

We have no additional news on the Geology course which the three of us are to teach at the Tokyo Army College. Sometime this week the publicity concerning this new session at the college is scheduled to "break" and I suspect our course will be among those mentioned. Think I told you that the first class meeting will be on May 13. Am looking forward to the beginning of the course - hope our promotions to sergeants is through by then - am pretty sure it will be!

Marian and I are having a great time writing back and forth concerning the apartment she has rented. From what she had to say in the letter which I received today, I think I've just about talked her into moving the great majority of our "stuff" from the farm. Hope it works out that way so that the junk can be out of your road! Marian says that the rooms of the apartment are quite small; but in spite of this, I think we should move the stuff. Then if it should happen that we move somewhere else at the end of next year, the stuff will all be in one place. Marian is talking in terms of wanting the piano if you are still willing that she should have it. She'll get a lot of enjoyment out of it. She certainly seems to be enjoying the organ lessons she's taking now; I'm very anxious for her to continue. Hope that she will feel that she has time to do it next year!

We've spent quite a lot of time this last week doing some shopping - haven't bought much but have done a tremendous amount of looking. I have some pearls for Marian for our anniversary on the 12th of June; The Ed Wright's in Granville have the same anniversary date as ours and I'm thinking of writing to Franci Steckle to have her cook up a party for Marian and the Wrights. And I'd send a package to the Steckles with Marian's gift inside and also some small gifts for the Wrights and Steckles! It's sorta complicated, but I think it would be fun. I think Marian had fun when I sent her birthday gift to Betty Felt. I sorta hate to think of her opening the gift when she's all alone - makes it all the harder for her!

Have been sneaking this letter while at work today - have some other things to type right now so I guess I'd better get at them. May add a note later. So long, Folks,

Love,

Dick

Monday Evening,

Hi! Am trying out a new pen I bought at the PX tonight - didn't need a pen but I drew out the privilege of buying one so I went ahead probably will sell it to someone!

This afternoon the package which you got ready in Granville the weekend you were down here arrived - everything was in good shape - thanks a lot. Have a good "outlet" for the mille and I was just about out of shaving cream of the kind I like - can't buy that kind here. Like the toothpaste too - this supply ought to run me until after I leave - hope so anyway!

Wrightly letter to Marian now - So long, Love

Dick!

Tokyo, Japan
Saturday, May 4, 1946

Dear Mother,

This is addressed to you, Mother, because it's intended as a special Mother's Day greeting. I certainly wish it were possible this year for me, for Marian and me, to extend this greeting in person, but unfortunately that cannot happen; we can only take heart that in all probability I shall be coming home before too awfully long a time has elapsed. One of the things I'm most looking forward to when I once am out of the Army is to be able to visit with you folks a little more frequently and for longer periods of time than has been the case during the past few years.

I know that I too infrequently have told you, Mother and Dad, how much it has always meant to me and to Marian and me to have had your encouragement and never-failing support during all the years. I simply can't tell you how much easier it has made things and how much more pleasant. The more people I get acquainted with, the more I see what their parents have done for them, the more I realize how marvelous you two have been, and I shall never be able to adequately thank you or repay you. The best I can do is to tell you I am aware of how fine you've been and to tell you I am appreciative.

Have been reasonably busy this week. The Colonels are growing a little impatient to be on their way to China but from the looks of the situation there with their Civil War flaring up more and more it may be some time before the trip can be made. I'm beginning to wonder if perhaps they'll not decide to go to Australia before they go to China but they've said nothing about that!

Was very, very pleased to receive a nice long letter from John this week. He sounded as though things were going pretty well for him - he's pleased to be back at work six days a week and I sure can't blame him. From what he said in his letter I suspect he's visiting you this very week-end. Certainly wish I could join you.

The four of us are planning a little week-end outing this weekend beginning, as a matter of fact, in about three hours. We're going by train down to a place which is on the north side of Mt. Fuji. It's a resort area of considerable renown; there's supposed to be some very beautiful scenery down that way - lakes, and mountains, and forests! Right at the moment the weather is beautiful - hope it continues that way. Have color film in my camera right at the moment and it takes bright sun to get good pictures!

Right now I have several matters to take care of in preparation for this afternoon's trip so I think I'd better be at them.

