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American Red Cross,  
APO 357 San Francisco



At Sea-- Somewhere  
in the Pacific,

Form 2247

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

My dearest Katherine:

So many things are kapu.. that I hardly know where to start. But it is enough to tell you that we are on our way, and everything is under control. The whole atmosphere is more like what I expected when I went into "overseas service" as since leaving the Hawaiian Islands I am definitely "but of the country". This letter carries no date, or day in the week... as that is part of security regulations and quite understandable.

Considering everything, our quarters are very good. Sam Summers and I have an extra bunk for our gear, which means that we do not have to crawl over things to get in and out of bed. We now have everything ship shape, and in fair order. Henry Kaye would be interested in the facts that our bunks are canvas racks, double sideways, and four high.. waking eight officers to a section. You are almost in bed with the next guy, but not quite. We are issued two mattress covers, one blanket, and one mattress, so we are quite comfortable.

Perhaps the best thing about the deal... to date at least, is the food. We line up for mess, each gets a tray, with compartments in it, knife, fork, and spoon. bbAs we move along the "cafeteria" line, our tray is full almost instantly. This noon we had roast turkey, and the guy put a whole drumstick off about a 25 lb. turkey on my plate, potatoes, dressing, peas, home made ice cream, bread & butter and coffee. Then we stand up to eat, like the auto-mat, or those joints in Chicago. The eating is all done as quickly as possible, to make room for more... but the quality is excellent... better than anyone would expect.

Another thing we have, which is very important.. is fresh water for washing.. even for showers... but it is very unusual at sea. Also understand we are to have laundry service before the week is out... and a barber, which I need badly, as I did not find time to get a haircut in the scurry of packing.

We have a full time ARC recreation man with us, and he is going to handle recreation on shipboard.. so instead of working my head off, as I did coming out to the islands, am just going to it back and take it fairly easy... and also hope to get some writing done. Special services will supply some movies, and there are lots of books to read.

Now that we are on our way, I have something of a queasy feeling that it was all a big mistake... but its too late to back up now, I assure you. One thing about letters written on shipboard... they will be mailed back home from land... so you know when you get this letter that everything is pretty apt to be alright. There is little chance that you will hear from me often, so just keep your nerve and everything will be alright.

Hope you get the insignia and patch that I sent you for Easter before leaving the Islands. Pix enclosed from my war correspondent's identification pass... what did I say about being hard as nails and tough? Wherever I am on Easter morning I shall pray for you and the three lovely young people that have been given to us. I am sure Henry Kaye would get a huge kick out of this voyage... we are no longer playing at going to war... this is the real thing.

I love you my darling... and will keep you forever in my heart.

Your own,  
Henry

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Kaye". The name "Henry" is written in a larger, more prominent style than "Kaye".

Pix enclosed from my war correspondent's identification pass... what did I say about being hard as nails and tough?