in a Manila newspaper sponsored by the Japs and dedicated 'to enlightening' the Filipino people.

"She directed us to the friendly Spaniard's



Marines storm Naha behind tank spearhead

"AT 10 o'clock t[illegible] received word that the Island of Corregidor would capitulate at noon tomorrow. For two weeks I have been apprehensive of this, but not wanting to believe it, I pushed it out of my mind.

"However, now that the order to surrender had come I could hardly believe it possible. Many of the men in the Fourth Marine Regiment, to whom we are attached, broke down and wept. I, too, felt like weeping. These men were tough. They had been fighting a great battle against overwhelming odds. They hadn't lost and they didn't want to quit — but those were orders.

"All weapons and supplies that might be useful to the enemy were ordered destroyed. This kept us busy several hours. When the job was finished, 10 of us from Cass Battery discussed the surrender and believed there must be some way of escaping from the island. But later when we made our dash for freedom there were only two of us, Private First Class T. O. Armstrong of Bruton, Ala., and myself.

"Armstrong is a tall, well-built blond Norwegian weighing about 180 pounds. He is a wild, cocky chap who thinks there isn't anything in the world he can't lick. However, he's very good natured and loses his temper only when he is called "Swede." We always called him "Army."

"At 6 p.m. a motor launch pulled close to shore just off our position. We had no idea where the launch was going, but it was leaving the rock, and that was good enough for us. Army and I waded out to it and crawled aboard. There were three soldiers and one Marine in the boat. But before the launch left, 10 Filipinos waded out and boarded her. Nearly all of the men from Cass Battery were on the beach. Several of them were yelling for us to come back, as it might mean our necks. The Japs had issued an order that no one was to attempt escape. I visualized these little men leering at us, laughing at us, subjecting us to indignities and humiliations. I knew I wouldn't be able to take that. Any fate was better than falling into their hands.

"It was dark when the launch pulled across the channel, eight miles to the Cavite shore. There we found a deep bay and, in order to determine whether there were any Nips along the shore, made several runs toward the beach. As we neared shore we would quickly turn the launch around and head back toward the sea. In this way we hoped to draw fire at

by S

EDITOR'S NOTE:
lain of El Cajon
Iwo Jima. Previo
anti-aircraft batt
regidor. Chamb
Fortress when it c
and suffered a r
the fall of the P
corporal.

For 18 months
pines fighting wi
missioned a secc
to first lieutenan

In November,
later flown to th
the Purple Heart
the Distinguishe
Douglas MacArt
action."

Given his choice of
as a first lieutenant or r
with his old rating of c
the latter. After less t
States again requeste
Promoted to sergeant
the Pacific at his ow
fight against Japan. Fo
impossible to release th

★

long range from any Ja
at us, so, muffling the r
beach. About 100 yard
boat's nose to the sea
sides into the water, op

"The water was cold
with our clothes and sh
to water shallow enoug
the beach, Army was t
had become separated

"We slowly crept th
clothes dripping wet, a

Infantry moves into position along a rubble-strewn road as tank in background stands by in support

A Marine Guerrilla's *Diary*