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Okinawa

Dearest Katherine:

There is really nothing to tell you, except that we are getting things set up in our new area... we had a deluge of cables yesterday.. some 800 in all and it will take my crew about three days to handle them at their normal speed, but the trouble is they keep right on coming. So it goes.

Yesterday afternoon I filed my current ARC stuff with the PRO and had a few beers. The hdq. tent had blown down and what a mess, but they finally got it set up again. Last evening the boys went out and howled, but had no desire to do so, somehow, so I stayed in my tent and read some more of "Desert Island Decameron" which has some excellent pieces in it. Particularly a story by Ben Hecht about an Idol... what happened when God got mixed up in the moving picture business. It reveals the philosophy of a complete agnostic, and is interesting to me from that standpoint.

Later in the evening I spent a little time trying to figure out some more base keys on my accordian don't think I'll ever learn how to work the thing, at least until I can find some kind of an instruction book. You know how lousy I am "by ear".

The mystery of the Det. News/Det. Free Press mix up finally cleared last evening when a letter came in from H.C.L. Jackson, posted May 9, 1945. These guys that use 3¢ stamps in a war theater. He gave the little Pyle story to his friend on the Free Press, as I had suspected.

Am wondering if Phil Redeker ever got my story about the Japanese refriger unit in Shuri.. or rather Naha.. sent it with a picture. Barbara Belcher said something about my having story in ACRN same month as Sales Management article appeared, but I never have found out what she was talking about.. unless it was that one. Have sent two more stories to Sales Mgmnt... hope they take them, as we will need that money when I get home.

Everything here has come to a complete and utter standstill. No mail in for the past eight days.. that is none from you, and am wondering if our mail is going out. We

requested air transportation for one of our men this week and the answer came back from army "air transportation not repeat not available any circumstances." So I may have to start out next month by cattle boat for the States and that takes a hell of a long time... about 40 days with luck.

2 hours later, same day after chow

My gosh, honey MAIL.... letter from you dated Sept 6th... which refers to a letter in which you said you were not putting Barbie in Miss Newman's school, which letter I have not repeat not received. Am wondering what you will think when you get that communication through the Royal Oak chapter... but the fact was that we knew the mail was not going out, and that it was piling up here, so I took the only means available to get mail to you.

May not try to go to Manila, as Dombrowsky has been there (looking for his ice pick) and reports the city is ruined.. utterly destroyed. There is no place to sleep except in military billets which are almost impossible to get. Prices are out of this world (State side whiskey \$3 per drink) and so on. If you had seen Naha and Shuri, would know what I mean.

Now that I am actually a correspondent I can ride the shuttle plane to Tokio, and I think stand a reasonable chance of getting back.. although people are now getting stuck, as you pointed out, all over the Pacific. The boys went to Korea by ship, and don't know yet if air travel is available. In any case I am planning on trying to start for the West Coast between Oct 15 and Nov. 1 -- via any travel that may be available.

Right in the middle of the work we started, Copeland got his orders and went home.. but I still have all the notes, and we may work the thing out later. So it goes in a war theater. Everything changes with amazing rapidity. Also Doolittle went home, before I could get over there for the PIX and our ARC man who was to arrange it all is now in hospital with severe case of pneumonia... etc. etc. I've learned you can't count on anything in a war... except you my precious.... just you.

The accordian I bought does not mean that we will not need a new piano. An accordian is a bastard instrument at best... it has no single notes in the left hand, and therefore its use is limited to certain things. All I wanted it for was to use for

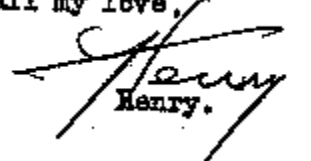
singing on parties, and picnics, and such things.. swell for that. It's a honey and hope I can get it home without too much difficulty, as it's pretty heavy. If I fly I'll have to throw most of my stuff away to get within the weight limit.

The days are flying... and I love you love you.. please tell me what the travel situation is in the States... can you get to San Antonio OK? Also, leave my brown suit in Washington (do the Dows have it?) as I can wear my uniform till I get there to clear.. all I want is a pair of slacks and a shirt anyhoo .. will they be something.. still have the bow tie.

Must get to work.. but remember that I adore you and that we are on the home stretch now. But what do you mean my "chances are slim" of getting to Korea? When this world settles down a bit we are going clear around it.. I want to travel more than ever and I'm going to do it.. and you are too...

all my love
Henry

all my love,



Henry.