



Sunday Afternoon

September 23, 1945

Dearest Folks,

It is a good quiet Sunday afternoon out here in the equipment hut. They have been playing symphonies across over the radio and the music has been rest full. In another hour my relief will come out and I shall go over and eat supper.

This has been a good end to another good week here on Saipan. I have been thankful for this past week for I have felt that it has done me a lot of good in many ways. I have learned a lot about different human reactions under varying conditions and I hope I shall be better because of them.

On Monday a couple of the other R. T.'s and myself decided to paint the outside of this hut. We wanted to experiment with it, trying to make it look so we painted it white. We have an air compressor, paint spray rig and all the additional paraphernalia that was necessary so after lunch we turned to and by 4:00 it was done. I did most of the spraying and as there was a good wind I really got covered with specks of paint. I made the mistake of only wearing a pair of shorts, and rather than the paint landing on the clothing I got all over me. Oh well

some 80 or one gasoline plus a lot of rubbing and scraping we managed to get it off.

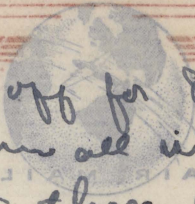
Painting the quonset hut white has really helped too for it is about 5 degrees cooler inside, and that means a lot. You see these host to these fellows on watch here all the time - a Radio man, a Radar man and also a P.T. They have to stay here for 4 hours so during the day it can get quite hot inside. The only trouble with spraying the paint in was that it took almost as long to clean out the various hoses, nozzles and lets that we used.

During the week I managed to get away for a few hours and I went up to the B-29 base. While there I talked with the crew of the B-29 that the Russians shot down - you probably read about it in the papers. It seems that they were flying P.W. supplies to some Australians in Manchuria and while enroute four Russian planes approached them and wanted for them to land. The B-29 crew could have opened fire at them but didn't, and a little later the Russians started firing on the B-29, because they wouldn't land. The B-29 started heading back toward the sea but the one of their engines was shot up so they had to jump. When they were picked up and taken to the place where the 29 had crashed they found a Russian engineer piloting them the week, and they learned that he knew more about the plane than did the crew members. The crew were held for investigation and the U.S. was notified. While waiting for the Col. from here to arrive they took



... some of the shoes they had at P.W. supplies and
sold them for \$150 and \$200 to the Russians. It seems
that American shoes are really valued there, and
with the money they received from the shoes they
^{bought} some Russian things. When the Col. from the
engineers arrived they decided to leave the 29 there
after taking off the vital parts - radar - etc. The
Russians said the reason they shot the plane down
was because they had heard some high Japanese
officials may have escaped in a captured B-29. Rather
a little exercise don't you think, but we all
bound to make mistakes. I thought it an interesting
experience and that is why I am passing it on
to you.

This past week we have been experimenting
with a different watch schedule. Up until last Sunday
we have been standing 4 hours on and 12 off - on and
on. Well it was getting rather tiresome - the routine of
it and all. So last Sunday Terish and I decided to
think up some thing different and here is the new
watch we stand. Every night one tech stands the watch
all night (we have a wt here and are able to get some
sleep off and on) that means he is on for 12 hours.
When he gets off watch tho he is off for 32 hours. Then
back on for 4 - off for 16 - on for 4 and off for 16 again.



back on for 4 and off for 8 hours again. Then
 we go on the 12 hour all night watch again. Under
 the new set up we get three full nights of sleep out
 four, and that really helps a lot. I have never become
 accustomed to getting up different hours of the night
 and then trying to sleep in the day time. ~~and~~
 Our chapel service this morning was good.
 The attendance has been small altho there has been ^{up} ~~up~~
 a turn over in the different out fits that come together
 in the place we meet. Chapin ~~has~~ ^{has} meant a lot to
 not only to me but also to ^{all} the fellow who attend chapel
 there. I imagine that in another month he will be
 going home for he is 45 and has over 85 points. ~~go~~
 My last September certainly is going fast. So far
 the time out here has really gone by rapidly and I am
 glad. I feel that a great deal concerning the speed which
 time passes here depends on the individual and the ~~of~~
 attitude one takes.

Hey Rich - are you playing any football now?
 When you write me that long letter how about
 telling me about it. ~~well~~ ^{well} my relief is here ~~now~~ as I had better
 stop now. I will go over and get a bite to eat and
 then write a letter to Janice. ~~deeps~~ I am enclosing
 some negatives. Will you have two prints of all made - ~~the~~
 except the two group pictures - and have six of them made -
 thanks. Bye now until I write again. ~~go~~ ^{go} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~up~~ ^{up}
 Lots of love

Jim
 J. H. Alleton R230