

W H Knowlton

30 June 1945

ARC

Okinawa

Hdq 10 Army

APD 357 S.F.

My darling:

Saturday afternoon - but it does not seem like it - or we don't particularly look forward to week ends as Sunday is no different than any other day. We are, however, going across the island swimming about 5, and that will be perfect, as it is beastly hot today.

Am slipping you a present - a vase or rather vase Mideah - found in a native village during the assault. I almost threw it away once, account of tail broken on one

lion. Also was thick with mud and did not look like very much. Cleaned it up and took it to the civilian translators. Jap said it came from a town in southern Kyushu famous for pottery - the maker has been out of business for 60 years. So is between 60 & 150 years old. Value in pre-war Japan - 100 yen (\$100). Now between \$300 and \$500 from an American museum. The Jap said it was unusually good specimen of this wear and promptly offered to buy it, but I said no! Said it was a museum piece!

All I know is I think it is lovely and would like to keep it - design is Japanese - mums & birds, but the little lions guarding the mouth, that form the "ears" are definitely Korean - the Koreans put ornamental lions on everything, even their house tops, to keep evil spirits

away! Nice custom. Am packing it the best I know how & should reach you in 60 days or so, parcel post, which goes by water I believe. So don't wait with both ears back.

We need couple a lions around here - Tojo got too close last night. Fire bombs dropped in quick succession & I got one foot in my shoe on the fifth one. The concussion put out the flame in a Serval kerosene-burning refrigerator in a nearby medical section. But by time I looked out it was all over so went back to sleep. There is no protection from a direct hit, anyway. Numerical adds still excellent but as the guy said I don't want to be a statistic!

Have done nothing since writing you last but work - have evening shift of 2 G.I.s that need close supervision. So I work until 10 or later - sometimes midnight.

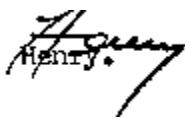
The way things have worked out after the Commissioner got fouled up with the Navy, it appears I am not going to get Navy credentials, and my Army card is no good here - so - that should be good news to you - as it means I shall resign and come home that much sooner. It takes a long time to bring anything to a head out here & I want to avoid any complications. Have excellent "evaluation" as they are called from all my superiors so far & don't want to leave ARC in a huff, as Stan the Doughnut Man and countless others have done & are doing. Have been waiting for things to calm down

a bit, before taking action - also will stick so long as men
are badly needed here - and they are!

Love you, love you, love you - wish I were swimming
with you at Portage this afternoon instead of in the China
Sea - thus we would go up on our sand dune & watch the
sun go down and the colored sails on the snipes - and I
would love you for hours - Oh my darling!

Your own,

Henry

Henry.