

New Guinea

2/8/45

My darling Mama:

While ensconced in our ultra modern quarters (you have no idea how much they really are – we keep saying over & over how nice they are) in T-shirt – shorts with Lou and Smith & Baron [illegible] likewise I take up this pen to chat awhile with my mother dear – this letter leaves me ok and I hope that when it reaches your loving hands it will find you likewise – ok? Ok!

Dear Kavanaugh today made me the happy recipient of two more long letters from you dated Jan 21st and 27th – One of which contained [illegible] letter. It brought back old times to read it – He writes a rather good letter – I'll never forget the trip from San Angelo with Forest at the wheel.

Well things move on here. We seem to have a busy work day, and yet more time for leisure than in the past. I so look forward to relaxing in our quarters & writing & reading at night that I hate to go to a show or have visitors or do anything – which breaks up the night. Have been staying up until around ten thirty for the past few nights and it makes me terribly sleepy in the mornings – I get up much easier than I used to – Either Smith or I are always the first ones up. My early morning routine is this – Sgt. [illegible] calls us at 630 – I pull my mosquito bar aside and get up – don my shoes & trousers & walk just out of our quarters & shave. Lou & Baron sleep on, and Smith & I usually go up to breakfast (fresh eggs for the past week) a few minutes before them our orderly who is bordering on insanity, eventually puts breakfast on the table – after eating I walk over to the orderly room & check with Dorsey about late changes in the details (we are now working 45 natives and 35 casual personnel in addition to our men) – then I walk back to the quarters & get a cigar – then get in a jeep & go to the Depot office which is only four hundreds away – shall draw you a chart of the company area & depot office.

I am glad that you finally got your glasses. I hope that you have become used to them by now.

Well the war rolls on more encouragingly than ever. This afternoon we had a security lecture by men from Intelligence. Among them was a Filipino who escaped from the Philippines during Jap occupation. He spoke fairly interestingly of events. He had been a lawyer in Cincinnati before the war, and had returned to the Islands to practice law there. He said that (in reply to my question) lots of Filipino women married Jap soldiers. Said that he didn't think the Philippine [illegible] reached many Filipinas. G-2 work was easy for us during Jap occupation for the simple reason that the Japs didn't get around to accompany all the territory, subs came and went down near as well – one of the speakers told me (he said that I would be allowed to write it) that our G-2 estimates of Jap strength in the Philippines, never at any time placed them at more than 250,000 – and that was for all of the islands – As to their being taken by surprise as the Lungayen Guld, when we landed on the small island just below Luzon, they thought that we would land below Manila (presumably that was in elective in our plans) – they concentrated men there – then they apparently learned 3 days before our Lungayen on landing that we intended to hit there – then it was too late – Jap armies are not very mobile – lots of their artillery (and they are woefully short on it) is horse drawn – Manila, which was to be expected, seems to be giving us a good bit of trouble – the nips must be enjoying the destruction of the city

Mother, I would like for you to cash the war bonds & buy two cows. Am anxious to know if Ed leaves the leases the land

Well – I shall close – read in bed awhile (don't need my mosquito bar anymore). Good night you good person and good dreams also.

Your loving son,

J Harrod