

notes from my little black book



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quartermaster

Let's go back a little bit and I'll point out some of the things that never made the Informal Log, due to censorship or otherwise.

DO YOU REMEMBER:

when your thoughts were as you felt your way down that long, dreary corridor to the Barracks the first day you set foot on the Island?

when you had two duty nights out of three — one night you stood seawall watch and the other you were grabbed by Lt. Hart to do sentry duty guarding bombers that were being sent overseas?

when the station was quarantined by the measles and Messrs. Mazotta, Weyrauch, Rickman and Switt put on impromptu shows in the Barracks with such "glamour girls" as Santos, Sidello, Perdix, Harclerode, Spike Spidell, Worley, Bixler, Abel, Charlie Troiano and the Rossi boys?

when the old 502, with Jesse Boone, Simonelli and LaCava as its crew, made trips to the Barge Office to pick up "contraband" along with their supplies?

when Sam "Bubbles" Sutton used to get those telephone calls on his Boat Pool fire watch? He thought it was really Mr. Tobin checking up on him, so the telephone voice had Sutton doing everything from picking up cigarette butts to putting an end to the card games in the back room.

when you had to line up to be inspected by Mr. Ehlers before going on liberty?

when Norman "Lady" Bahlert slept with four blankets and would scream his head off when anyone opened the windows?

when Moe "Meat Detail" Weinberg and Abe Finder

gave free dancing lessons on the Barge Office side with Mike "3rd Degree" Kaufman as their best pupil? (Kaufman finally got an "M.D." for flat feet!)

when Bert Ritter and Leary of the Boat Pool would swap stories about the C.G. destroyers in the rum-running days?

when Sally, the hospital switchboard operator, would tip us off about the "surprise" air drills about an hour before they came off . . . ?

when Mr. Zweifel tried to put into effect his new ideas on how to train men . . . ?

when Joe Dents had a tough time getting his mess attendants up in the morning to serve Officers' show . . . ?

when those "tasty" night rations were slapped together by Merisola, Erbe and Cocciardi . . . ? (Every time we took a bite the sandwich would nay!)

when Louis Spector, autograph book in hand, would sneak over to the Social Service Hall to see the visiting celebrities . . . ?

when Fitzmartin got the name of "Father Dominic" when he was in charge of the Armory . . . ? (None of the guys would ever utter a cuss word in the Armory then for fear that Fitz would wash their mouths out with soap.)

when Red Hoffman went into a smoked-filled room during a fire in the Immigration Building and came out with a huge bump on his noggin . . . ? His excuse: "The fire hose got away from me and the nozzle hit me on the head." What REALLY happened: One of his "pals", who couldn't be seen in the thick smoke, found a long awaited opportunity and put the slug on Red . . . !