

3 Sept 1945

Dear June and Mary,

The War is officially over for me now as censorship has been lifted and I can write what I want. At times censorship seemed to be the hardest battle I had to fight as there were so many things I wanted to tell you all and was unable to.

First of all, I received the clippings, but due to the fact that we are moving to Japan, I won't have a chance to give my speech. (Thank God for that.) Second, main land whiskey went on sale here today, unrationed for the first time since the war started, and I don't think there has been so many drinks in so small an area as Paha. Next, there are so many things that I want to tell you about, that I don't

know where to begin.

However, I will start by giving you my exact location. By this is great being able to write all this that was here before unmentionable. First I was stationed at ~~Seaford~~ Seaford Barracks, that by the way was hit during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Then we went on the Defense of the islands and I was stationed on the North side of the island up in a forest for 6 months. After that I went to my present station, Fort Hase. We have a joint army and Navy post here as Kanohe Naval Air station is right next door to us. You should have lived here with all the noise of those bombers and naval liberators taking off every minute on patrol flights. By the way, I have been fortunate

enough to get a few rides so I know these islands by land, sea and air. One thing I do know, is that no one will be able to tell me anything about these islands because I have made it my business to see it all. Pearl Harbor is quite a Harbor and you can hardly imagine anything that gigantic on so small an island. Richman Field, and John Rodgers Air fields are really quite big and as modern an air port as you will ever see. The B-29's are stationed at John Rodgers and what an airplane that is.

I didn't get to ride in one as they were pretty closely guarded but I have got to look them over. That has been the one advantage being on this island, everything the Army Navy and Marines had, you could

see here. (If the war were still going,  
I would probably be shot for writing  
this letter.)

Next, I imagine there is some question  
in your minds as to just why we  
never saw combat. Well, I don't even  
know if the Lord couldn't answer that  
but I do know that you all must have  
prayed harder for us, than the folks  
did for the boys in the other Divisions.  
Actually we are the best trained Divis.  
that the army has as we have gone  
through so many varieties of training.  
We have had everything from cold  
weather to jungle training, that includes  
Mountain warfare, as well as lowland  
fields and dense jungles. You will  
remember how I told you of Jungle training.  
We have ~~even~~ had more ambitious  
training than a lot of the Marine out-  
fits. So, not that I am sorry mind

We were out in the field on our last  
field problem before leaving when  
the word came out, at 0400 am, that the  
Japs had surrendered. I had just  
gotten off guard when the japs drove  
up and the ~~driver~~ let me have the  
news. I don't mind saying at all,  
that all I could do was just cry  
with joy. In five minutes time the  
blackout security was broken <sup>and</sup> all  
you could see was lights all over  
the hills. Never will I forget that  
day, all I could think was no more  
sleeping out in the mud and rain,  
stumbling around in the dark and  
most of all, not worrying about getting  
shot up. After a couple of years of  
this, death didn't seem to bad as that  
comes quick, it was hating to think  
of going home with a leg or arm  
off. I know how it would hurt

you, it is ashamed that we were never used as I think we could have easily given them hell.

Now, to tell you of the times we were hot and how it looks to me why the grace of God kept us out. It all dates back to Sepin, Decatur and Tivian. Now, you have probably followed this Pacific war along and will recall the campaigns. We didn't figure in to much on that one but were held in reserve, luckily enough we weren't needed there. The next big one was the Philippines. Indigano's 38th Division went there and I thought we were going to be there beside them. In fact I would have liked to have gotten in that Div. as there were a lot of boys from here in it. I dare for a while, while they were here with us on this island, it seemed like I was back in Knoxville.

Mom and wouldn't be fair to her with all the trouble she has had.

Well it ends up that we are going to Japan as an occupation force rather than an invasion force but I don't mind going as it will certainly be a wonderful experience. Boy, just think of the stories I am going to have to tell you when I come home. It shouldn't be too long before I get home, I figure that by this time next year I will again be a civilian with all this time behind me. The good part is that all I have lost is time, not my arms and legs.

I hope this letter hasn't bored you all too much but after storing all this up for a year and a half, I just had to get a little off my chest. You have no idea how hard it has been to write when you

want to tell of things that are happening  
but all you can talk about is routine  
stuff.

How is Denny and have you  
taken any pictures lately? I am so  
glad that Mom is doing so well and  
just hope that she can continue on.

Tell every one hello for me and write  
whenever you can. It will probably  
be quite a while before you hear from  
me but don't worry as I will be O.K.

Your brother,  
Owen.