

The Philippines
May 10, 1945

My darling Mama:

Nine fifteen and I am just back from the picture show; it was produced about 5 years ago starring Lupe Velez. Rain threatened throughout the picture, but for once it didn't rain.

I've had lots of mail from you lately; one in which you mentioned having gotten my first letter; our ship was standing off (maybe I'd better not say) Island when that was written & mailed.

Well the war in Europe is over. Don't you know it gauled that Prussian General to plead for generosity. I suppose the armies just go into bivouac and do nothing in the case of a victory such as that.

Our work has let up during the past couple of days. I notice or hear over the news casts that they are finally running into a little opposition in this mop up campaign. Communiques can be exaggerated at times. We hear from day to day the progress the troops are making – very uneventful & lacking in opposition, but the news casts paint a different picture.

I should take a bath tonight, but it takes too much effort. I bought two bunches of bananas today at one peso (50 cents) a bunch (about 15). We bought also two chickens for 7 pesos which we shall eat for supper tomorrow. They are grown; look they are [illegible] – we also are to have fresh eggs for breakfast. Food has been extraordinarily good since we've been here, and I've eaten tremendously.

Mother I've lost count of how much money I have again. I wish you would give me the breakdown for the hundredth time – cash on hand May 1st – value of sheep & cattle. Counting my \$300 mustering out pay & profits from sheep I figure I should have around \$5000 by January 1st of next year – that includes every thing.

The nights here furnished the most pleasant sleeping I've ever experienced. I've been going to bed around 930 each night. For the past three nights it has rained veritable floods; one night I got up to put the side flap on our tent down & our orderly had tied the holding ropes in hard knots. Rain poured in on my bed as I tried to find a knife – when I found it it wouldn't open; finally I discovered a razor blade cut the rope.

Ford and I share one tent & Lou & Smith & Prentice the other

Dorothy Parr wrote me that Rallo's L&T was on the Iwo Jima Invasion. I had a long letter from Mary Frances Villaret, the girl whom I knew at Law School. She is a lieutenant in the Marines & has become a great drinker.

I wonder what Japan is thinking now. When we hear planes overhead, we look out & say, is that Tosey Spatts boys.

Mama when I get home you & I and Ed are going out to the farm after. I'll bet it does look pretty now. I'd like to have a good horse here & time to [illegible] around this countryside. I rode about 5 miles inland today. Gosh there are some beautiful valleys and low hills. I wonder how well stock would do in a place like this. I guess though, they would be subject to lots of disease. But the grass is very lush. I am going to send you a part of a blade of Kunai grass in my next letter. I picked one today, but lost it. I talk as if it was rare; it is not, but there is little right around our dump.

Well mother, Lou & Smith are in the tent & talking so I shall close.

Goodnight to you my darling Mama I certainly love and adore you and wish I were home.

Your ever loving son,

John M. Harrd

P.S. We have not moved from our original place – what little fighting there allegedly is far far away. I wish I could explain to you just how very safe I am, shall be and have been – I would be no safer in Eden.