

**Genesee News, Feb. 2, 1945**

(Note: In 1945 we were at war with Japan and the boys didn't speak too highly of the Japanese soldiers)

**DON HUFFMAN IN THE PHILIPPINES  
LEFT THE U.S. 38 MONTHS AGO**

Don Huffman, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. S. U. Lough, who starts his thirty-ninth month of overseas duty within a few days, wrote the following from somewhere in the Philippines on December 23:

"Dear Pete.

"Now, that I'm half way settled again I'll try to drop you a few lines. I haven't had much time for writing lately as things have been happening pretty fast around here.

"I've finally reached my goal that I started for once before but I'll probably be going farther before it's over. I'm some place in the Philippines and better known as the Far Eastern Command. The Philippines are a pretty good place and a lot different from New Guinea and various other islands I've been on. The terrain is much better except for this time of the year when the rains have made the lowlands a mess and it's quite hard to get around.

"Most of the people are pretty well educated and most of the people can speak English quite well, especially the younger generation. All of them like the Yanks very much and will do anything for them. They bring us bananas and we can get chicken from them and fried sweet potato chips which are very good. A few of us have become good friends with a couple of families. They want us to come to their place Christmas. They are going to have barbecued pig, and fried chicken. I would like to go but don't think I'll be able to make it.

"We have girls who do our washing for us which is just as good as any laundry service and it doesn't cost very much. Most of the girls are quite pretty but bashful. They dress like any American and they seem to have pretty nice clothes in spite of the Japs having taken most everything from them. The Japs took everything from the people and destroyed their homes and towns. Nearly everything had

been burned. The people seem to be quite happy in spite of everything.

“I went on a mission a few days ago on an uploading detail for a beachhead. We had quite a time and I was glad when it was over and I was back with the outfit again. We were attacked several times by enemy planes. I saw three ships get dive-crashed which was pretty hard to watch. One ship was very close to the one I was on and the explosion was sear splitting. I saw several planes get knocked down by our own planes. It wasn't too bad on the beach. One bomb landed about 50 feet from us and the plane tried to crash dive us, but one of the gunners shot his tail off just before he got to us. That plane looked as big as the Empire State building when it was coming down. Our convoy escort also got a Jap freighter which was quite close to us. We also attacked a Jap destroyer and sunk that. I can't see how I'm always unlucky when it comes to getting in positions like that.

“I got a paper today, the first one for months and really enjoyed it. The mail has been held up someplace. However, I did get a couple of packages yesterday. I sure wish I knew some of the guys' addresses over here because I'm sure I'm quite close to some of them, especially the ones who are in the navy. I'm pretty sure Ralph Kluss is close by and possibly Jerome Bershaw.

“It's getting pretty late so I'll knock off for this time. Here's wishing everyone at home a Merry Christmas. I hope I'll be there next Christmas. --Don

“P. S. - Am enclosing a little Jap invasion money. I don't suppose anyone has seen any there yet.”

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Note: :Thanks for the letter Don. Saw your old friend, Polly Palmer, a few times while he was here, and last night met another of your friends, John Duffy of Lewiston, an intimate friend of Eddie (Billy) Smolt. From what he says the 41st Division has really been places and still going. The invasion money makes a fine souvenir Don, and we are mighty glad to receive it, It is the first we saw from the Philippines, but Bob Morken sent some from China that looked exactly like it except that it was “Dollars.” That centavo and peso business is Greek to a Palouser. The paper looks like money but that word “Japanese” is repulsive. Wish it was permitted to give you

overseas addresses, but can't. Don't believe that Jerome Bershaw is near you, but Sanford Evan is with a signal corps heavy construction outfit over there. There are several other Genesee boys in the Philippines too and some are home or on their way.