

W. H. Knowlton ARC

Hdq. Tenth Army

APO 357

San. Fran.

Okinawa

23 April 1945.

My darling:

Another day - rained last night so we are in a sea of mud this morning. Will try too send a few pictures if I can get them censored. Don't know if they can go out yet or not.

Night before last we were about bushed - so went out to the press ship & got cleaned up - had a delicious fried chicken dinner. Line Navy officers do very well. Looked up during dinner & saw Bill Bennet at next table - so visited with him a moment after dinner - altho he is very busy - no room to sleep on that ship so we went to another one & bunked with a Navy doctor. Good coffee in A.M. & back to shore. Watch out for ARC story by John Henry I.N.S. correspondent. I gave him dope. Am sure I.N.S. runs in one Det. paper.

Spent yesterday typing stuff for the boss. We have no GI stenogr. as yet.

Today I wrote feature story - Okinawa News Letter & sent to Det. News & Dayton News. Hope they use it - but no telling. Also wrote HCL Jackson so watch his column. Also wrote letter to Area, signed by the boss - requesting full Navy credentials for me as War Corresp. Should I get through O.K. will come home wearing new insignia.! Still have fingers crossed after all the fouled up situations to date.

Thanks for sending the check - but darling there is nothing, absolutely nothing to buy here. There are no towns. No stores. No Army PX yet. Once again you did not tell amount of check or what for? What stories?

Please, please, send page 1 & edit page Det. Free Press. Send everything strong envelope - service is marvellous. No packages! Did you get the X-Army Patch & ARC Medallion I sent from Oahu? I doubt it - so wanted you to have both.

Our C.P. has been quiet (no air activity) - thank god - but had accident at one of our forward posts (regiment/ last eve. ARC. man saved an officer's

life by applying first aid when shell landed in this office - but he lost a leg - Sam Summers is stationed nearby - hope he escapes with a whole hide, as he has become a real & fine friend. But it's becoming "very interesting" around here - can't leave our C.P. without gun, helmet & knife!!

ARC operation moving apace - now have 90 men here - 2 rest camps going, 4 canteens & all hospitals covered. Garrett did a picture story on the whole blood thing - worked like hell for 3 days and then discovered the focal plane shutter was closed on his Speed Graphic! Remember my early troubles? He claims to be an "old timer" but many things he does indicate he is very much a novice - Oh well, he will learn.

I am now definitely attached to Hdq. with the top ARC staff. This is a good break from many standpoints - chiefly in knowing what is going on all the time!

So glad to know Barbie's music is going ahead - feel that you are doing a marvellous job & pay the way to keep things going. Hope the lawn takes root - it must look awful. Suppose the place needs painting too, but I do feel more secure with a mortgage. Will put in oil furnace soon as available. Also fireplace.

How is mother these days? No doubt she has expected letter from me. But you know how it is - Midge sent me Easter Card saying uncle ?? was off to the races again. What a guy.

Must get to bed soon - as we sleep when we can - the Nips usually make several runs over the night. Father asked about "housing conditions" here - he should see my fox hole!

No mail for 2 days - hope some lands tomorrow. I love you, my darling - more than you will ever know. The little card never leaves its place in my shirt pocket or my heart. Goodnight, dearest one.

Henry

~~Henry~~

Enclosed - invasion currency for the kintern - value 1¢ American!