

7 January 1944
Sunday afternoon
the Marianas

Dearest Folks,

Good afternoon - how are all of you this Sunday of the new year? It is another lovely afternoon here in these islands, a little warm (95° just a short time ago) but I have become acclimated to that. There are large billowy clouds in the western sky - all that remains of the heavy tropical rains which covered the island during the night.

My but we had a beautiful sun set last night - the entire sky seemed to change in to shades of blues, pinks, reds and yellows. It seems strange - so much beauty - every night we seem to have a beautiful sunset and each morning a sunrise which is also lovely, yet they do not seem to be appreciated. I guess man takes all that for granted, expecting them to occur and yet not giving thanks for them. That must be the reason so few people take to going up and to hiking thru the hills - they know it is there, yet they do not want to have any response to that beauty. Rather they carry on their

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seeming humdrum life in the city, getting very excited when a fire engine clanged down the street. and after words saying "wasnt that great". But enough of that.

Yesterday morning we had our usual Saturday morning inspection - bunks, lockers, Our quonset huts and the grounds of the base. I spent the afternoon sleeping which certainly seemed good. Around three thirty we had mail call - received letters from Ruth, Dad and Janice. Also a good letter from the whaleys. It has been almost three weeks since I heard from mother, I guess your mail has been held up some where enroute. The letters carried news of all of you - your Christmas and etc. Janice wrote and said how she appreciated the day spent at the house (Sunday the 24th I believe). Getting home has meant a lot to her. The first few weeks in Chicago were quite tough on her.

I was certainly surprised to learn of Bob A. being back in the states. I certainly do hope that he is able to get out. He certainly hasnt had the right treatment while being in the service. There is such a shortage of discipline here - the one we go to has from 4 to 7 services each Sunday besides those during the week. Since coming over tho I have learned that it isnt only the

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army which seems to be inconsistent. (S.P.)

I have written several letters to Bob but have not heard from him for some time. I trust that he is doing good - my I would like to just sit down for a while and talk with him. Often my heart gets so hungry for things like that - being at home by the fire place - the whole family around the dinner table - talking ~~laughing~~ laughing together. We have had so much to be thankful for, so much.

This morning there were six of us who went up on the hill to the chapel there. There were about 35 men all together (small camp) but it was a very good service. As the chaplain spoke, Chaplain Victor C. Hayman, I could look behind him thru a screen door across the ~~stable~~ water. It is really quite a beautiful sight - some what like the one from Salt water State Park - upon the bluff there looking out towards Vashon. After the service we gave up certificates of communion (from last Sunday). I guess some churches like to receive them for their books or something else. I am enclosing mine - thought you would enjoy seeing it. His sermon was about Moses - how he had taken his people to a new land crossing hard ships altho he could have been a man of leisure in Egypt. Then he said that we should accept our responsibilities, helping our country out of its "moral holes".

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and trying to build a great Christian nation out of it. Only them those of us in the service and those at home who had been true to God could we accomplish this.

My but it did rain last night - Ha and they call this the dry season. I wonder sometimes what the wet season shall be like. Ha.

Say Barbara and Richard I bet you really enjoyed your Christmas vacation. What all did you do? How is high school now Barbara? are you doing alright? How are the terros doing in Basket ball?

I forgot to mention it - one of the high lights here today was fresh celery for Sunday dinner - it really tasted good.

I must draw this to a close now - you all love me - we are all close together than him, I am thankful for that.

Lt of love

Jim

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