

The 40's and 50's

Howdy,

This Sat. I received my Hard copy of "The Nov. 2012 Aerograph. The article on page 4 "My Best Experiences while on Active Duty" is cause to put me in a pondering mood. Had the title been my most memorable experience while on ACDU the flashback would lock in on the time I walked up and down the Mountains of Negros in the Central Philippines as an Infantryman the spring of 1945. For I was definitely on ACDU when I celebrated my 19th birthday on Leyte in a replacement depot the day President FDR died in Warm Springs GA 12 April 1945.

For almost two months I experienced many adrenaline rushes and getting shot at a few times with none of the rounds connecting to any part of my body is the most clearly remembered experience of the 2 ½ years spent in the Army..

However, you are probably referring to Navy ACDU and there are a lot of stories that are not necessarily the best but sure memorable in my ACDU in the Navy.

As a starter and before I get too engrossed in this new section of the Aerograph the thing that has influenced my life more than any other thing was my tour of duty at Sangley Point, across the Bay from Manila. Those people who know me and there are a few left who are members of the NWSA, know that when I left the Philippines after that tour of duty which was a tad less than a year, know I brought back a souvenir in the form of a wife. Most wanderers bring back souvenir's but mine was more lasting. Over 60 years later Gloria is still around to remind me that was a memorable tour of duty.

One of the best or different experiences was a set of orders that sent me from FWC Miami, FL to Guam the spring of 1952. I regret not keeping a copy of those orders which gave me sort of Carte Blanche travel orders to proceed ASAP from Miami FL to Guam via any method of transportation for Duty on Guam. It only took me about 10 days to make the trip to Guam and I hitchhiked via POV & Military Aircraft, including USAF and Navy planes. The Yeoman at Guam when I checked in asked me why I had made such a fast trip.

Another set of orders that I wish I had kept a copy of was awaiting me when the USS Arneb came north out of the Antarctica on our way back to CONUS. That set of orders directed me to depart the USS Arneb at the first port of call in the Northern Hemisphere and proceed to Lakehurst NJ for AG "B" school and gave a convening date. Naples Italy was our first port of call in the Northern Hemisphere.

There are a lot of other remembrances of my ACDU period of life but will send this to see if it meets your criteria of sea stories you are looking for.

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