Happy Mother's Day, Mother and happy day to you too, Dad

Much love,

Dick

Tokyo, Japan
Wednesday, May 15, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

Well, it's the end of the day after! The day after I heard that my discharge application had gone through successfully! 'Twas yesterday afternoon about 3:30 when the phone rang; Colonel Northrup answered it and told me the call was for me. It was the First Sergeant calling from the Orderly Room, he said (and these were thrilling words) "Mahard, come on over to the Orderly Room right away your discharge has been approved and you need to fill out some forms in connection with it." You can imagine how I felt to hear that news. My heart was up in my throat and my hands trembled! I went over to the Orderly Room and found out what I had to do - had to submit another formal request for discharge and sign it and furnish them with the same information concerning my military record I sent to Washington in the first place.

When I got back to the office and told the Colonels, they shook hands and said that they were happy that it had worked out successfully for me. Then they asked me what I wanted to do with regard to the trip to Australia which is scheduled to begin on May 25! Well, I was on the horns of a dilemma believe me. The Colonels said that if I wanted them to they'd call up and have the discharge delayed until the middle of June and then I could go on the trip. They said it was up to me. I was in a stew and about all I could do was pace the floor. They didn't insist on knowing my answer right away and so I stewed about it all last evening and I woke up early this morning thinking about it still. Finally I decided - decided not to go on the Australia trip! As it is now the discharge is a bird in the hand and I'm afraid that if the Colonels ask for the delay that the bird will get into the bush and I'll not be able to get him back again. There were other considerations too. It was hard to think of staying over another month when I have a chance to leave within a few days. There's the element of danger on the Australian trip - it's funny, once a person has an Army discharge in sight he feels like going to bed and staying there just so that nothing will happen to him before he gets a chance to obtain that discharge! If I gave up the Australian trip there's a chance one of the other fellows - Ed or Larry - will have a chance to go; I felt a little like a dog in a manger having the discharge and hanging onto the trip too. Of course, I feel badly about giving up the trip because it would have been a marvelous one, but in the long run I think the decision I made will be wise.

It was funny - about an hour after I received the telephone call I received a letter from Marian with a copy of a letter enclosed which Colonel Hinshaw in Washington had written to Dr. Hollis, the Office of Education representative. If I'd have gotten that letter before the telephone call, I would have been quite certain that the discharge had gone through because Colonel Hinshaw said in the letter that the matter had been turned over to the Adjutant General's office. I suppose it was the Adjutant General's office which got in touch with Headquarters here and had them order my discharge.

What's the next move? Well, in from three to five days I'll be ordered to report to the Replacement Depot in Yokohama. There'll be some processing to do there - guess they take some of our equipment away from us and check some of our records. When that is done, we sit and wait for a ship. We may wait a day or two days or twenty days. However, I think that with so few men going out, I'll probably

not be ordered to the Depot until there's a ship due in or better to say due out! The voyage across the ocean will take from nine to fifteen days depending upon the kind of a ship. We'll land either at Seattle or San Francisco and it's hard to tell which it'll be. From there we ought to move out rather quickly; I should be sent back to Atterbury and the final steps there take three days or so! I suppose it's foolish to make any predictions but I told Marian in a letter I wrote this afternoon that with luck I'd make it between the 5th and 10th of June. Even with bad luck I should make it by June 20th. The biggest "nigger in the woodpile" is the ship situation here! I heard a rumor this afternoon that the first ship is not due to leave until June 1; can take a rumor or leave it!

Guess that's about the story. If I do make it by the middle of June or thereabouts I don't know what we will decide to do this summer. I hardly think it wise to plan on field work in California because I'm very doubtful that we'll be able to take delivery on our car in time; that's one thing and then too I don't feel that I'm ready to undertake the work. Should make more preparation, do more library work, etc. Also I'm not anxious to be away from home again right away. Marian's job enters the picture and of course the financial problem always rears its ugly head. Quite an ideal thing would be for me to try to land a job teaching the summer session at Ohio State; I could commute back and forth from Granville. Well, we'll wait and see - this is one problem Marian and I will not have to decide by means of 20 days apart exchanges of letters!

Received your letter of May 5th today, Mother. Sorry to hear about the frosts; darn it all anyway. There's only one thing - it seems to me that in spite of the fact that the fruit farmers always say, "the frost took everything" there always seems to be quite a lot of stuff when the season comes round!

