

The Marianas
18 February 1945
Sunday Evening

Dearest Folks,

Good evening from this tropical island paradise. Ha. But at moments like this it is really quite bearable. A cool breeze has come up this afternoon and is blowing quite briskly (if a wind can be brisk here) now. Also a new moon is about $\frac{1}{4}$ the way up in the western sky - making a path across the water of silvery light.

As far as mail has been concerned this past week has been no good. But the reasons for it are good and the units who did get their mail needed it much more than we did. Yesterday she brought in a large sack full of mail for us so now every thing is O.K. Letters from Mother, Dad, a Valentine from Barbara & Richard and also the latest copy of Mountain Music. Plus mail from Janice and also from Gene made it a very good mail call.

Dad's letter enclosed his "God and the Sergeant" and also his tribute to his father. Both were certainly appreciated Dad - especially the latter. I shall always keep it and treasure it.

J.H. Albertson P.F. 3/6

Mother's letter brought not only news from home but better yet a small picture of her and Dad. Thanks a lot mom - I shall put it on top of all those you have sent me. I doubt if there are two or three fellows here who haven't seen at least part of them. Now when ever they see me looking at them (the pictures) one of them is sure to say "there's Jim showing off his family again" - and why not. They are really some thing to be proud of. Thanks again for all of them.

Gene's letter came to me in one (I) day - very good I think. I wonder if he is where you folk think - that's getting quite close, isn't it? I certainly hope it is true tho - if so maybe we can get together - I have my fingers crossed - but tight. First meeting in Washington D.C. then San Francisco - and now _____. who knows, maybe?

In Janice's letter she told about "drim outs" in Chicago to save fuel - also about school and her work there. Being home for Christmas did her a lot of good - I certainly will be glad to see her again.

I wish there was some way for me to send a little of this heat to you. I think a happy
J. H. Albertson Rt 30.

III

medium between the two diners would be better than what I have now.

I guess to most of the fellows here the very high light of the week was seeing a white woman. It was the first time for almost 5 months (or some time). Mr Lerring (our P.O.) invited a army nurse down for Steak Dinner on Thursday evening. It certainly seemed strange to hear a woman's voice again. My impressions of her were some what mingled - nuff said. The steak was good tho - also french fried potatoes (shoe string style).

We had a couple of Soft Ball games in the past week - one on Tuesday afternoon with a army engineers outfit - we won - Ha. Also we had a game this afternoon which altho we were not so fortunate as for winning (we lost rich) but it was a good game nevertheless. Our team just got in the end of the present league - but there is another play off of 8 games coming up as soon as this league is over, so there is plenty of soft ball ahead if you want to play. The Special Service facilities on this island are really good in their recreational work. ~~They~~^{you} can get almost any type of recreational gear from them under O.H. Albertson.

35¢ per man per month allowance for athletic equipment.

It is often easy for one to become ~~discouraged~~ discouraged out here if he lets him ~~self~~ self. I often become discouraged with the way the Army handles some things out here. The Beer situation is about the worst. Up until six weeks ago we were allowed either two beers or one coke per day per man. Then they cut the cokes out entirely saying that there was a lack of shipping space on ships for coke. But yet there is still two beers per man - often more. I guess the breweries had a big fist in on that deal - just as they have on many others.

I know quite a few of the fellows here who if there was some thing else to drink they wouldn't drink beer, but since nothing else is available - Beer it is. A couple weeks ago they came out with "a Big New Drink" for those who didn't like beer. It was a small bottle of apple juice for 2¢. I don't know whether they thought it was a good deal or if it was actually monkey -, I like apple juice, yes, but not when I get it that way.

I guess every one feels the same way, but I certainly wish I was in a position where I could find out the why and wherefore of such things. It's probably just as well I am not
J. H. Albertson P.T. &c.

for in my anger I would undoubtedly mess things
up considerably - maybe that wouldn't be to
bad a thing tho.

the people who are running the ~~stock~~
alcoholic business certainly have done a bang up
job in making these service men have a taste
for their product. And I cannot help but believe
that they have been getting 100% cooperation in
the capital. I would like to meet some of the
advisors ~~that~~ who say beer isn't licit forming -
I think I could give them a good argument from
what I have seen.

I am sorry I have been telling you all this -
but it has and will bother me for some time
and I am certain from what Dad has often said,
that you are well aware of it.

But to get to the brighter side ---
Joseph this morning ~~was~~ usual - very good.
He Chaplin made the statement "that is a slightly
heavier weekend for me - I had seven services
yesterday (Saturday) and nine today. - And yet Bob
Dicks had to be sent to the plane he was when
he apparently wasn't needed there.

you ~~are~~ are all so close to me so often, How
I wish I could come and sit at the dinner table
with all of you - sharing the fellow ship that
is so richly embodied in our family.

P.A. Albertson at 70.

Here I have been talking on and on not
paying any attention to the trial; it has been
good this way. But now I must stop for I am
tired and my bunk will feel very good.

Good night and may God be with all of you,
always. Until I write again then -

lots of love

Jim

J.A. Albertson
607-340

R.T. 36