

NAME: Bill

RANK: Not Available

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Merchant Marine

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Bill. This is the only letter from Bill in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpt is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Bill writes his relatives in the United States:

“July 19 1944

...I thought you might get a bang out of a letter written on Japanese stationery. We walked into a former Japanese warehouse and helped ourselves to a bunch of it. The Japanese that were guarding the stuff didn't answer when we asked them if it was OK to take some so we helped ourselves. The little fellows are on the run but they still pack a sting. New Guinea may be in our control but there will be a lot of casualties yet.

No real news just the same old stuff. We do an awful lot of laying around on the anchor. In fact it has been over 45 days since we touched a dock. The old ship gets awfully monotonous. Even New Guinea mud is a welcome sight after so much ship. I will certainly be glad when this trip is over...They run these ships on their nerves...I honestly think the Liberty ship has done more towards winning the war than any other single factor so far.

...We will receive no current mail for another fortnight at the very least. Write anyway.

Bill –“

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- It is unknown if Bill made it through the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period and Bill's organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/ARC-39018>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Bill's wartime organization, the U.S. Merchant Marine (reader discretion advised):**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Merchant_Marine