

MIKE SANDLOCK'S USO TOUR DIARY, DEC. 8, 1945 TO JAN. 22, 1946.
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-KARL

Dec. 12 Wed 1945

"Our Trip To The South Pacific"

Left New York 7:30 PM. Arrived in Washington, DC 11:15 PM. Stayed at Carroll Adams Hotel.

Dec 13 Thursday

Up at 4 O'Clock AM. Two Army cars took us to the ATC Airport ---where we had coffee and donuts. Waiting until weather reports were clear. Plane was a C-5 4.E. Left Washington D.C. at 9:10 A.M. Weather cloudy. Made one stop at Topeka, Kansas. Arrived at 2:45 P.M. Had Lunch and take off time was 4:45 PM. (Took pictures at Topeka airport.) Arrived at San Francisco at 11:20 PM (Francisco time). Met Al Schacht at the airport. Took a bus to a barracks where we were distributed bed sheeting & blankets. (made our own beds, too).

Dec 14 Thursday

First bugle call at 6:15 AM and I heard it and 2nd call 6:30 AM. Up and had breakfast. Briefing at 8:30 AM Finger printing & photo and physical – Supply room for needs over seas. Lunch. Briefing at 1:15 PM orientation. Briefing at 2 O'Clock PM Medical. Work out for an hour. Reported to Barack 644 after dinner to wait our plane which was to take off at 10:15 PM. No plane – So bed equipment to make our beds again -- might be called anytime during the night. Went to bed at 12 O'Clock midnight. Gus Steiger was my roommate. (2)

Dec 15 Saturday

No sooner that we pulled our covers over our bodies when a call came at 12:20 AM to be up and ready to make the 1:15 Am plane. Gathering our bed equipment again and out we went. Now waiting transportation to airport. Waited from 12:45 Am Frisco time for plane to be ready when trouble was found. Gas line had a leak. Took off at 5:10 am. Had bucket seats. Slept on floor and our seats. Had to wear a May West. Had briefing on licing (landing?). Arrived at Hickham Field 4:10 PM Honolulu time. Pictures were taken. Met Stan Musial. Taken to our quarters. Changed clothes. Shower and shaved. Took a walk and bed at 10:30 PM. (Took pictures at this base.)

Dec 16 Sunday

Up at 6:30 AM. Army regulation to have a breakfast by 8 AM or you're AWOL. Had breakfast and took pictures where (and) my first roll was used up. Went to 10 O'Clock Mass in a little chapel no bigger than your front room. Still it was nice. Had lunch at 12 Noon and worked out from 1:30 till 3:30 PM. Changed uniforms, took a shower and went to the beach and had a time swimming. Had dinner and went to the resling (wrestling) matches (Matches) which stunk. Now 10:15. Going to bed.

Dec 17 Monday

Work out at 10 O'Clock till noon. Had lunch with the G.I. boys and then to the P.X. Bought a few things. Later went sightseeing which was very interesting. (took pictures.)

Dec 18 Tuesday

After work out we all went to see Pearl Harbor. Very interesting. Saw where the Arizona was hit and sunk. Went through a submarine, no. 264. Which (The) score was 4 war ships, 23 merchant ships and one island. Oldest shit here. Lt. Clayton was our interpreter (guide) – a football star of USC.

Dec 19 Wednesday

Left for Furlong Field at noon and played the Navy team at 2:30 pm, Navy won 6 to 3. Keltner, Marshall, (Al) Lakeman, Shaun hit homeruns. Met young Max Macon from OG. Also met Lt. Comm. Roger Walsh who took (Al) Gerheuser and I into their quarters for a drink and dinner – steak too. After dinner we took in two good basketball games. Stopped just inside of the Pearl Harbor Gates to have a glass of beer which they call Private Stock. Roger had a jeep which was our transportation. It's midnight now. Good night!

Dec 20 Thursday

Left for Scofield Field where we played the Scofield team. Won 10 to 5. Gerheuser pitched and I caught. (Tom) Brown hit a homerun. Ate at Scofield and came back to Fort DeRussy. Later walked to the town of Wakiki. Now 11:30 PM. Can't forget the 6:30 Am call.

Dec 21 Friday

Hickham Field was our third game. Won it 10 to 1. Ate with the G.I.'s before the game. Spending a quiet evening tonight. Notes! The recreational hall that we dress in was a mess hall on Dec. 7, 1941 where 154 of our boys were killed. Building still has scars of machine guns. Also seen a tree which had quite a few holes right through it.

