

New Guinea
March 1, 1945

Dear Edward Arthur:

About this time 3 years ago, Leonard Mallox and I had finished your rural Taj Mahal, and I was just starting to take over the chair of Social Sciences in Eden High School. This time 2 years ago I was probably partaking of Scotch Whisky in Herlong – This time last year I was just beginning to settle down in New Guinea – By this time next year, I hope to have the feeling that within a couple of months I shall be home.

There is not much to write about that I don't put into my letters to Kate – Time passes quickly – I have been pretty [sic] since my CO left. Our Ammo dump is in excellent shape – We have built 9 native huts & moved the Ammo in there – are issuing very little ammo

I read the accounts of the Eden State Guard with amusement especially the one where they conducted a tactical problem which ended in a watermelon feast. I read the account to various people & they find it very amusing.

Kate tells me that the farm is in good shape and that you re buying some lambs which I am glad to hear. Kate mentioned wishing that a room or so of the old house on the farm could be fixed up. I think it would be a pretty good idea, especially since Kate goes out there more than in the past.

We have some good boxing matches here lately. My muscles are so soft that I don't think I could last one round. Lou, my C.O., and I box occasionally but it makes us too tired – and then too, soon I am verging on 30 years old & not the man I used to be – back when I used to cuff you around. We (Lou & I) have fought a couple of pretty good fights – The last time I knocked him down once and he cut my lip. We keep kidding one another about who can whip, and get about half mad – Then often the bouts we don't mention boxing for a couple of months.

How are [illegible] and the women folk making out? Have you seen Hugh Woods since his marriage? What is Tom Burton doing? Do you ever play Pitch anymore?

The war looks encouraging. However it won't be over until the last of 1946. There is a long way to go in China. I hope to leave for home n rotation from China, but don't know that I will ever get there. – I wouldn't mind spending the remainder of my time over here in Australia. It's about the best place I've ever been.

Well Ed this is a dull letter, but I can't think of much else to say – I hope the farm continues well and that I shall be home to look it over in the not too distant future.

Your son,

John

WRITE SOON