

**NAME:** Al

**RANK:** Private First Class

**ORGANIZATION:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime period letter written by Al. This is the only letter from Al 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 aside from edited racial slurs for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Al writes his sister in the United States:**

“9/14/45

Well today is the day we were suppose to hit Japan. What a break the war ended. Well I can tell you now more about things its ended & the mail isn't censored any more. We were chase once on the way overseas by a Sub. But out-ran it. I coun't tell you before. First I stop at Pearl Harbor. Also Hawii Islands. Then went to Onawetok then Marshell Islands. Then Sipan. Then came to Guam thats our base camp. 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Div.

When we landed on Guam it was right after it was secured. But a dangerous Island because they went through Guam Campain so fast they by pass alot of J \_ ps which we got later. I told you last summer..I was training. But I didnt tell you I was training on real J \_ ps. We made a Div. push right after we landed on Guam. We kill 600 J \_ ps in nine days. From the time I got here 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept. 1944 until Feb 1945 we kill 9000 J \_ ps on Guam. So you see it was a dangerous Island.

Now it safe enough. But there are still 4 or 500 J \_ ps on Guam. Some one gets kill here about every week. They sneak in at night after food...I rate only one star for Iwo Jima. I should rate one for Guam but don't think we will get it...I sure have been lucky not hit wonce by a bullet.

But have gotten small cuts from chapnel flying on Iwo. Soon I will be going home. So will say so long & loads of love. As ever your

Brother Al.”

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- Al made it through the Second World War but when he passed away is unknown.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers Iwo Jima operations and Al's organization (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/iwojima>
  - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Al's wartime organization, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division (reader discretion advised):**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd Marine Division \(United States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Marine_Division_(United_States))