

Sept 7, 1945.

Okinawa.

My darling:

Over at Tenth Army Hdq. this morning for a meeting on public relations..... at last I am going to do a bit of writing for the great white mother Red Cross. Manila is still fussing around with having me accredited in this theater, but it does not much matter now, as censorship is over... whoops.

There are so many things I want to tell you that I hardly know where to start. When we came in here there were two separate military commands.. Tenth Army and Iscom.. or Island Command. The latter was a darkly kept military secret as its presence indicated to anyone that we intended to garrison the island. On May 26th I was sent to Island Command, about 6 miles from Tenth Army, to take over communications. Have been there since on detached service, but am still attached to Tenth Army.. APO 357. Tenth Army was the tactical command, and under it was 24th Corps, which controlled the 20th Armored Group.. tanks, guns, etc. There were three divisions attached, the 27th, 96th, and 7th. The northern part of the island was under Marine command.. north of the Ishagawa River. If you have a good map of the island you can make a circle right between Kadena and Yontan airfields and that is where I have been living for months.

You can understand that it was a hot spot. Every time the Japs raided either field which was sometimes several times a night, we were in direct line of bombs and danger from our own anti-aircraft fire. One night a Jap plane came down about 200 yards from us, the engine falling about 200 yards on the other side. I'll never forget that.

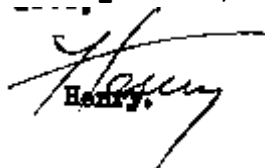
But since then many things have happened. ISCOM has been changed to ASCOM I (Army Service Command Item) under MacArthur, and the General of Iscom is no longer "island commander" as such.. in other words for purposes of housekeeping.. assignment of areas (real estate, quarters, supplies, etc.). We now have eight, count 'em..eight separate commands operating here, all with independent authority, and the confusion has been terrific. We have several air forces including Jimmy Doolittle and his B-29s.. Navy, C-Bs, etc. To give you an idea.. we were about to take over an area with good

buildings, for our female compound, when we discovered that the staff of Yank magazine had moved in, under authority of the 20th Air Force. Honest to God.. such instances were repeated day and night for weeks.. its was something.

But now that we are definitely under Manila, things are looking up. We at least know where the line of authority lies. There is an advanced GHQ, in here (General Headquarters of MacArthur) and we can do business with them.

Must sign off and go over to see the Japs on Okinawa formally surrender to Stilwell.. it should be an interesting ceremony.. more later.

all my love,


Henry.