

Gonzales, Ernest

Hard Fighting Ahead Says Marine Home From Pacific

AUG 21 1944

"It gets me mad to hear people say this war is about over. If they charged up the beach of one of those two by four islands to clean out the Japs on it they'd soon find out there's lots of hard fighting to be done yet," was the way First Class Private Ernest Gonzales responded when asked how it felt to be back in Bethlehem after two years in the U. S. Marine Corps.

Ernie, the 21-year-old son of Mr. a Mrs. Pedro Gonzales, is home to stay. He has received a medical discharge.

It's almost two years, Nov. 23, 1942, since Ernie left Bethlehem. He was 19 years old and was sent to Parris Island, then to New River and finally Camp Pendleton. After basic training was finished he left California for the South Pacific and the big fight. In the Marshall Islands Ernie got his chance to dish it out to the Japs and he dished it out with his Browning automatic for 72 straight hours, then it happened, as Ernie puts it. "I was running across the sand towards a Jap block-house when it blew up almost in my face.

"I remember is flying through the when I came to, six days later,



LEATHERNECK GONZALES

I was in a hospital ship headed for Pearl Harbor."

His fighting days over, Ernie plans to take a well-earned rest with his

family and then he is going to go to a government school to train himself for a job in his favorite field, radio.

Local 2600, U. S. A.-C. I. O., of which he is a member, will honor Ernie at a meeting on Tuesday, at the Union Hall, 218 East Third Street.

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