

February 24, 1994

Dear Rachel;

In reading my "old Breed News" yesterday I saw, with interest, your request for information from we who went to Melbourne following our Suadacanal campaign. As a member of H company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment stationed at the cricket grounds I can tell you that the 8 plus months I spent in your beautiful city will never be forgotten.

You Melbourneites can be very very proud that you helped us to get over the Suadacanal campaign so that we were able to go back to the other Islands of New Guinea, New Britain and Bougainville with fond memories and hopes that we would be sent back again. Although we were not that fortunate, we, who were there, will never forget our time in your city.

Just and foremost of my memories are the wonderful people who made us feel as if we were in our own country. To be complete strangers to you, and to be welcomed as we were, just was not done in any other country in the world according to my many friends

(2) who served in other theaters of war. many of us were taken into your ~~homes~~ homes as sons and fathers and treated as such. Even though your own men were fighting in the middle East and New Guinea and your hearts were heavy, you kept up the spirits of thousands of us homesick young men.

The memories of such places as I Indus Street station, St. Paul's Cathedral (which I attended) Yarra River, Luna Park, Fitzroy Gardens, and my favorite restaurant, Navarrettes, which I understand is no longer, 4th General Hospital where I recovered from malaria, the Melbourne Cricket Grounds but most of all were the people who showed us such a grand time and made us feel welcomed to their country, city and homes.

We have reunions every year, and most of the talk isn't of the war, but of Melbourne. Even though we are gradually drifting off ~~the~~ do guard duty in Heaven we are still the same young boys who have always felt as if Melbourne was our second home.

In this same issue of news, was a request from a lady in California who never knew her father who was killed September 18, 1944 in Belgium and wondered if anyone would write to her

(3) if they had known him. As he was in our company I wrote to her right off and in all the years since I joined the First Marine Division association it is the first time I had seen a name I knew. I remember him telling me he had a daughter born in Melbourne but I never gave a thought to the fact that this girl would make a request because she never got to know him. War is so horrible.

This briefly, is my memory of Melbourne. I have a buddy who lives two houses down from me that served in our 11th regiment and was stationed in Ballarat. I'll try to get him to drop you a line also because he too, feels about Australia as I do and hardly a day goes by while we're having our 9:00 AM coffee, that the talk strays to Australia.

One last thing, something you probably won't be able to do, but I'll ask it anyway.

I had a very special girlfriend while in Melbourne. We corresponded until right after I was discharged. Nine days after I was discharged I met the girl who became my wife a year later. However I always wonder about my

(4) girlfriend in Melbourne. In fact, when I met my wife-to-be, she reminded me so much of "Stoch" in colouring, size, figure and feel of fun that she almost seemed a double. "Stoch" had a brother in the Middle East whom I met when he came home, a younger brother at home and a sister who worked in Sydney at MacArthur's head quarters.
Her name was:

Morothy (Stoch)

She called me "Archie" for some reason. I was just wondering if there was any way to find out anything about her. Probably not, however.

If I can be of any further source of information please let me know

Respectfully yours

Luther

Sergeant H-2-1 U.S. AF

Please excuse the writing. I don't do much of it lately.