

w h knowlton
american red cross
hdq. tenth X army
apo 357
San Francisco.

Okinawa.
26 May 1945

My darling Katherine:

Am going over to the post office tomorrow if I have to walk on my hands.. it is now 10 P.M. and I am just quitting work, and have not even stopped to shave or clean up in three days.. don't have clothes here, and I am sleeping in the office tent. This morning the rain really caught up with us in form of a terrific flood.. hundred of tents inundated.. some of them under water clear to the top and soldiers stranded everywhere. Damndest mess you can imagine.. no place to go to get dry, and still it rains. Bridges out etc., phone lines down.. but how the army can fix things in a hurry.

Heard today over grapevine that the boys (Gibson*Graham & CO.) think I am doing one fine job here and plan to leave me here in charge of communications. They can, however, roll it up tight and stick it. I did not come all this way to be confined to a desk.. might better be working for Western Union in NYC.. could at least get to a bar after 10 P.M. and might have some decent help. However, I suppose, after what's happened I should be thankful to be alive and whole. The grandmapants who was running this office was the guy who poo-pooed anyone who took cover.. and look what he got. Doubt if he will get the purple heart, however, as in refusing to take cover he was disobeying a direct military order.

But so many funny things happen that I can't get really down.. I get awful fed up, but not fundamentally discouraged. Incidentally the enclosed check is for a story I wrote on ship.. it was accepted promptly, and paid for on acceptance.. they did not wait for publication.. also said it was a very very good job, and they could use more. And now I can't get copy out of here, but have one or two more ideas against the time when I can. One about how all the GIs plan to run small businesses, so anyone trying to build a sales organization had better depend on little dealers, rather than a lot of salesmen on a commission. Think it will click.

Sorry to be so down in the mouth., also have an ARC guy sleeping in the same tent who is waiting to be evacuated... has terrible asthma and gasps for breath all night.. very pleasant.. we are losing too many men for various reasons. Gibson is wild... love you my sweetheart.

~~SECRET~~