Glad to hear about the apartment you were able to rent, John. Sounds right ritzy. Gosh, of course I don't care about the blanket - glad you can use it!

Golly sakes, Mother, did I forget to tell you that the package which you sent on March 26 from Granville arrived safely sometime about April 26th. I'm sorry - I thought sure I wrote about it. Thank you a lot - we all enjoyed the candy and I'm certain that some of the Japanese here are very grateful that you sent it too!

We went out to the International Trials this morning. There wasn't so very much going on but it was very interesting. Saw old Tojo and all the rest of the "boys" who were a pretty sad looking lot believe me! Today the defense attorneys were trying to prove that the indictments were improperly written and that there was no existing "body of law" under which the men could be tried. The tribunal listened politely but, of course, this argument will never be allowed.

Guess that's about all for this time and perhaps this is all from Tokyo. I'll be seeing you in about a month - what do you think of that! Certainly consider myself one very lucky fellow! Certainly have no cause to complain about the way this whole discharge deal has gone so far.

So long, Folks,

Love,

Dick

4th Replacement Depot
15 miles out in country
from Yokohama
Saturday May 25, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad,

Here I sit - waitin' for a ship to come in. Came down here last Monday the 20th and had high hopes that we would be "processed" and leave within a couple of days to board a ship which was scheduled to sail yesterday the 24th. However I and six of the other fellows of the twelve men who came down from Tokyo together was held here because we hadn't had a small pox vaccination recently enough! About the middle of this month the order came through that all men were to be given another vaccination but our dispensary didn't get around to doing it and that was our tough luck. They vaccinated us on Wednesday and today they're supposed to check the thing to make certain it took - mine did take. It swelled up and turned red and itched just as it is supposed to!

Now the only information we have as to when we may leave is a constantly recurring rumor that a ship is due in on Monday the 27th and is scheduled to leave on June 1. If that's so it will mean we'll leave a week from today. Golly that seems like a long time - time goes very slowly here there is absolutely nothing to do except read and lie around on our cots. Drew & P. on Thursday from 6:00 until 12:00 but it was not hard work - suspect we may draw it again before we leave!

Almost all the men who are in the depot now are men getting out on dependency discharges - there are a few other "convenience of the Gov't" discharges like mine. Right at the moment dependency discharges seem to be very easy to get. Almost anyone with two

children is getting out and some fellows with one child are making it and some single men with dependent parents too. I think they're carrying it a bit too far one of these days they'll shut down on them and then even the real needy cases will not be favorably considered. That's the Army always from one extreme to another!

This depot is located in a former Japanese Army Officers training camp and it's really an elaborate place as far as Japanese standards are concerned - quite nice. As far as American standards of Army Camps go also we live in a huge barracks of which there are several here but the barracks is divided into small rooms accommodating twelve men. Our latrine, washrooms, and mess hall are located outside the barracks. There is a nice Red Cross bldg and a good theatre and a gym where we play some ping pong. Have pitched some horse shoes also.

I probably could get a pass to go into Tokyo this weekend but I don't know what the boys plan to do and if they happen to be gone - there would be nothing to do or no one to see especially. I'm afraid too that they will have sent all my mail back. I didn't have foresight enough to have them hold it for a week or so in case my departure was delayed.

In spite of the delay getting away from here I still think I'm lucky to get away from here on my discharge as early as June. I hadn't dared hope that it would be earlier than July. Well, I certainly will make it in time for the

peaches. Now I'm wondering if there'll be some strawberries when I get there!

If we should leave here around or on June 1 that'll put us on the West Coast, ^{probably Seattle} about June 12th. If the rail roads are running, we should get away from there pretty quickly. With luck I should be at Camp Atterbury shortly after June 15. Have no notion what Marian can plan to do. I will try to call her from the West Coast. In as much as Commencement at Deinson is on June 17 she might be able to have that week off as one of her vacation weeks but on the other hand that may be a busy week for her and the Dean might want her to take the next week. I guess I've been thinking that she would split her vacation - take one week or two when I get home and then 3 weeks or two later in the summer just before school begins!

I suspect Marian is having quite a frantic time trying to figure out what to do about moving etc. It'll all be a mystery to me because I probably won't be able to hear from her for almost three weeks or until we arrive in Seattle or San Francisco probably Seattle!

Oh, well, patience is all that is needed and it's easier waiting to go home than it is to wait for something unpleasant!

