

Tuesday Feb 5, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad,

All is confusion here this morning. This past week end we established our own office in a different building from the one we've been hanging out in. The O.C.E. office also moved to this new building and we got in on that work. The new office is O.K. except that there is no heat in the building! Right now my hands are so cold that I can hardly write. I think I told you that the Japanese had removed the steam pipes and radiators from almost all their buildings to use them as scrap metal. That was true of our building; an attempt is being made to get the equipment reinstalled but it will be spring before they accomplish it! We make a feeble attempt to heat the place with oil-burning tent stoves, but they don't work worth a darn. They smoke constantly deposit soot all over the place and there's a black greasy film everywhere.

And then just last night we found out that we have to move^{this afternoon} from the finance Building where we've been living so comfortably into another building which is just being fixed up for occupancy and which is heated only with the blasted oil stoves again. So we'll be living 24 hours a day in smoke and soot! As usual no explanation why we have to move has been given - they just say, "get" and we have to get! It's a bad deal! The only good thing about the situation is that the building where we'll be living is right across the street from the building where our office is located. Of course this convenience is somewhat spoiled by the fact that we have to walk five blocks to eat our meals.

Well well just to show you how fast things sometimes move I'll tell you now that it's afternoon (the

above was written this morning) and the moving which was scheduled to take place at one o'clock has been cancelled until further notice! And once again we don't know why! How the Army ever won the war is sometimes (almost always) beyond my comprehension. However, the cancellation of the moving is good news - at least we'll be warm for a little while longer!

I received your letter of January 20 on Feb. 3. I think our moving around last weekend delayed its arrival a couple of days perhaps.

Was interested to hear about Charlie MacAllister. Could you send his exact address - a man who runs a PX is a good man to be in touch with.

That's good news about the salad dressing you got from Watt Ritter for the grapes Dad. Going to have a bumper crop this coming year? Glad you have your trimming well toward finished. Hasn't it been "too cold to trim?"

Sorry to hear that the Maxwells are so poorly. Must be hard on them when its winter and all!

Life here has settled down pretty much to a routine here. There is surprisingly little to do with our spare time. We spend a good deal of it buying and selling. Selling a package of cigarettes or a candy bar and trying to buy something worth while. I've sent Marian's birthday present to Bettyfelt I think the "girls" will be having a party for her auld I'll have Betty give Marian the present then - I fixed it all up with notes etc. I bought Marian a short type of kimono which I'm sure she'll be able to use as an evening wrap. It's a ^{simple} black one with a very pretty lining. I think the silk in it is very nice. I hope the thing reaches her safely. I sent it to Betty via first class mail. I had to write on the package that it was a gift valued at less than \$50. so that I would not have to pay customs duty on it.

Had quite an interesting experience last Sunday. I went with a Captain from the O.C.E.

out to a warehouse which has been taken over from the Japs. The place had apparently been a warehouse for storing machinists supplies. I never saw so many grinding wheels and drills, and files, and gears, and hammers etc. etc. in my life. There must have been several tons - yes I said tons - of leather belting stored there - all of it brand new ^{and} in great rolls ranging in size from that like is on a sewing machine to belting 12 inches wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. In the ware house there was also a great quantity of radio and telephone equipment. And also a lot of bales of paper of various kinds.

All of this stuff was in a mess - it had been pulled down off the shelves, had been stepped on and broken. The cartons of stuff were broken in to. Most of it was just being wasted. It was a tragic sight believe me! To see all this waste in this country which is so poverty stricken but then I suppose a person can only say, "the Japs asked for it now they've got it!" It seems though that our own Army could use a lot of the stuff - don't know why they don't.

We were allowed to carry away anything we wanted but most of the stuff I got will be of no use to me here, and it's so silly to ship it home even if I could.

All our officers ^(4 of them) are at the office now. We don't have much to do though. Can't get a typewriter assigned to us. The two colonels are probably leaving for Washington this coming Sunday. Will be gone a month or so. Wish we could come with them! All for now - I'm looking forward to your weekly letter.

