

Higgins are the proud parents of a baby girl (Joan Ray) born June 13th. This is their second daughter.

Olaf Fransen, M.M. 3/c, lost his father a short time ago. We extend our sympathy. Olaf is on duty in the Marianas. He reports that the work is about completed there and expects to move soon, maybe to Japan where he hears they need some highway and airport repairs.

Roland H. McDonald, M.M. 3/c, is in the hospital at Corona, California, where he is recovering from a long illness. His father is near where he can be with him.

Some of the most interesting items in a letter from Ray E. Brown, former section foreman's helper at Rufus, from somewhere in the Philippines on April 21, are as follows:

"The people here are very thankful and appreciate what the United States has done for them. They wash our clothes, make and keep up our beds and any odd jobs we ask them to do. We pay them any amount we wish. They prefer food and will do anything for it. They take the food home and divide it with their families."

He mentioned a city as "A large city in ruins and everything of value has been taken by the Japs. They took all

food that was raised here and made the people eat boiled grass and roots. One Filipino said he had no bread for three years, until the Yanks arrived." His description of the city was, "A very beautiful city which will take years to rebuild. The buildings are of stone with tile inlay in the sides."

Captain Daniel J. McLellan, Jr., writes that, although Okinawa has been secured, he is very busy. Dan is commander of a company of Engineers who are the first to land and the last to leave. He has taken a part in every major engagement of the First Marine Division since Guadalcanal. Dan says the natives of Okinawa were very friendly—and very dirty—but they were not trusted too much at first, and that road construction and maintenance really is something during the heavy downpours.

T/Cpl. Gail Williamson, former oiling crew member, recently sailed from the Atlantic coast for parts unknown. Good luck Gail.

Another letter from Bob Barnam has been received by J. K. Campbell. Bob is now working in the parts room at the battalion motor pool. He says that ordinance parts are usually rather difficult to obtain and they must always be obtained on a basis of exchanging old

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