

7 November 1945

Dear June,

In as much as I have no diary, I hope that you will save these letters till I get home. I know that you won't believe what I say as I can hardly realize it myself, but I swear to God that it is the God's truth.

I don't know how good General MacArthur is living but he couldn't be any better off than I am. You see I moved to another target, the one I told you about in my last letter, and it is even better. It is the Mie Naval Air Station and there are just 5 of us here and no Officers, (that is American Officers). There are about 200 Japs living here and we are in charge of all them. They have 25 officers and 150 enlisted men. A Jap admiral named Yamamoto runs the place, that is he ran it till we came here. We moved into his quarters so he had to move down stairs. Can you imagine moving a admiral out?

Well our job here is to take over all their war material and destroy what we can't use. We are supposed to let them draw their own food from the storerooms, so every morning the admiral comes up to ask permission to draw rations for his men. Like a big shot, I walk down to the storeroom and let them have enough food for the day. It's no wonder that they starved our prisoners because they have hardly no food for themselves. Well to get on with my story, the admiral sent a radio up to our quarters

and had his radioman hook it up. We have a big dining room with a big long table and our stuffed chairs in the living room. In Japan they don't have furnaces they use charcoal stoves, so we have one boy that does nothing but carry up charcoal and keep the fire going. We have the whole Jap navy waiting on us it seems and boy I am sure taking full advantage of it. When I go to sit down I have a boy that pulls up my chair for me and another that shines my shoes. While writing a letter at the admiral's desk this afternoon, my boy was shining my shoes and it just didn't seem possible. When I go home I will be able to step right in to some ~~vacant~~ position and really be able to act like one.

To show you how important I am now, I have two laundry women so I even have a press in my work clothes. This morning they came to my room and I had no idea it would be women, and I was running around in my underwear. They bowed and told me that they would bring it back Friday. The laundry is all on the house but I usually give them a cigarette when they do a good job.

This afternoon a buddy of mine named Rehas had his chauffeur drive him, ~~up~~ in his Studebaker so I went for a little ride. We have a circular drive in front of our bldg. so he drove in and his doorman jumped ^{out} and opened the door for him. You would have to see it to really appreciate it but it looked like some military convention the way the Japs were all standing around saluting. Well I came out and got in the back seat, the doorman shut the door and we were ready to leave. All my sailors saluted me and as I returned their salutes, we drove off. We have a Japanese guard at the gate so he ran out,

saluted and opened the gate. As we rode around, the people all got out of our way and bowed as we went by. I say again, that you will never believe all this but honestly I am not stretching the story a bit.

I should be here for about another week and then move on to another target. I would be perfectly willing to stay here but you know how it is when you have a job to do. You know, three months ago I could have never believed that I would be sleeping in the same bldg. with the Japs and every now and then I wonder what would happen if they decided to try something. There are only 5 of us against 200 of them so I could sure think of lots more places I would rather be in case they started trouble.

Well its time for bed to be turned down so I will call Joe in. You see, I give them all names like Joe, Mike, Pete, etc. as I can never pronounce theirs. Take good care of yourself and I just wish that you all could live the life I have now. The pictures of Jimmy were sure cute. Send me some more when ever you can.

Yr's of Joe
Your Brother
Cwen.