Dec 22 Saturday

Played at Furlong Field. Army beat us 6 to 3. Voiselle pitched, Lakeman caught. I played short. I got a stone bruise on my heel. We also took a swim in the morning, Branca and (Mike) Ulisney, Gerheuser and myself.

Dec 23 Sunday

Went to church 10:15 Am. Eat lunch 11:15 AM. Played the Navy team at 2:30 PM. Lost 8 to 7. Came back – ate at Fort DeRussy. Had appointment with U.S.O. in town – Honolulu. We were all on stage – Gus Stieger was our first speaker. Dressen followed up and made a swell job. Voiselle stole the show and Barrett told a couple of jokes. Later we talked with all the service men in the lobby.

Dec 24 Monday

After breakfast played basketball at 8:30 AM against the McKinley High School kids who were very good – they beat us. But we had a lot of fun. Played at Wheeler Field Air Corps. Beat the Olympic team 9 to 1. Ate with the G.I.'s at the Air Corps Station. When we came back Charlie Dressen had Christmas party with egg nog. I had two. We all got a funny gift. I got two towels. Branca got a baby bottle. Branca got a bag of candy and etc. Met John Barry - Singer and Sports Axxxxx. Later went to a Capt. Brown's house. Drinking.

Dec 25 Christmas Tuesday

8:30 Mass. The only Mass they have. Had a turkey dinner and then later we left for Fort Shafter where we played the Olympic team and won 11 to 5. Played second base. Gerheuser pitched. Lakeman caught. We all ate at the Officer's Club at Fort Shafter. We all had to be together to be weighed in Hickham Field at 6:30 PM. Plane was to leave at 8 PM. It was close – 8:38 PM.

Dec 26 Wednesday

Hit Johnston Island (3) 1:10 AM. Laid over until 2:50 AM take off time. ½ mile wide, 1.1 miles long. We lose 24 hours between Johnston and Kwajalein but gain back 2 hours.

Dec 27 Thursday

(Half mile wide, 2.5 long.) Flew over Wojo Island on route to Kwajalein. Landed 10:55 AM Hawaii time. It would be 8:55 AM Kwajalein time. Had breakfast. Made way with our packs to the barracks. Some shaved, some went sightseeing, and others put on shorts and walked around the beach. I walked around the beach and washed my sweat with Al Lakeman. Also took pictures. Game 2:00 O'Clock.

Seabees made a field in 2 ½ days for our game. Won 4 to 2. Voiselle and I. It was the hottest day we hit. The GI's said it was a cool day. We made two appearances, one on stage the other Officer's Club. Kurowski Master of Ceremonies. Steiger over xxxxxx.

Dec 28 Friday

Up at 6:30 AM. Ready packed and leave for airport. Plane supposed to be leaving at 8 AM. No plane until 6 PM at night. So, Ullisney, Lakeman and I walk the beach picking up pretty shells. Plane took off at 7:07 PM. Arrived in Guam 2:59 AM, 12:09 Am Guam time.

Dec 29 Saturday

Arrived in Guam 12:59 AM (Guam time). Hung around for quite a while before we got anyone to put us up for the night. Finally they sent us to the furthest part of the Island. Where the woods were very thick. Had no. 22 barrack. A round top with a screen front and back. And no one wanted to go to the latrean which was about 50 yards away from our barracks. There was too much talk about Jap snipers picking off 4 Marines. It sure was a scary place.

No game. Spent a quiet day. Eating with GI's and making a theater appearance. Stayed for the show. (Sightseeing was good.). Took pictures at Guam.

Dec 30 Sunday

Had breakfast with General States. Went to church 9:45 AM. Had goat (swinthish) beef for lunch and was good. Played at 2 PM and won 7 to 3. A very large crowd. With very much surprise. I met Saloto and Jim Bowen and later Eddie Jag. Couple of other fellows who also from Greenwich & Stamford introduced themselves and asked about home. Game cancelled for Sayseam (?). Waiting at _____ Field for plane – supposed to leave at 1 AM for Manila. Fell down the barracks steps and bruised my spine.

Dec 31 Monday

Last Day of 1945. Take off time was 1:34 AM. Landed in Manila, Nichols Field, 9:36 AM. Had breakfast at the U.S.O. unit. Then made arrangements to get settled at Abenue Hotel, Room 401.

Rode out to the park with Max Macon and Kirby Higbe. A very nice looking ballfield. Although it was shot up quite a bit. Clubhouse and all. Two pill boxes in centerfield. Tank coming right through left centerfield wall which is all ready replaced. The town and building area 9a) mess.

Stayed at Higbe and Macon's quarters until time for dinner. Had steak. It's a noisy New Year's Eve here and I intend to be quiet.