Love,
Dick

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Love,
Dick

Tokyo, Japan
9 February 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

Am going to make a carbon copy of this letter and send it on to you, John, and then Mother won't have to bother sending their letter. I thought of your birthday the other day, John, but not in time to send a letter which would have reached you on the day.

I received the letter you mailed January 28 yesterday, Mother. Golly, the letter you got from me in six days must have certainly made perfect connections. Did I tell you that the rumor has it here that only about one out of four of our letters are going by air mail. There is a shortage of planes and a shortage of men to fly them - at least that's what they say. The men here are pretty sore about it - they wonder why if the Air Force can't fly the mail, the government doesn't hire some airline to do it. Mail, believe me, is pretty important to everyone out here. And it makes people mad to be getting poorer service now that the war's over than they got before it ended. Marian mails a letter to me every day and yet I haven't received one from her since Monday and today's Saturday. They'll all come in a bunch probably one of these days - hope so anyway.

We still haven't received the mail which you sent to APO 4260 at San Francisco (Hamilton Field). Suppose someone just hasn't gotten around to forwarding it to us yet. So you see I'm still very much in the dark about what you did around Christmas time.

Thanks, Mom, for sending the package the other day. I shall be looking for it. Don't quite know what kind of service the fellows are getting on packages. I know that some of them just received some Christmas packages which had been mailed early in October. However part of that delay was explained by the fact that they went first to Manila and then were shipped up here. It's really best to send packages via First Class mail if they don't weigh too much.

Well the weather man promised that we'd have some snow in February and he has been right. It has snowed twice here - about two inches or a little less each time. The snow hasn't lasted long however. It has been very wet snow both times so things are pretty sloppy while it does last. It's really something to see some of these people walking around in the snow with only their wooden "clogs" and with no stockings. Gives me goose-pimples to see them. Don't ever let anyone tell you that the Japanese are not a hardy group of people. How they can stand to work in unheated buildings and stand to live in their paper and wood unheated houses is beyond me. Maybe it's the fish and rice which keeps them warm. Boy, once I get away from this country I don't think I'll ever want to smell frying or cooking fish again so long as I live. A person can't go in a single building over here - U.S. Army occupied buildings included - without being bowled over by the smell. Don't quite know where it comes from - the people must cook their meager portion of fish over the little fires which they build right inside the rooms where they go to eat their lunch. Another thing which is funny to see - These people are the greatest ones in the world to build a fire right inside a building. The other day we looked across the street out of our office building into a room of the building opposite ours and the people had a fire going which was blazing up merrily. They may or may not open the window at the top a little bit to let the smoke out.

Our new office is turning out quite well; the only bad thing about it so far is the lack of heat. We try to heat it with a very ineffective stove which burns fuel oil. But since the stove was designed to heat a tent and designed also to burn wood or coal it doesn't work very well. We're constantly having to fuss with it and every time a person touches it, he ends up covered from head to foot with the dirtiest greasiest soot you can imagine.

I think, Folks, that the last time I wrote we were threatened with the prospect of moving from the building where we live to another building which is far less satisfactory. Well, we never did move and probably will not move now until sometime later at least. Some General called the move off - he said that the building into which they proposed to move us was not fit for occupancy. I don't usually have good things to say about Generals, but I feel that I must applaud that one! Things are pretty crowded around Tokyo right at the moment. A big bunch of men attached to General Headquarters have just arrived from Manila. Boy, they're all glad to be ^{up} here. Apparently Manila is just about the worst place imaginable!

The Colonel who is our boss here at the office has turned out to be one very swell gent. Never saw a Colonel quite like him. He's a great kidder and he really goes to bat for the enlisted man every time. A Lt. Col. who is his assistant is also a nice guy. He's much like the Colonel. The pair of them make some combination believe me. Both of them take a very free and easy attitude about Army red tape and the more of it they can cut the better they like it. They're leaving tonight by plane (a plane which the Colonel managed to have assigned to himself personally) for Washington to attend a big conference there. Of course, they'll also have some time at home and that an important part of the trip. They're getting ready to take-off across that awful big ocean without making much more preparation than a person would make to make a 500 mile trip in an automobile. There are two enlisted men in the crew of the ir plane. This trip is a complete surprise to them and believe me, they're a happy pair!

