

W. H. Knowlton,
American Red Cross,
Hdq. Tenth Army
APO 357 San Francisco.

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Okinawa

Dearest Barbie:

Your letters of June 26 and 28 came in last evening, and I have been wearing them out reading them. The account of what you have in the ice box really made my mouth water; this morning one of the men came in with some fresh limes, and we could make some limeade, if we had some sugar and if we had some ice. Would like to have a bushel of those hail stones you tell about.. as it is we cut the limes in quarters, eat them, and make awful faces. We are simply starved for citrus fruit, however, and they really taste good. We also find a few lichi nuts, which have an exotic flavor... had tasted dried ones in America.. they are a Chinese delicacy, but never the fresh fruit. They are like a small plum with a very large round hard seed.

I saw "The Affairs of Susan" the other night, sitting on the side of a hill out under the Okinawan sky, and enjoyed it a lot.. something like 'The Philadelphia Story" in a light vein. Would love to see your roses. There are few flowers here although we do find a few hibiscus bushes growing in the native villages, but nothing like the flowers of Oahu. Apparently the Okinawan were, from necessity, more interested in growing things to eat than in flowers. Every little level patch was cultivated..every inch. The hills are rocky.. when you try to dig a hole in a hill you hit coral.

The place where I now work is in a little valley, and along the banks at one side are little caves, used by poor people as burial places. I looked in one the other day, after living here for weeks.. and discovered the skulls of several honorable ancestors.

Its hard for me to realise that Dinah is gone, and I doubt if we will ever have another one quite like her.. she was such a love. Wish she had produced a batch of good pups.. then we would still have one.. but she didn't and thats that. I dont think you should try to raise a dog on Kensington.. its too much like living right downtown. Perhaps we can make some change when I get home that will favor the dog business again.. I hope so, as I sure love to have them around. But if you get a

cocker.. its yours.. not mine. (handwritten:) I'd like to have Gussie!¹

Hope to hear some music again soon. When we moved from one valley to the other a short time ago someone "borrowed" our radio in the process. Now we have lights again, and I got another radio from our warehouse, but for some reason it refuses to work. Will have to start out and try to locate a radio repair man. Here on Okinawa that may be quite a task.

Here on Okinawa things have begun to settle down a bit. We are having fewer and fewer alerts, and I wonder now how I ever lived through some of those awful flaming nights. You remember the song "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun"... and that it true here... the sun is very very hot, but the nights are cool, and we can sleep. Lately I have been doing little but work.. swim in the sea about three times a week, and sleep. Movie once a week.. mebe. Not a very exciting existence. They have cut out the atabrine, and we all feel groggy.. its like keeping yourself loaded with aspirin for months and then suddenly stopping.

Today I had a gang of prisoners come in and put up a pyramidal tent (16-ft square) that we are going to use for a kitchen.. we have a gasoline burning hot plate.. and sort of a recreation tent. Now we have to "scrounge" for furniture.. will make most of it out of old boxes.. wish I had my hammock.

These days the bombers wing over in gigantic echelons.. the sky is simply filled with them. Jean Ludins, my artist friend, keeps saying that the Japs will have to give up, but I fear that day is a long way off.

Would like to see you in those pajamas.. although you would look good in coveralls to me right now. No darling.. have not yet received the picture of mother... am still watching the mail. I did get some Free Press copies after two months.. so have hopes. You should like the vase I am shipping mother.. you will get it about Oct 1 .. I think.

¹ "Gussie" may have been a favorite dog name of his. My Mother (Barbara) later named another of her dogs "Dinah" -- part cocker spaniel and part mutt.

all my love....

Daddy.