

FRANN BASS 52/2 US NAVY
MILITARY GOVERNMENT (G-12)
APO No. 9375
C/O POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



Recd. April 7 noon.

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GUERO, TEXAS

March 29, 1945

Frank Bass

Dear Folks,

This will, probably be the last letter you get from me in a long time. I am now in the "Bull Pen" on Treasure Island. I am writing this letter the night before I am to board ship. We go aboard at 12:30 tomorrow. I am writing this letter to tell you as much about where I am going as I know and to enlighten you, little one this Navy propaganda you hear about how well the boys in the Armed Services are treated. I have never said anything before about it and this not griping I just want you to know the truth.

First of all the food is awful and were treated more or less like cattle. I had never realized that anything could be so mixed up or so deorganized. If the Navy is as confused on the other side as much as they are here, we can't win the war.

we all die been speaking in generalities so now
all relate some facts.

We arrived in San Bruno last Wed
afternoon. We waited about 3 hrs to get
assigned to some barracks. They didn't
even know we were coming. While we
were in San Bruno we received more gear,
most of it we already had but they
issued it to us again anyway. We got
more marine clothes and Fur lined jackets
and arctic. We were issued mess kits, Contour
Cartridge belts and a Corbin (a small automatic
Rifle) I met several people I knew in San
Francisco, as I have already told you.

Monday they told us to have out 3 sea bags
packed and our hammocks lashed. Then they
told us to repack after we had them packed
they told us to unport them and lay them
out for inspection. Then they said to wait
until Tuesday for inspection. Tuesday they
told us to pack our sea bags and wear our blues.
Then that was changed and we had to wear our
greens. So we unpacked our sea bags to get our
greens and repacked them again. Then they
said lay about bottles out for

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inspection. I then the official comes in and looked
out one man's clothes and said to repack
them again. (Packing a sea bag is quite a job since
you have to pack everything just right to get
all of it in) (The above is ~~not~~ no exaggeration
is the slightest).

All this made some of the men mad
and some disgusted and some thought
it was funny. ~~How~~ it did seem funny
to a certain extent but when I thought
that the same official that was doing all
this, was supposed to be intelligent and
supposed to be a leader of men, and when
I thought about that same official overseas
and not being able to make up his mind it
didn't seem very funny to me.

We didn't do it to punish our trainees.
We just couldn't make up his mind and he
didn't realize how hard he was making
it for us.

This is just an example of how mixed up the
Navy is.

2 Tuesday we arrived here at the "Bull Pen"
which is nothing but a Prison. There is a
bunk fence around it and all sort of

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it. We can't telephone and our mail is delayed
5 days after we leave. There is nothing to do
here. It's just like a prison. And this
seems wrong that we just be locked and
have no entertainment at all in our last
day here. The bunks in the barracks are
4 high and 2 feet apart. The barracks
are awful and so is the food.

I have learned that we leave here
tomorrow at 12:30 to board ship. The
ship will probably sail Sat. We are
going from here to Seattle, Wash
to pick up supplies. I don't imagine
we will be able to go ashore there but
if we do all let you know. We are
supposed ~~to be~~ to be on the ship 26 days if
nothing goes wrong.

We have had several bay inspections
but I have always hidden my camera
as still have it with me and am taking it
over with me.

Right across the fence from us are boys
who are survivors of sunken ships and

boy are there lots of them. I have one 3 crew
from aircraft carrier which has been sent
and that unboxed and, bath tub
w) all that's all for now

Love
Frank