Was glad to have your letter. Suppose you have the grapes all trimmed by this time, Dad. What work you planning to do in the basement? Going to seal it in? That will be swell if you do, but I thought you might want to wait to do that until after you found out about the possibility of installing an oil furnace with a blower. That's what you really need now! Certainly would like to be around the farm for a few days right after you get that quarter beef! Some of those pork chops would be mighty nice too.

I ate lunch early today and have been writing this while the other boys were at lunch. The officers want one of us around at all times to answer the telephone. I apologize for the way this letter looks. The typewriter I've been using is one we've borrowed until we can get one of our own and it's sorta on its last legs. Think though, Dad, that this one would work quite well if I used that hunt and peck system of yours! If you're working the night shift you'll have a lot of time to address envelopes so write often.

It's a nice sunny day here today. Would like to take a few pictures this afternoon. The Colonels gave Ed and me an awful lot of film and I want to shoot some of it up. The first pictures I took and which Merian will be sending to you one day soon didn't turn out at all well. They'll be a little better though after they're enlarged. I don't think that the man to whom I took them for developing and printing did a very good job. Think I'll try somewhere else next time!

That's all for now, as I say, write often

Love,

Dick

Sunday, February 24, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad,

Sunday morning here - the day is a dull one and there's a very cold wind blowing and one is encouraged to stay indoors. We had our weekly excursion this week on Friday. To our surprise, Washington's Birthday was declared a holiday here. Ed, Larry and I succeeded in getting permission to take our office's jeep on a little spin. Actually it was more than a little spin - we drove up to a small city in the mountains named Nikko. It was about a 200 miles round trip and that's a long journey in a jeep on a cold day over the roughest roads you can imagine. Actually Nikko is a very interesting place, but we had a chance to see only a little of it because we had so little time to spend. Before the war the country around Nikko attracted many tourists. The mountains scenery is very attractive and there are several temples and shrines of one sort or another. We saw perhaps the best known of the temples. It was built about 300 years ago. The structures are very, very ornate and these particular ones are painted in an elaborate fashion - gold, red, yellow, blue, green. The temple is set amidst a grove of very large trees - larger trees than I'd ever expected to see here in Japan. Although the temple is old, the trees must have been a great many years older.

Well, our mail is really messed up. It's taking letters anywhere from 20 to 25 days to come from the states now. Apparently about all the mail is moving by ship rather than by air. Every day in the local edition of "Stars and Stripes" there are letters to the editor complaining about the service. It's a little difficult to understand why now that the war is over the Army can't provide as good service as they provided during the war. Of course, the Army says it's because there are no flyers to fly the planes and no mechanics to maintain them. They say that the critically needed men have all been discharged. It seems to me that if this is the case, they ought to turn the air mail job over to some commercial company but there are several which would jump at the chance if given the opportunity. Packages are even worse than letters. Just last week one of the boys here in another office received a package which had been sent to him via first class mail and it had been mailed on December 5! I'm really expecting to receive the package you sent in about two months! Let's see you sent it just about a month ago now didn't you?

We had some excitement at our barracks yesterday morning. Just as we were getting up a fire broke out in one of the rooms of the dispensary on the first floor. It was quite a fire too although at the time it was burning not many of the fellows paid any attention to it. It burned out the whole interior of the room and the smoke messed up the adjacent rooms. They had to use a full sized fire hose to put it out. From what we hear it started when one of the oil heating stoves began to act up. A person has to really be careful with those stoves - we never have ours on except when one of us is around to watch it.