Jan 1 1946 Tuesday

Tried to go to church to start the new year off right. Waited twenty minutes and we were still thirty feet from the door. Never did make it.

Also tried to take a horse and buggy cab back to the hotel but prices were outrageous. _Got a different price from each one. 10 (per) person, 8, 6 and 4. We walk.

Saw a football game at 2 pm. Score 14 to 12. Clark Field won over Base K.

6:30 PM. In the evening we saw a stage show and had to go to an Olympic banquet later at 8 PM.

Jan 2 Wednesday

Played our first game in the Philippines against the Army Dodgers. Kirby Higbe Pitched. Voiselle for us. We won 5 to 4. McCormick hit two homeruns.

Had a nice quiet evening – with the exception of an appointment with the Dispensary.

Jan 3 Thursday

Had breakfast at 7 AM as I had to be back at the dispensary for an X-ray of my spine. X-ray was taken and I was very glad to hear nothing was chipped or broken. Just a bad bone bruise. Can't run or bend down. Didn't start today's game but did get to pinch hit in the 7th and played second until the 14th inning. Where the Army Dodgers beat us 2 to 1. Seats (P), King (P), Ulsiney (C) vs. Hearn (P), Bickford (P), Ginsburgh (C). We now have to visit some station 27th.

Jan 4 Friday

We took a ride after breakfast to the post office and to a PX but nothing of interest at the PX.

At one in the afternoon we had arranged to visit the hospital quarters. It was something you will never forget. Met a ballplayer who I played against in the association. The name Vince DiBiasi (4) who pitched for Kansas City and was to come up to the Yanks. Pretty nearly died that morning and was in a coma till noon. Was alright when we visited him, but according to the Doctor he has a 50/50 chance. Played that nite, won in ten innings 7 to 3.

Jan 5 Saturday

Played a 2 O'Clock game and won 6 to 4. Lakeman hit a homerun over the rightfield wall. Frank LaManna also hit a homerun but inside of the ballpark. The only two home runs inside of the ballpark were by Lou Gehrig and Frank Lamanna. Had a big blowout at General Styler home. Eat and drank. Plenty of everything. Back to the hotel at 12:45 AM.

Jan 6 Sunday

Manila Dodgers beat us 4 to 2. Higbe and Barrett.

In the evening we played Manila Dodgers Basketball team. We won 43 to 35. It was a good game. Branca and King starred. Lt. Martin took us to his quarters and had a couple bottles of beer. Went to bed at 11:30 PM.

Jan 7 Monday

No game today! Made arrangements with Eddy Logan's brother-in-law who is in the Navy. For a trip over to Corregidor. We had a 63 foot rescue boat, It was a wonderful trip. Left for Corregidor 9:35 AM. Arrived 10:35 AM. They got a truck for us to travel the island round. Seen the 12" guns as well as others. Still a lot of live bombs lying around but no one touched. Also saw where Wainwright made his last stand and tunnel. Had a very rough trip back. Quite a few got wet but no one sick. Back at 2:30 PM. Had dinner at the Navy base and made appearance on stage.

Jan 8 Tuesday

Left the hotel at 8 AM in a cattle truck for Batangas. What a ride as the roads were still torn up. Arrived in Batangas at noon. Had lunch at the officers club. Played Base R. Won in the last inning 7 to 4. Maltzberger (5) for Base R. King for us. Sleeping quarters were in the Hospital base. The only beds available. The boys across the way were very happy and gay and loose. We didn't get much sleep.

Jan 9 Wednesday

After breakfast we all got together at the Red Cross center where we divided up into two groups to tour the Hospitals. Kurowski, McCormick, Branca, Lakeman, Voiselle and myself were one group. Asked baseball questions and the first one to answer won an autographed ball. Met a fellow from Stamford, Conn. Who works for the Dani Tree Co. First fellow he met from Conn. In three years. Played Base R again and won 8 to 1. Shantz for Base R. Voiselle for us. Lakeman hit a homerun. Took a plane back to Manila. Took us 24 minutes to get back.

Jan 10 Thursday

Went to see Charlie Dressen in the Hospital. Dressen will be out tomorrow. Had a little touch of the flu. While we visited Dressen, Gerheuser and I went over to see DiBiasi, who was in a terrible condition when we were there the last visit of that hospital. Vince DiBiasi was much better. Very remarkable difference. Dr. did say our visits were very interesting because of the way he snaps out of all the very next morning. A very lousy game today. Navy 1, our team 13. Branca.

