

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



Form 2247

Okinawa
28 August, 1945

AMERICAN RED CROSS

My dearest darling Katherine:

When you get a phone call, or something, from the Royal Oak Chapter, you will think I have gone completely nuts. But here is the situation. One of the men who works for me, part time, in the evening, is a Lieut. in the censor's office.

He said he thought, under existing conditions, that the only mail going out of here airmail was the "official" mail and that all our personal airmail is going by ship. I don't know whether this is true or not, but I had visions of you not getting any letters for from 30 to 60 days.. it takes 55 days for a ship to get to Frisco.. and could not see having you terribly worried at this point. Hence I wrote the Ochapter and stamped it "Official Red Cross Mail" which should reach the States in 10 days. That should give you an inkling of what is up.

The last two days have been simply wild. First I was going to Korea as the communications officer, then I was not, then I was then was not then they were going to take my precious man Zook and now they are not. Things have really gotten fouled up. Last night I "blew my top" over an incident, which in itself was small.. it is the first time I have really lost my temper since my college days, and I was, this morning, thoroughly ashamed of myself. What happened was that one of the new men, who is a supervisor, appointed himself "Public Relations Office," for our command, and in so doing took a manuscript out of my desk without my knowing it. It was an excellent story, written by Jack McDonald, who writes for Esquire, and I had told Jack I would clear it for him. When I found it gone I was very upset and hunted for it for many hours. Then the guy finally confessed he had taken it without my knowledge, because he thought it was HIS prerogative to clear the story. I called him everything I could think of and generally behaved very badly, but as a result of the explosion the command has wired Washington to try (once more) to get me accredited by both the army and the navy, and have issued WRITTEN instructions that I am to clear all copy from this island. So I won my battle, even though I had to make a fool of myself doing it. So it goes.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

I wish that all four of you could have a peek at Kadena field, right now. The thing that is holding up our mail is the fact that three hundred and fifty, count 'em, three hundred and fifty C-64s (4 motors transports) are sitting on the field, poised to take the boys to Tokio. It is the most tremendous display of aircraft in world history... you really get a thrill walking up and down looking at them. You know what fun it is to see three or four at once at the Dayton airport.. imagine 350 planes, each nearly twice the size of a DC-3 commercial transport. The two engine jobs, are painted "Tokio Trolley"— as they will shuttle back and forth to Tokio.

So you want to know about my deal. I have agreed to stay until the job is cleaned up, that is until female communications women have come in and been trained, which will be something around two more months.. if I get home in November, swell. Gibson promised today that he would cut orders for me to go to Soule (Korea) on a visit.. to see the place, also Manila, Shanghai, and perhaps Tokio, although I have no desire to get NEAR any Japs. This would be pretty swell, particularly if my credentials come though in time for me to go as a correspondent. Zook is taking over here right away, which will give me some rest, and I guess, after what happened last night, that I need it.

Eloise writes that Doug was coming to Dayton this last week end, and I expect by now those two have made a deal. She was very much upset in one letter, saying he had not called, or written, and she went so far as to call his mother long distance, who reported that he had gained 50 lbs. and looked fine. At that point she thought there was "someone else" and was about ready to jump. The next letter, however, was different. She had not yet received my brief note, of which I sent you a copy, where I signed off, and she did exactly the same thing, so the letters crossed. There endeth a painful lesson which, I trust, will never be repeated.

We are making frantic preparations to assist in handling the released prisoners from Japan, many of whom will stop, overnight at least, on Okinawa. They will come in at the rate of 3,000 a day.. and quite a percentage of women and



AMERICAN RED CROSS

children.. a few babies. We have been searching, frantically, for bottles, nipples.. making diapers out of towels, filling thousands of ditty bags with comfort items etc. etc. We expect that the first arrivals will be women.. how would you like to try to construct latrines, on an airstrip, for three thousand females? Oh my god. This is, without a doubt, one of the biggest jobs Red Cross has ever tackled, and I shall be proud to be in on it. Dint writes that he "graduates" the first week in October, and I can't possibly get to Texas by then. Perhaps you can find out how long he will be there, and whether or not it would be feasible for me to meet you there. I am thanking God for Dint that it's "all over" out here, as I know too much about that flyboy business now. Your letter describing the end of the war in Royal Oak was simply wonderful.. it made me weep to think that the children now can live in a world, for a time where there is peace again.

Late this afternoon we were just leaving, the Tenth Army CP when we ran into reveille.. that marvelous military ceremony. We piled out of our jeep in the road and stood at attention, saluting the flag in front of Stillwell's headquarters while it was slowly lowered to the strains of the Star Spangled Banner.. it is the most impressive of all military ceremonies, and it put my heart in my throat to know that old glory still flies on Okinawa, after the terrific fighting that took place here. You know how I detest any kind of "false patriotism" but I think it would be a good thing if the ceremony was used in every city and town in America, when the flag comes down in the evening. You stop, and think, and remember as you watch that America is, comparatively at least, the most desirable place in the entire world.

This afternoon I told Harry Gibson I wanted to "see the thing through" out here, although I was doing so under real pressure from home etc. You can well imagine what is happening here.. all the Red Cross men, or most of them, want to go home at once. We are now under Manila (Macarthur) and, they have no replacements available for us and all our replacement personnel coming from Honolulu has been cancelled. Hence we are sorta up a stump for men. The girl's compound should be completed in the next three weeks, and when we can get them ashore it will ease the entire situation.

I wish Elmer Sylvester would send me something.. it might get me home a whole month sooner. I am excited about going to



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Korea, as I hear that it is beautiful, and that the natives are friendly. The women are beautiful. The GIs say that according to the book, "intercourse without conversation is not fraternizatiOn"... oh me.

Oh honey child I do love you so much, and my heart is singing to know that we are completely together again.. that we can keep on running our closed corporation as we have done for so many years. Please dear God, never let me hurt you again.. I love you so very much... darling, I almost forgot to tell you that adore you.

Your own, Henry

What is mama's new name? and address?