

Hoosier Marine Sees Battle in Shanghai From 'Grandstand'

Times Special
GREENFIELD, Nov. 8.—Sergeant Marion W. Trees of the U. S. Marines watched the bitter fighting in Shanghai from a "grandstand seat"—behind a sandbag emplacement outfitted with a machine gun and 6000 rounds of ammunition.

Life in that war center was described by Sergeant Trees in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Trees, Greenfield. He said:

"I am living in a sandbag emplacement on the edge of Soochow Creek. I have a machine gun and 6000 rounds of ammunition, hand and tear gas grenades in here with me. In other words, I have a grandstand seat for the fight."

Sergeant Trees has been stationed in China since last Christmas. With the Fourth Marines, he has traveled from Shanghai to the American embassy in Peiping and back to Shanghai by way of Tientsin. In the letter written Sept. 11, he continued:

"We finally got out of Peiping



Sergeant Marion W. Trees

and landed right in the middle of a bigger war in Shanghai. We went

by train from Peiping to Tientsin and it took 10 hours to go 90 miles. The Japanese were moving so many troops and supplies that we had to stop at every station and let troop trains go by.

"We went by train from Tientsin to Tangku and there boarded the destroyer John D. Ford. That was Friday. Monday we took aboard 22 women and children and sailed for Chefoo. The women and children were put aboard the U. S. S. Gold Star, and we proceeded to Tsingtao, where we changed to the U. S. S. Isabel, a gunboat.

"Then we went to Shanghai. As we came up the Whangpoo River, there was some shelling and bombing by airplanes, but it did not come close to us.

In Quiet Section

"When we arrived, my platoon was in the line and the next morning I joined it. We stay in the line for two weeks, and then in the barracks for one week. We are in a quiet section, that is, there is no fighting going on within 1000 yards of us.

"So far no Marines have been hit, but hundreds of others have been killed here in the International Settlement, hit by misdirected bombs and shells. Most of the fighting is five miles or more from us, but they

cut loose often just across the creek.

"North Station, about 1000 yards from us, is bombed and shelled all the time. It has been taken and lost several times. I don't know who holds it now.

"There are 50,000 to 100,000 Chinese refugees in the Settlement, who sleep in the streets and cause the worst of our troubles.

"Fourteen hundred Marines are due to arrive on the Chaumont soon. They will fill in with us, and we won't have to stay in the line so long at a time. Two weeks is a long time to stay here now, but we soon will be relieved."



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