Jan 11 Friday

Left for Clark Field from Manila. 10:15 arrived 10:45 AM in Catalena plane. Had dinner at the officer's club. Playd at 2:00 PM and won 7 to 4. Seats all the way. I hit into a triple play this game. Also hit a line drive to right center and rightfielder came over and made a beautiful catch and after the catch he fell and broke his collar bone. Saw a movie in the evening, The Woman In Green, Sherlock Holmes. Had some beer and McCormick and I went downstairs and ate a good meal and went to bed.

Jan 12 Saturday

Waited at Clark Field for plane to arrive from Manila. Our time to leave Clark Field was 10:15 AM. Didn't leave until 11:30 AM. Arrived at San Fernando 12:15 PM. Game was scheduled at 1 O'Clock. We didn't have lunch. Played at 1:30 PM, won 3 to 2. McCormick hit a homerun. Gerheuser and myself

staying at officer's quarters and it's the best we have had so far. Voiselle-Barrett-Steiger and myself visited the enlisted mens club which had farm boys from Stamford, CT. Also met an officer from Greenwich.

Jan 13 Sunday

Didn't go to church. After breakfast we played horseshoes and threw the football around with some officer. Had lunch and played at 2 O'Clock and won 13 to 2. Barrett and myself.

Ulisney put on a good show for the boys and they really enjoyed it.

After the ballgame Chaplin Bradley took Kurowski and Will (our bus driver) and Lakeman and myself around the Island. (Took some interesting pictures.)

Ate at the Chaplin's quarters. A very good meal (turkey) at our own quarters. We saw the movie Bells of St. Mary's. Bing and Ingrid Bergman, a very good picture.

Mon 14 Monday

Had breakfast early and after breakfast we pitched horse shoes until 10 AM. Then left for airport and as usual the plane was late two hours. Left 11:55 AM San Fernando field and arrived in Manila 1 PM.

Went to the hotel to wash and then went and saw Manila Dodgers play an army team from Japan. Manila Dodgers won 2 out of 3. They call it the Olympics.

Went out to eat with Lt. Jim and then visited some Phillipino nasye torry. (?) Stayed till 8 PM. Back to the hotel.

Jan 15 Tuesday

Went out to the hospital to see how Vince DiBiasi was coming along and the answer is – fine. He made our ballgame this nite along with a few of his buddies and nurses. We won 10 to 5. (Had a nice crowd. We put on the phantom infield again for the last time. Ulisney again was very funny to the boys out here.) After the ballgame, Lt. Jim took Kurowski, Ulisney-McCormick and I to the Tico Tico Club for a few beers and back to the hotel to bed.

Jan 16 Wednesday

Had a nice quiet morning. Had lunch and to the park we went. Played our ballgame and won 4 to 2. Voiselle and I. Peterson and Ginsberg.

Had turkey dinner at friends of Lt. Jim (Phillipinos). A very good one, too. Kurowski- Gerheuser- Ulisney-McCormick and I.

Back to the hotel early as we had to pack to send our exess bag ahead by boat.

Now to bed!

Jan 17 Thursday

After breakfast we waited around for a truck to take us to one of the navy piers where both clubs – ours and Manila Dodgers – were to go on a boat ride. With 30 cases of beer, fried chicken, chicken salad, potato salad and ice cream, beets, pickles. What a meal. We were also fishing, but no one caught anything. In fact, no one got a bite. So we took a swim. That was swell. The place we anchored was called The Cove. We all got back around 5 PM. Showered up. And some of us got a pretty god sunburn.

Around 11 PM, Red Barrett brought over our mail and everyone got some. (9 letters).

Jan 18 Friday

Spent a quiet morning till Lt. Jack Counan came around and took us in his jeep and took us to the ball for pictures and after that we took in some cock fights. It's interesting the way one another take care of the bird. Pet them, lift them up, carry them. Train them just like race horses. The first one we saw was about two jumps and one got killed as they have spurs. (Took pictures of it all.) Spent the evening at the Tico Tico Club.

Jan 19 Saturday

Spent a quiet day until it was time to leave for the airport.
Plane departed at 7:26 PM from Nichols Field. We arrived at Guam the next morning.

Jan 20 Sunday

Landed at Guam at 4:55 Am, 6:55 Guam time. Left Guam at 8:07 AM, Guam time.
Flying from 8:07 Am till 10:55 AM, where at this time, 10:55 AM, one motor died out on us and had to turn back to Guam as there were 5 hours to go to Kwajalein and 3 hours back to Guam. We had a head wind which takes more power and gas. We made it back to Guam with 3 motors.
Spending a few hours at barracks 25 where we all had a nap. Major Ockley picked us up and had dinner with Lisa and spent our spare time at Ockley's quarters till midnight.

