



AMERICAN RED CROSS

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Okinawa.

My own Katherine:

If I had written you in the past three days I would have told you a lot of things that have since been cancelled... so you would have been in an uproar, so now I am glad I waited until the air cleared.. at least a little. For a time it looked as if my outfit was going to [censored] but that is out now. The deal was that little Joe Graham was going as Director and I was to go as Director of Operations.. in other words the little guy who does the work. Anyhoo, it all blew up and little Joe is (once again) sweating out transportation home.

My bucking stuff to Gibson came to a head.. I have been given two more good soldiers (typists) and am to be assigned two Red cross men come Sunday.. which will make my staff a total of 2 ARC and 7 soldiers.. nine in all. One of the ARC men I hope to get is very very capable man.. owns two weekly newspapers in the states, which his wife edits and operates.. and he got there the hard way. The whole point is that getting out of here is dependent upon having someone who can take over so I want to get this guy trained pronto.

Day before yesterday was the end of the war (so the paper said) altho we had a few Bettys over that night. They arranged an ARC broacsact to the states and I was scheduled to talk, but the night before I had gone up to Nakagasuku Castle to spend the evening with Sammy Summers, so they wrote the script for Dombrowsky. That was just as he was as he was first ARC man ashore here, and my senior, so I was happy they put him on the program.. They also had several Red Cross gals from Calif. talk and after the broadcast we came back here and had coke GI and ice and took the gals home as they have to be in the compound at 7 P.M,



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We understand that the Nip envoys are to land out here today.. on Ie Shima, in a special plane, and then transfer and go on to Honolulu. We ARC are waiting with both ears back to greet any released prisoners of war, who will no doubt come through here on their way home. Hence we are frantically building canteens in the right, places. Am expecting a big day or two in my communications center as we will handle all messages between these people and their families.. won't that be some thrill?

I have your letter written Aug 3 in which you said you felt that I was on the way home, and in a sense I am. ARC is asking all men to stay on their posts for at least two months, which I think is reasonable, and then we will get home on the basis of length of service, combat duty and record. All things being equal I should be able to make it sometime in December, if I can get to Honolulu during November. Transportation is going to be a problem.. in fact it is now.

Even if you and the kintern are working on a big surprise, or something, please don't buy a piano now. The Army has thousands of small Steinways, which are wonderful little instruments, and we should be able to snag on to one, new, in crate, for next to nothing, when they are released. I would not want one that had been out here, as the heat and moisture raises hell with them. I could tell one that had been in the tropics, just by the smell of the inside. All goods are going to be very very high in price and scarce for about two years so PLEASE DON'T BUY ANYTHING NOW THAT WE CAN POSSIBLY BUY LATER. When this back log of military stuff lets go, we will have a different situation. We may be eating C rations out of cans, but there will be plenty of good food for everyone.

The night of the radio broadcast Vince Martire and I went over to 10th Army, after taking the gals home, and while there, we traded jeeps in the blackout. We drove back here in the dark and when we reached here discovered the mistake, so I called 10th Army right away. While I was phoning some drunk came along and took the jeep which I had driven off by mistake, and the next morning it was found completely wrecked.. and my nice new



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jeep was still safe at headquarters. The guy is in the hospital.

Tell the children that I spent an evening recently with CHANDU the Magician. He is a special service officer at Corps, and a wonderful guy... he did card tricks all evening and gave me some wonderful ideas for making 16 mm. films.. He has a paper trick.. series of stunts that could be used by Hammermill Bond or some big paper outfit for promotion to school children. He is very much interested in the 16mm field, and someone had told him I might go in this business, hence the interest.

Damn.. the paper tore.. so I have to start farther down the sheet.. you can't back it into a typewriter.

Am working on a deal to interview Jimmy Dolittle.. what fun. Might as well see these guys while they are handy. I have to pinch myself every morning to really believe that it's all over. Oh honey honey, but I'm glad, and also happy that I was in on the Okinawan campaign... the hardest, toughest, most grueling, of the whole war.. the one that broke the back of the Japanese empire. You know how little I have written as military information was pau, but one of these days I can tell you all about it.. with details and gestures.

If I go home by ship expect to start work on a full length book, which will be a series of sketches, called "Friends of Mine"; the copy will contain some interesting people, and its the kind of thing that lots of people like to read. So that's a project. If I fly home, will take time to write it before doing much else.

When does Dinty graduate? How would you like to meet me in Texas.. San Antonio, mebbe we could see the graduation and then take a week for the trip to Washington... couple days in New Orleans, and take it easy going up the coast. My expenses home will be paid.. do you have enough to pay the ry fare? Just started to say we could make Memphis but that would be way out of the way.. you could, however, see Shannons in Kansas City on the way down. Take night train to St. Louis, day train to K. C.



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then take train next afternoon (Blue Bonnett) leaves about 1 P.M. to Dallas, arriving there next and then take day train across Texas, which is a long jump... or fly, if you could get space. Would be an interesting adventure for you, and I know I would love it. I would be willing to hitch hike if we could make the trip together. Would tell you to come all the way to the coast, but am afraid that would cost too much, and anyhoo, I think you would have endless trouble getting transportation. Think you could scatter the chicks for that long? Let me know pronto.

Please drop a note to Eloise and tell her I got her cheerful note of August 3, and thanks for same. Darling I love you.. more than you will ever know.

Your own,

Henry
Henry.