

24 March 1946

Dearest Folks,

This late Sunday evening, and I find that I am tired. This has been a busy day and I am glad it is drawing to a close. Some interesting things happened tho and I shall tell you about them a little later.

First tho I want to tell you the good news - with the receiving of this you can stop sending mail to me here!! Yes it won't be long now but that I am on my way home - it shall be great. We received a good dispatch yesterday stating that they are sending my orders up soon. So when they do arrive I can go to the navy receiving ship here on the island and await transportation.

It might be only a week before I  
leave, or it may be up to three weeks -  
as it said it all depends on how  
transportation is at the time. It is  
a good feeling to know that soon  
I shall be on my way to all of you and  
Janice. It is a joy that I have been looking  
forward to for some time and now that  
it is about here I find it all hard  
to believe. The reason why I am  
getting to leave with out a relief is  
because they have cut the compliment  
of the station - due to lack of personnel  
and not a dropping off of duties. They  
have cut the compliment down to  
two Techs instead of the five we  
originally had. The cut is thru out  
all sites at the station so instead  
of 25 men as we are supposed to have it  
is only 12 - really some cut.

My honest opinion is that they  
won't be able to operate efficiently  
for any period of time with the new  
cut but it facilitates my getting out  
and I guess I am a ~~little~~ little selfish  
besides - . But I shall tell you more  
about the ~~cut~~ <sup>cut</sup> when I am home. All  
my gear is ready, and I have packed  
a box to send with the clothes I don't  
need. I have purchased some extra t-shirts  
for they say they are hard to get in the  
states.

I had a very unusual and pleasant  
experience this evening. As I have  
mentioned before, one of the other kids  
and my self have put together a amateur  
radio rig. We got a lot of the stuff  
from the signal corps (grates or cones) and  
other from the navy. Any way  
we have been on the air for about

two months now - on 20 meters - and  
I have talked with fellows in China,  
Japan, Oki, Philippines, Iwo, Society  
Islands, New Guinea and also South  
America. We could talk with the  
States - but that frequency is illegal  
there and none of the fellows dare open up  
for fear of the F.C.C. as this isn't a  
U.S. ~~land~~ possession we can work the  
rig and not bother with the F.C.C., and  
we have the OK from Island Command  
so it is legal and all. But to get back  
to the story - ~~last~~ this evening  
I was out in the shack looking over the  
band and I heard this fellow calling CQ,  
so I ~~off~~ opened up and gave him a  
wuzzy. When he came back he said he  
was on a ship off Oki and was from  
Ball's Creek Mich. I told him where I  
was from and then I said I knew a

fella from Battle Creek - named Fred Totta  
and did he know him. Well when  
we come back and said "Hi Jim this  
is Fred" I nearly went thru the  
roof. It was quite a thrill to talk  
with him - especially under the circum-  
stances and all. I have a schedule with  
him tomorrow evening so will get  
an opportunity to talk with him again.

We have been having a considerable  
amount of rain this past week,  
and because of it things have cooled  
down a lot. Along with the rain  
have come some of the loveliest sunsets  
I have ever seen - they really make a  
perfect end to the day, and do me a  
lot of good.

We had a very good service this  
morning at the Navy Chapel. The  
sermon was short and to the point and

was one of the best I have heard from  
Chaplain Best. At the service they  
had a officer sing, and he gave a  
very good solo. The song The Lords  
Prayer and (I think) it was really good.

I want to go on and talk some  
more (all wound up I guess) but my  
eyes are a/10 ~~all~~ closed.

I shall write you later when I  
learn for certain when we depart -  
till then good night and as Dods spirit  
has been close to us in the past way it  
be even nearer as we come together.

Yours

Jim