Jan 21 Monday

Left for Guam again at 1:58 AM. This time we made it without any motor trouble. Arrived at Kwajalein 10:50 AM, 12:58 Kwaj time. Leaving Kwaj 2:34 PM. Arrived at Johnston Island 11:20 PM, 12:50 Johnston time.
This is the point where we gained a day.

Leaving Johnston Island 1:57 AM. Arrived in Honolulu at 6:10 AM (time didn't change.)
We were put up at the transient quarters for a few hours where we all tried to get some sleep. They woke up four of us. Branca, King, Barrett and myself to leave from Hickham Field. Left Hickham Field 2:37 PM.

Jan 22 Tuesday

Landed at Frisco, Hamilton Field 1:30 AM (4:00 AM Frisco time). Was taken to a room where to fill out some cards and hand in our passports. Sent us up to 644 quarters where we were furnished bed coverings and sent to Barrack 627.
Slept till 10:30 AM as we received a phone call to report to Hamilton Field. The special service sent us to Hotel Whitcomb.
We also had to report to 26 O'Farrell St. for instructions for transportation to New York City. The six other fellows who were with from the start joined us here a few hours later here in Frisco. Had a steak dinner at this hotel. Saw a show. A milk shake and then to bed. King, Branca and I.

Jan 23 Wednesday

After breakfast we left for 26 O'Farrell St. where Major Lawrence had his office. Head of the U.S.O. He has made our connections for transportation.

Went out to Front Mass for processing a release for us all. Then later we went to another office for train reservations.

Supposed to leave SATURDAY EVENING AT 7 pm.

Went to Joe Dimaggio's place. Saw Vince and Dom and Joe. Had spaghetti. (Not so hot.) Saw an actor there, too. (Unreadable name.)

Jan 24 Thursday

Tom Seats and his wife came around eleven and we took a ride down to see Augie Gallan. Chuck and Gus and I. Augie was working out with a few fellows – Lamano – catcher for Reds, Jack Tobin Red Sox and Hatten left handed pitcher for Brooklyn. (Took some pictures.) Had dinner – took a walk to Lefty O'Doul's place but he wasn't in so we took in a show. Scarlet Street (Pew!). Milk shake and to bed.

Jan 25 Friday

We were all invited to the Seats place for a turkey dinner. It sure was good. Gallan was also there with a friend. Vince Pezinni. Later Babe Pinelli came over.

What a session that was. Mrs. Seats played the piano and we all tried to sing. Had a nice time. (Took pictures.) Kurowski & Ullisney, McCormick-Gerheuser-Lakeman. Took a plane this morning.

McCormick made arrangements through a friend of his.

Jan 26 Saturday

Woke up in Nevada. A quiet day. The Seats came around the hotel and we talked and had something to drink. Till it was time to for the ferry over to Oakland. That's where we got our train. Train left at 8:45 PM. Had dinner on the train. Very good steak too.

We have a drawing room. Us Steiger and Branca and I. After dinner, Gus and I played gin rummy till midnight.

Gus had the lower and Branca up and I had the side.

Jan 27 Sunday

Breakfast at 10 O'Clock AM and it had to be a quiet day as you know. Nothing doing on the train but to play cards.

Gus typed out some story and Branca and I played gin. There was no lunch on the train. Dinner starting at 4:30 PM. Roast turket today.

Passed through Nevada – Utah – across the Salt Lake. 25% salt – 30 feet deep, 90 miles long – 30 miles wide.

Another Sunday without Mass.

Jan 28 Monday

Another day's ride in a train. Woke up in Nebraska this morning. In the afternoon we stopped at Omaha station for an hour.

The rest of the day we played cards. Read magazines. Books and whatnots.

Tried to write some notes about our trip to Manila and back.

Went to bed about midnight.

Jan 29 Tuesday

Had about 5 minutes of sleep and had to get up at 6:30 AM. Train was due at 8:30 AM but you know how train schedules are of today. So we were one hour late.

We caught the 11:30 Am train from Chicago. Had an upper and went to bed early. Nine O'clock.

Jan 30 Wednesday

Arrived in N.Y. three hours late. Slept fair through the trips. Had train trouble Brooks Forge.

Hit Penn Station 9:45 AM. Took a cab over to Grand Central with King. I caught a 10:30 AM train for Stamford, CT. King had to wait till noon to catch a train for Syracuse.

Arrived in Stamford, CT at 11:10 AM and took a cab for home. It sure was good to see home and wife, kid and Mom and Pop.

Jan 31 Thursday

This completed my trip from N.Y.C. to Manila and back. Thanking God for a very nice and safe trip.