

Kenneth Culbreth Verbatim - Meter Reading - 17:10

"Food Was Bad"

Q- You also talked about how bad the food was.

A- Well, it's like any young people are gonna complain about the food. It was bad compared to boot camp. Boot camp was excellent. So naturally dehydrated potatoes and eggs, powdered eggs that were turning green. And bread that had weevils all over it, all the bread the whole time I was there had weevils. We learned after two or three weeks, not to look. Eat it _____ (sic from original document). But it wasn't exactly a good idea. All the flour became contaminated with weevils.

Q- Now was there a, it seems like there was a common eating area. Was that just for the Naval Operations Base where you were located?

A- Actually it was a little bit strange, you'd find marines, civilians just off the ships coming in, getting on the chow line. Sometimes the line would get so long we'd have to go back to the work area without any chow.

Q- So there was no kind of meal card scenarios?

A- No, just the navy, army, marines even foreign service people, getting in the chow line, they got through the gates it made a little bit of a problem. We didn't have enough time to go get in line and get back out. We finally found a solution to the problem. Instead of getting in the line, about a half a dozen guys in the vehicles I'd be riding with to the chow hall, we just jumped out at the front of the line. Of course the guys in line behind us, did a little bit of cursing but they didn't. They just whistled. We got chow that way. Otherwise we'da spent the whole time in line.

Q- So that got to be pretty regular, cutting in the front of the line?

A- We did it all the time after we learned the trick. After we missed two or three meals, we learned the trick.

Q- Now evidently the food at Nob Hill was better than some of the other facilities?

A- Some people said - my friend 8 Ball who was at Figi which we called a shallow-water naval base, he said our food was better than theirs, apparently the other people getting in line, maybe it was better. But if we wanted to get good food, we'd go to Telafufu where the R & R camp was or

one of the airbases. The air bases and the hospitals had the best food. Any time we'd go to Chance (?) we'd go down and have food with'em.

Q- You fabricated many excuses?

A- Oh yeah, we had sick friends in all those places! You learned the ropes pretty soon, then you got along pretty good.

Q- What about acquiring good?

A- Oh yes, we didn't go to breakfast. We found out how to get 4 pound cans of bacon. They were kept under refrigerators but once we used one, we kept it 3 or 4 days we'd opened. We had friends at the bake shop who'd come over have breakfast with us, bring some bread, and make a bunch of coffee, and we'd have some coffee. So we didn't go to breakfast, we ate breakfast in our camp and the next two meals at chow