So long, folks, hope to see you in less than a month.

Love,

Dick

Sunday June 2, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad,

Still at the replacement depot but will be leaving here probably sometime early this afternoon for Yokohama to board the ship the GOUCHER VICTORY which will sail for the states either late tonight or early tomorrow morning. I talked to a fellow who previously worked at the port in Yokohama and he told me the GOUCHER V. makes the voyage in 11 days. If that's true, we should get into Seattle sometime June 12th - perhaps I'll be able to call Mariana as an anniversary present. From June 3rd to June 12th may not seem to be 11 days but it will be because when we're in mid-ocean and cross the International Date Line we repeat a day!

I was very disappointed to miss sailing on the MARINE SERPENT which sailed yesterday. All the other fellows of my group went on that ship but they were all going on dependency discharges and when the orders for the ship were made up they didn't include the relatively few of us going home on "occupational" discharges! Of the 700 men sailing for home on the GOUCHER VICTORY only nine are on "occupational" discharges so you see they're pretty rare!

After we land in Seattle we'll hang around for a couple of days (hope it's no more than that) waiting for rail transportation to be arranged through to Chicago and thence to Atterbury. We'll probably have a lay over in Chicago and will call you from there if at all possible. I'm guessing right now that

Thursday Afternoon
June 13, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad,

The U.S. is in sight! We first saw land about 8:00 this morning - the mountains of Vancouver Island which is in Canada. Now we are in the Strait of Juan de Fuca; about $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the strait opposite the city of Port Angeles we'll stop for a while to pick up a pilot who will take the ship through the channels of Puget Sound to Seattle. The news as they tell it to us now is that we'll arrive in Seattle about 11:00 tonight but we'll not be able to get off the ship until tomorrow morning.

Voyage almost finished - if we get in at 11:00 tonight it will have taken us 11 days (24 hour days) and 8 hours - the total distance travelled: just a little over 5000 miles! Seems like we've been on the ship a long time and yet the time has passed quite swiftly mostly because I have kept very busy. The first night we came aboard at Yokohama they put up a notice that they wanted volunteers as typists in the Special Services office. It meant staying away from K.P. so I volunteered. The job finally led to printing a daily ship's newspaper which we called the GOUCHER GROWL. Had a lot of fun doing it - wrote quite a few articles, cut mimeograph stencils, printed headlines, etc. etc. I really got to be sort of the boss believe it or not! And, as I say,

everything should be finished at Atterbury by Saturday June 22! You know a lot more than I do about whether Marian will meet us at the Camp or not. It would be nice if she could but I know it will depend on whether she can get the time off and whether she'll have transportation available. I have my fingers crossed hoping that by some stroke of luck we'll have our car by then but I'm afraid there's very little chance!

The ^{waiting period} certainly glad this two weeks here at the Depot is just about finished. Can't complain though because my luck has been marvelous otherwise. Hope the trip home comes off without mishap. Am a little afraid I'll suffer from sea sickness but have my fingers crossed!

That's about the story from here — When I next get in touch with you it'll be from the good old United States — it'll seem good to me after only five months overseas; how must it have seemed to some of the fellows with two or three years!

So long, folks, won't be long until I see you —

Love,
Dick

keeping busy made the time pass. Also kept my mind off being sea sick. Did not really get sick at any time but for the first 2 or 3 days I had a funny unpleasant headache and a feeling of海上 nausea a lot of the time. We really had very smooth weather. Once for a period of 30 hours or so we passed through an area of large swells which caused the ship to roll enough to make dishes slide around on the table!

Tomorrow we'll be taken to Ft. Lawton, which is located right within the city of Seattle. The big job they'll do there is arrange transportation for us to our separation centers - Afterbury in my case. We're not supposed to have to stay at Lawton any longer than 72 hours and it should be less than that! Am hoping to be started by train across the country by Sunday sometime. If that happens we should be in Chicago by Thursday and Afterbury Friday (June 21) Looks as though my hope of making it out by the 22nd will not be realized but it shouldn't be long after that.

Guess that's about all for now - wanted to get this written so I can mail it just as soon as we go ashore tomorrow.

Seemed a long ways from home last summer when I was out this way but now it seems like I'm almost home! Am afraid though that the train ride will seem long.

So long, folks - see you before too long

Love

Dick