

May 31 1943

Most darling Mama:

For one of the few times in my life, I have the guilty feeling of having neglected my writing to you – Your last letter mentioned your not hearing from me in ten days – a letter must have been misplaced in there somewhere for I have never gone that long without writing.

Tis Monday night and I am in my room – 9pm through with the days work which has not been strenuous. I paid the company today; the amount adding up to more than \$7000 – It's a very sinful affair – The amount due each soldier is taken from the pay roll – listed on an envelope & the correct amount put in each envelope – Another Lieutenant and myself – arranged the money & paid them this afternoon and early evening.

Well yesterday I took my long desired hike up the mountains; I would say that the top was about 1500 ft. and the hike up around three miles – a Captain Prestroud – about 60 – and myself & a soldier went up – started about 2:30 & got up in the neighborhood of 5pm – climbing up hill is pretty damned hard work but after the first hundred yards, I regained my wind &, although my legs were tires, I wasn't very fatigued. The terrain was sandy & smooth in parts – rougher, and rock studded in part & brush, and covered in part with tall pine trees – that took from the plateau below, like mere sticks, but which are from 30 to 40 ft. high – we climbed & climbed toward a rock ridge, which from the bottom looked like the summit but which when we got to it, was about a quarter of a mile from the top – The wind was calm on the side on which we hiked up, but when we reached the top and looked into the [illegible] on the other side, the wind hit us, and roared a deep, throaty roar, that was a bit startling – It [illegible] to tear through the pines – Looking across on the other side, we saw a wooded valley – deep & partially covered by small hills that jutted out from the mountains we were on – we could look across the valley & see mountains on the other side – disappearing into clouds – and deep blue in color – The air was slightly colder, and a semi misty haze hung over the landscape – Standing on the top we looked down at the farm house at the base from which we had worked; it seemed unbelievably far away – The platoon, on which the depot is located & on which Honey Lake lies stretched far out into the distance – a bright green patch signifying a farm here a bare sandy spot there & the conservative green of the sage brush running intermittently throughout – Honey Lake (as small steamboat carried freight on it in the 80's) looked grassy & cold & slightly forboding [sic] – a bit bleak but impressive none the less, it is tremendously large, but shallow – Looking across the plateau to the mountains on the other side – 20 miles- we could see 4 or 5 ranges – the second, third & fourth each [illegible] than one in front of it

Deer tracks – they weren't tracks – they were trails – nearly as prominent as sheep trails criss-crossed [sic] on the mountain side – a small storm, barely enough to be called one trickled down a gorge amidst sycamore trees – wild rose, scrub oak and [illegible] – it was very cold & clear as a bell

We climbed on a racky [sic] ledge and pushed a half ton rock down; it rolled leisurely for about fifty yards

I trotted & ran nearly all the way down; it taking no effort – ran faster than I though & couldn't stop & fell on a log skinning my hand

I enjoyed it immensely; mountains affect me as you say the ocean does you; I believe you would like them too, although I don't think you could have climbed that one

Capt. Prestroud is an interesting person; born in Norway; a brother of his mapped the Prince Edward Islands – was an officer in the Norwegian Navy – The Capt. himself, just returned from Alaska a few months back - was at Dutch Harbor when it was first bombed – has flown over large parts of Alaska – Did lots of Mountain climbing & skiing in Norway.

Mama – Balling returns next Sunday – that is this coming weekend, and my furlough will probably start around a week later – which means that you had better be rounding out your plans – Am enclosing a money order for \$100- Don't put it in the bank, but keep it for expenses - I shall probably call you during the next couple of days – was just thinking how we shall meet & where in Denver; and how will we know when each other arrives – Suppose I had better get there first – find out from you I advance when you are to arrive & what station – one thing bothers me is the Pullman reservation for you couldn't get it too far in advance because we wouldn't be sure about the trip – and you would need one – Mama learn definitely about just what time the train leaves; and when it would arrive, and the possibility of delays - length of [illegible] etc.

I have been dating out quite a bit – a little bit too much I think – Somehow – the going doesn't seem to phone me anymore – I am just about as fresh after two hours sleep as I am after 8 –

Think perhaps, I'll learn the name of a good hotel, and we can arrange to meet there in the went we would miss each other at the station – Have you heard the song "As Time Goes By" Tis rather pretty

Tell M.M. hello, and that I shall write her soon – say hello to Nell & Ed

I love & adore you

Your loving son,

J. Harrod