

New Guinea

March 16, 1945

My darling Mamma:

The top of the evening to you. I
have just finished rereading your
letters of March 3rd and 4th which I
received today. I was just a bit
embarrassed when I read where
I had sent one of your letters back to
you. It happened like this - I put your
letters in my writing desk & reread
them sometimes before writing you.
I folded up the letter I wrote to you, set it
aside to address the envelope and picked
up your letter in the meantime. I wrote
you of finding my letter in one of your
envelopes.

Mail call was generous today.
I received in addition to yours, ones
from Harold, Domingue, Gladys Rivers, Frances,
& Dorothy Parr & Leo. Domingue says
that Patsch is somewhere in Europe; John
Lizano has been in Mexico for two
years - the girl whom I knew at

Low school, Mary Louise Villars is
now a Marine Lieutenant. Lischer, the
Pennsylvania boy whom I didn't care
for, divorced his wife & had another
nervous colloquy.

Harold said he could kick himself
for not having married sooner. I imagine
that many a rough whitehead just was
gotten off about the marriage.

The Japanese Radio station is on
but it is usually just a harangue. You
asked what effect Germany's fall would
have on Japan. I believe the release of
shipping would be about the biggest
contribution. But Lord, it would help in
every way. We could throw more
troops in China — land at many
more places — throw more planes

at them. I believe that we shall have
landed in China by July. Once there, it
will be a question of what should be
attacked & what bypassed. The Japs
will not be able to hold us for even

a short period at any place. Of
course there the rub is that China
is temporarily large — But I expect
the Japanese to show up more poorly
there than they have at any time previously.

Another thing Mauna, I believe it
entirely possible that we might land
on Japan proper — a landing, I
mean, before the final phase of the
war. Mr. Arthur's policy of sparing lives
might prevent it. But then our navy
could sit off the coast indefinitely; we
would dominate the sky — fall
the Japanese Congresses below and to
the left of the Philippines are now
useless to them; of course I imagine that
might have surprising reserves in Japan
proper & Manchuria like Germany, but
then again I doubt that — they are not
smart.

Despite the constant successes in
Burma, it doesn't fill one with too much
enthusiasm. When ^{we} they eventually do
seize all the peninsula, we will have
achieved no tactical advantage — the
hips are ship next to nothing from there
now — it will amount to a mopping
up operation on a large scale. The
fighting there, however, is under the
worst conditions extant in this theater.
Despite all the talk about conditions
over here, I think they are much better

those winter conditions in Europe. What
think you of the Bombings of Tokyo,
Nagoya, & Osaka — of course, we know
that the bombing of Germany brought
slow results, but there again, I don't
believe the Japanese can cope with
them as can Germany. They are not
systematic enough. Also Japan
will feel mightily alone when Germany
is out of the war.

Loe is back and I am once again
Executive officer — I learned a good
bit during his absence which will
aid me if I ever get the company, which
I imagine I eventually will
We had excellent steel tonight, and
I ate heartily. We are going to another
dance Sunday night

Maime you asked if we would
take Pin up with us if we left. Yes
we shall take her along — and the
Monday + the pig. I hate to think of
ever parting with Pin up. You
should have seen her in our dog
room last night — Loe and I were

pitching rings at wooden stumps and
she broke up the game completely by
jumping into the air after the rings.
Later she jumped up on a chair and
very interestedly watched some of the
men playing dominoes - she looked
like the dog on the Victor records.

It has been raining here daily;
just now thunder rumbles nearly
it rarely ever thunders over here - just
as I write the rain can be heard
creeping up from the distance; it
has the faintest ~~most~~ sound I ever
heard

I have a cold - there has been
an epidemic of these & mine is
better however.

Well mother, else I shall with the
statement that there is only one person
whom I adore - Good night to you

Your ever loving son,

John M. Harrod

"Doc you welcome my hat tipped off"
The above is no code censor