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APO 357
San Francisco.

Okinawa.
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My precious Katherine:

For three days we have been riding out the tail end of a typhoon.. nothing serious here on land, but we have high winds, driving rain, and deep mud everywhere. Last night I did not sleep too well, as though my tent was going to take off several times, and that is not inducive to sound sleep.

The man they gave me to help out in communications, a field director named Brown, turns out to be a complete nervous wreck, and needs to be evacuated. His body is covered with a terrific rash, due to nerves, and he has not eaten for two days... says he has "nervous indigestion" and I guess he has. Anyway, I'm still without competent help. He is getting my GIs all upset, and I can't have that, as they are wonderful boys.

Lately there has been nothing... absolutely nothing, but eat, sleep, and WORK. We are handling a tremendous volume of wire traffic, and I now have my messenger running around the island every day.. he drives some 200 miles over terrible roads, and it's some job. Hard telling how he or the vehicle will hold out. We has a "war dog" that some outfit left behind, a Belgian shepherd named "Yontan" (see map) that s a beauty. So our messages are being well protected.

Have another working for me that was with Red Cross two years in the states, and a very sound man. He is doing a good job, and might be able to take the thing over later on. The recreation man has offerred me the job of organizing all the rest areas on the island, which would be super.. and another promotion. On one little round island I would have two huge clubs, staffed by 30 gals.. just a start, and there would be many of these centers.

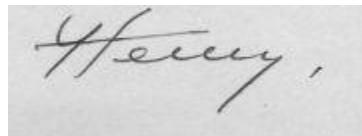
Its hard for you to realize it, but when a man does get a few hours, or a day off there is no place for him to go.. even on Oahu he can get "off the post".. go to the nearest small town, or Honolulu... anything for a change. But here the entire island is "on post" and that makes it tough on the soldiers and officers as well. Hence the army favors "rest centers" and they are usually operated by Red Cross. There will also be the chance to go on for further adventures, but I am not going to do that unless I am fully accredited by ARC. I've lived through one tough one. If I went out again would definitely have my fingers crossed, and that's a god awful feeling.

No word from you in several days, but get this in the mail right now... so you can consider it just a "health welfare report"... have some heat rash on my body, but not nearly as much as many of the men, and something on my hands that look s suspiciously like impetigo.. so scratch all night, and dig all day.. but that's to be expected out here. You get all kinds of skin infections as a matter of course.

Also to let you know that I love and adore you, and that this is August, and that means a month closer to the time time... oh darling.. darling... please know that everything is alraight, and that I love you more than anyone in this world.. Katherine my darling.. I do.

I will get around to shipping those packages soon... but honestly, I'm trying to do a creditable job for ARC, and never seem to have a stray minute.

Love you.. all over.. all of you
Your own,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry", written in dark ink on a light-colored rectangular piece of paper.