



AMERICAN RED CROSS

W. H. Knowlton
APO 957
San Francisco.

Oahu
4 Jan 1945.

My dearest:

Your letter of Dec. 20 and 21 postmarked Dec. 23rd in today and what news!!! Mamma a working gal at last, and Chrysler at that. Sounds wonderful, and hope all the details work out to your complete satisfaction. Am still a little mixed up... first you tell me mother is going on long trip round the country.. Fla. Texas, Montana and elsewhere.. then tell me she has left... then tell me she is going to keep house for you. Just to orient me you might send me a map and a time table on her activities.

Also, while I am asking for information .. which seems to be the best thing I do.. How much money have the Red Cross checks been? That I am trying to find out is whether or not they deducted income tax. When I am "overseas" the tax accumulates, and they do not pay it. But I have a hunch Hawaii is part of U.S. for tax purposes and that as long as I am here they are deducting it. The only way I can tell is from the actual amount of the checks you get. Have also asked several times for the dates when they come in... darling let me know will you?

While we are on the tax subject.. better see George Dixon as to the best set up for you.. whether to include your tax return with mine, or keep it all separate. In any case they will deduct from your pay. If you have the deductions made on the basis of single return, they will be relatively high.. but will not leave a big balance to be settled up in connection with my tax return when the war is over. On the other hand.. only Dixon, or some tax expert would be able to tell us what is the best deal... on a net basis. Assuming that you work all year, you, or we, or someone (nobody else darling) will have to be in a position to pay up the difference when the time comes as the deductions may not cover all of it by a damnsite. Also expect you will want to carry hospitalization on you and the kintern, and a moderate amount of group insuralce on you end the kids. Even without war bonds you will find that the "take home" is much less than the gross.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Assume from your letter that Lyd and Em were coming down to spend Christmas with you.. that must have been grand.. and how I wish I could have been there. Let me know all the gory details, will you? You say you received my letter of Dec. 6th... my list of "letters out" to you is at the office.. will check it tomorrow and see where we stand.

Honey, if you went a job in Hawaii after the war you will be strictly on your own. This place may someday be a glorious winter resort again, but I doubt if that will be true for many years. It is so hard to make you understand what it is like here... the town is like Coney Isl,nd.. or some tremendous county fair.. with open air concessions.. yes and merry-go-rounds and loops on the corners.. open air hot dog and throw-the-baseball stands.. hundreds of novelty shops. The island is one immense armed camp.. military traffic roars along the roads day and night... endless thousands of vehicles.. jeeps, weapons csrriers, trucks, tanks, everything... The place is so crowded that you stand in line everywhere.. and I mean everywhere.. thousands collect in front of the movies in the late afternoon, hoping to see one show... single room, without bath, \$60 per months... pseudo "hula gals" make over \$200 per week posing with sailors on a percentage basis...any waitress makes over \$100 a week in tips (I have seen a GI pay 25¢ tip for glass of water.

Unless you have your own "transportation" (military term for anything with wheels) you may wait hours for a bus... New Years afternoon I spent nearly five hours waiting to get back to the post.. all buses are crowded beyond belief.. everywhere there are crowds... we were at one of the flying fields tonight.. there civilian women workers are kept in a guarded camp.. behind high barbed wire, with armed sentries walking up and down.. they can get out at certain times.. but when inside have to talk to their friends through the fence.. like prisoners. Even Jean Lennox said the other night she hoped when the war was over she and the family could go on to some "outer island" like Guam, where some semblance of the old life on Maui remained... this place is like living right in the middle of



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Wright Field when it was under construction with downtown Dayton thrown in on top.. and a million troops more or less to help clutter things up.. its a mess.... end you can have it. Just remember that most of the men, sunplies, weapons, munitions, end vehicles used in the Pacific theater are flowing through here all the time.

Don't know how much of the above our friends the censor will take out.. but you get the general idea. mebbe this was Paradise once.. but, no more. So don't waste your time envying me.. perhaps some day I will learn to love the place.. but not yet.. right now I am trying to stick to my theory that the place does not matter.. but that's kinda tough. I know Detroit it no picnic, under present conditions, either.

Don't know right now what the next move will be in the Red Cross. I can sit tight, and let things course, or put up a howl for a different kind of work.. or wait until there is some kind of a demand from the military for what I want. Right now area office is in the process of cracking down on personnel.. and a lot of them need it.. and in this process they are currently very unsympethetic to anyone coming in with an axe to grind. For example. Stan Andersen told Charlie Plumb, (the cartoonist) he wanted to take Charlie with him to a forward area to put on shows, etc. To "show area" what they could do they have staged a few shows around here. What Stan did not understand is that most of the men here are garrison troops.. and are not sympathetic to poor or even average entertainment. The other night they staged what was billed at a "Red Cross Show" at one of the large replacement centers... where the boys sweat it out waiting assignment and are mostly all fed up in general. They did (the audience I mean) everything but break up the performance... and of course several big shows from area were along that night on an "inspection tour"... result.. directive out "no more shows" here on forward islands where there are garrison troops.. and Charlie Plumb was told to either go back to his knitting as an AFD or go home. So the whole program these boys cooked up is off, and I can see area's point... they are afraid Red Cross will get mixed up in things they are not really equipped to handle. That kind of stuff goes alright with combat troops.. but not here.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

I would like to get in correspondence work.. but not under the lad who is in charee of publicity and public relations in the area. He once worked a few months on a small newspaper somewhere, and has little or no conception of his job. I am, however, intensely interested in case work, and am perfectly willing to keep on doing that.. so long as I get a little chance to get around and explore.

Must pile in bed.. have just made it up fresh, as this is laundry day... almost midnight, and way past my bedtime.

Let me know if you got my love letter... written after you wrote me the two you have been stewing about... and write one back.. will you dearest.. I need it. Also let me know if the Xmas package arrved, and in what condition. Tell the Jacques many thanks for the Christmas cards.. you might send me a list of the people who remembered us at No. 66 so I can write some of them.

Please look in my "personal 1944" file and see if you can find Bob Metter's last letter before leaving the states.. it was a mimeographed affair.. but it had his APO on it.. expect he is out here somewhere and would love to see him.

If you do, and tell me, all of the things I ask, you will be one busy little gal.. what with your new job.

Oh yes, one more story.. When ARC first went into Africa.. they took in tons of powdered milk.. but the Arab women don't drink milk and would have none of it. Then came several thousand gross of baby nipples.. but no bottles.. anyway Arab babies eat off mama until they are able to walk.. then a boat load of layettes arrived.. but these were of no use in the hot, humid climate, as they don't dress the kids. In the middle of the resulting confusion Stan the Donut man suggested that Red Cross send a few thousand gross of safes, which might solve the whole problem.. if they could only get the Arab men to use them... c'est la guerre... For my money ARC should supply the soldiers wives back in the states with contraceptives.. would sure save a lot of agony and grief over here.. and why do so many army wives sell out to sailors? Yah got me.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Tomorrow is stockade day again.. all my bad boys... love you so much darling.. keep your chin up... tail down.. don't worry.. good luck on the new job.

Your own,
Henry

(handwritten) Jackpot - Found a Sat. Post in town - Nov. 25 issue!!

Jackpot - found a Sat. Post in town - Henry. Nov. 25 issue !!