



AMERICAN RED CROSS

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My dearest darling:

Last night I planned to write you a letter, but somehow things sorta all happened at once. Major "Irish" Cavanaugh, the base censor here, who was a friend of mine in Honolulu dropped in for a social call. We had just started making reasonable demands on a bottle of likker, and very much enjoying ourselves, when the radio flash came that the Japs had surrendered... since proved to be false.¹ All hell broke loose with rockets and flares going up everywhere, and within a few minutes at least ten guys appeared with a fresh quart of whiskey.. and you can imagine the result. We all got pretty plastered, and men were shouting and singing all night. So today we are all on tenter hooks, not knowing what is going to happen.

Your letter of July 30th has me all excited.. but I can't tell what's going on... when I get home I'm going to teach you to write a simple news story, based on the age old formula.. who, what, when, where and why. You report "mother's news, tho we half way expected it.. sort of floored us, and it's to be so soon. He seems like a very right sort of guy.... etc. etc." Honey, honey, when is she getting married; where will they live.. who is the guy; what does he do for a living; what does he look like; when is the wedding date? For heavens sake give me the dope.

Yes Katherine, I am in favor of some long range planning. But there are two things that are now important.. to be able to give the kintern some kind of an education... and I don't mean the most expensive one either, and the other is that I'm not going to spend the next 20 years slaving for money [he actually only lived another 11]. Am going to either do editorial work

¹It was actually true, but not officially: they didn't know about Hiroshima yet.



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where I like it, or drive a hard bargain with someone like Visual Training Corp. for nine or ten months out of each year. The other three months we will travel and write. As for the PHD -- I'm not too sure it would have any great value, except as a feather in my hat, and I would much rather have a string of books published than have that feather. If you kept on working we would still have one awful time living on the salary, and at this point I don't want to do that.. I want to make it in the boom years that are just ahead, and if we do go back to school do it during the next depression.

The vase has finally been shipped, and I hope it eventually reaches you intact. It was a rather amateur, but I think good job of packing. Don't see how it could be damaged, although I have seen stuff dropped a hundred feet from cargo nets, off a ship.

If things work out here the way I'm trying to work them out I should be home by the time mentioned in your last letter.. but don't get your hopes up, as it might be three months after that. Then again, if the thing out here stops suddenly, it may take many months to get things cleaned up and out of here. I am still waiting for a second letter from Sylvester, which I can use as a lever to pull this off. We have plenty of men here now, and I do not feel that I would be shirking anything. Under the new plan, I can get mainland reassignment automatically at the end of 18 months overseas, so in any case that will be the longest time that I will have to stay out. I'm trying to tell you this without mentioning any specific dates, which would be against security.. but think you follow me. Don't you?

Am also sending you, in a separate envelope, a carbon copy of a note to Eloise. I sincerely hope that it will, once and for all, lift the load that has been on your heart, and erase any doubts you may yet have. Please acknowledge the copy, so I can be absolutely sure you got it.

Did I tell you I interviewed a young Okinawan girl.. 18 years old, who lived through the battle here behind the Jap lines? She was impressed into service as a nurse.. she was born



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in Honolulu and came here when she was 15. She has two small brothers, "Mike" and George.. ages 9 and 14, and the military are trying to get them cleared and shipped back to Honolulu. Her mother died in the invasion, and her father cannot be found. She told me the story of what happened in a Japanese underground hospital:.. it was almost too horrible to believe. Later she was wounded, and wandered for weeks, carrying Mike, who was shot in the stomach. Today she is working in one of our military government units here, and is bright and smiling.² Also, I have made preliminary arrangements for an "audience" with Jimmy Doolittle.. do you kiss his toe, like the Pope, or how do you act?

Had a letter from Edith Smith.. Goodlin's secretary at Airtemp. She is going into Red Cross and wants to know if I can get her out here to work for me. Will try and do it, as she is very very capable, and nice person to have around. I think you met her at a New Years party.. she's the one who teaches dancing for Arthur Murray . She says Bob Malcom is "acting sales manager" until they get another one. It must be some blow to Russ to lose Zim, but I expect he was tired of taking it over the ears. His new partner T. K. Quinn is quite a guy... he headed part of WPB through the worst of it, and did a fine job.

We have broken ground for our "compound" for females, so will soon be getting club gals ashore. We now have 5 clubmobiles here.. great big ones, and are building one "donut factory". My communications center is still under staffed.. first one thing and then another happens and I will sure be glad when we can get some gals in here to do this clerical work. Today I turned down taking over the operation of one of our most important field stations, as I had plenty of that on Oahu, and now want to stay in administrative work, or tie into the recreation programs in some way.. perhaps as supervisor of rest camps. We are planning a string of Clubs, and have the way cleared to make this the finest Red Cross operation anywhere. Right now we are terribly short of lumber and such, but that should improve later when the

² Wonder is she could have been the daughter of the woman in the Kimono who he had found hiding underground? She had lost what, 7 kids?



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army has finished its top priority building program which is now going apace.

Glad to know Henry had such a good time in Dayton.. would like to visit there myself and see the Blacks, Wards, and all the rest. We'll put that on our program too.. how about it?

Must run along, and take some (believe it or not) bottled cokes over to some CB boys who have done us many favors.. they do our developing and printing. I got hold of a case today.. for \$2.. and it's just like gold around here.

Goodnight my darling... we are on the downhill stretch .. perhaps someday I can prove to you how much I love and adore you.. my darling.. my own.

Your own,

Your own,

Henry.