

Gombocz Jr., Joseph

'We're Lucky To Be Alive' Say Local Men

OCT 13 1944



The reunion of three local heroes of Saipan—three boys who enlisted on the same day—undoubtedly is one of the many dramatic stories coming out of the Pacific. Separated in battle, they wound up as casualties in an Army Hospital at Oakland California. And are they glad to be alive: Here's the story of the lads in the picture:

"When I walked into the room and saw Hank there, tears swelled in my eyes and I couldn't even speak for joy." That's how battle-scarred Marine Pfc. Joseph Gombocz, Jr., 81 Clearfield Street, Freemansburg, felt when he accidentally came across the two buddies with whom he had enlisted and who are now convalescing in Oakland.

Pfc. Gombocz, with Pfc. Geza Fuisz, 1017 Broadway, and Pfc. Andrew Kazar, Atlantic Street, entered the Marine Corps together in February, 1942; took their training together in Parris Island and North Carolina.

Since then, they have become real veterans, and have seen action in several South Pacific campaigns including the battles for the Marshall Island and Saipan.

In a letter written to a sister whose husband is with the Army Engineers in New Guinea, Pfc. Gombocz told how neither one ever expected to see the other again and

how lucky they consider themselves to be alive.

According to his letter, the three were wounded on Saipan and sent to a Pearl Harbor hospital before being hospitalized on the West Coast.

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