

Martucci, Charles

Merry Christmas! You Bet, Says Vet Home From Fox-Holes

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Local Leatherneck Had 19 Months in Pacific

"After spending Christmas in the hot jungles of Maui, South Pacific, with the mosquitoes and the Japs, the most wonderful gift in the world is to be home with your loved ones", according to Marine Private First Class Charles Martucci, back from 19 months active duty overseas.

The veteran Marine fighter participated in the battles for Samoa, Maui, the Marshall Islands, Guadalcanal, Eniwok, and what he considers the bloodiest of all, Guam.

"The battle for Guam was tough from beginning to end," said Pfc. Martucci. "When we attempted the initial landings, mortar shells and 15 mm. guns were blasting all around us. Twice our rudder went out on us and when we finally hit the beach, the noise of battle was so terrific, you couldn't think". It was on Guam that Martucci experienced three "close-shaves" from Jap snipers whom they later burned out.

A member of the 22nd Marine Corps Division, Martucci enlisted July 1, 1942 while attending Moravian College where he was well known for exceptional work on the football team. He is also a graduate of Bethlehem High School, for which he also played.

After completing basic training at Paris Island, S. C., he was sent to Dover, N. J., and New River, N. C. He was sent overseas from California in May, 1943.

Pfc. Charles Martucci wears two stars for having participated in two major South Pacific engagements, and has been awarded with other members of the 22nd Division, a letter of Commendation.

While overseas, Martucci came

across quite a few local boys, the latest of which were John Wolf, J. Schultise, and R. B. Buss.

Upon completion of his 30 day leave, he will report to the United



PFC. CHARLES MARTUCCI

States Naval Hospital at Astoria, Oregon, where he will await reassignment.

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