This past week I received a letter from President Brown wanting to know what my feelings were with regard to my return to Denison this fall and whether or not I thought I had any chance of getting out in time to go to work in September. Well, my answer to his questions were all in a letter which I wrote to Dean Richards on Feb. 8 and which he should have received by now. In the letter to the Dean I said that I wanted to be back to teaching in the fall in the worst way and I sent to the Dean the "dope" on what the college has to do to strengthen any application for discharge which I may submit. They have to provide me with a letter which says that there is a job for me, which tells something of the importance of the teaching I was formerly doing, and which says that it's difficult to find a suitable replacement for me. I'm quite

certain that the President and the Dean will provide me with as strong a letter as possible. I have no notion whether an application for discharge will meet with any success or not - I guess the only way to find out is to submit an application and see what happens. I'm thinking that I'll put in the application sometime in April. At that time I'll have about a year of service. Probably won't receive the supporting letter from Denison much before that anyway.

Even if the application which I submit is turned down, I still think I have a bare chance of being out by September. I think a great deal depends upon what Congress decides to do with the Selective Service measure. If they vote to continue it, thus assuring the Army of a source of new men, the Army is going to be a little more willing to let some of us already in out. A thing which may hurt me, however, is the fact that there seems to be a strong movement afoot to discharge fathers. If they do that, it might make it a little harder for non-fathers.

This week the men with 44 and 43 points are going to the replacement depots in preparation for being sent home. Very soon the men with 24 months of service as of June 30 this year will be going (they've already been asked to sign rosters). Those men with 24 months service as of June 30 have 20 months at present. It looks very much as though the army is beginning to definitely lower the amount of service necessary. If they keep it up they might get down to my class by September when I'll have 17 months in .

Marian forwarded to me the clipping showing Phil Cloney and Jack Dempsey. Phil really gets around doesn't he? Was his operation a success? Or don't they know yet?

Marian writes and tells me that she's taking organ lessons. Isn't that swell? I've always wanted her to do it and now she has a splendid opportunity. She'll like it a lot I know!

I'm afraid all the plans I made for Marian's birthday have gone to pot because I'm almost certain that the package I sent first class from here will not have reached Betty Felt by the time I thought it would. The party at which I thought Betty could give Marian the package is scheduled for Feb. 25. I sent the package on Feb. 2 but that wasn't soon enough - would have been if the mails hadn't begun to act up so! I sent a cable to Betty yesterday telling her to proceed as she wished when the package did arrive. She'll probably arrange a little party of some sort for Marian and give her the package then.

All the mail you sent to that APO 4260 has never been sent on. I have sent two cards trying to trace it but no luck as yet. Because I've never received that mail, I'm entirely in the dark about your Christmas celebration. Am going to ask you to tell me about it again, if I don't hear from the 4260 stuff soon. There's simply no excuse, except stupid Army procedures, for a lot of the mess things are always in!

There's a lot of excitement around here these days concerning the new currency which will go into use as of March 2. The Japs are trying to get rid of their old currency and are on a wild buying spree and prices have gone sky high. The GI's are trying to decide how much old currency they can turn in without making it too obvious that they've been playing the black market! It's all very, very interesting.

Guess that's about all for this time. Am anxious to hear from you - your letter written January 27 is the last one I've received!

Love,

Dick

Sending a carbon copy of this to John!

Sunday, March 3, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

and to here

By the time you receive this you will probably be fully aware of how messed up the mail service is from here these days. Yesterday I received your letter, Mother, which you wrote on Sunday and Monday, Feb 3 and 4th. A week ago yesterday I received the letter which you wrote on February 10! How's that for system? I receive the letter you wrote a week later a week earlier - two weeks for one to come, four weeks for the other. I guess I've already written that there's practically no air mail service across the ocean now. Our mail goes by ship and apparently by the slowest ships which can be found! This past week a fast ship arrived here from San Francisco; it came over only partly loaded and had one sack of mail aboard. Everyone was disappointed because they expected it would be loaded with mail. The postal authorities announced, however, that a large quantity of mail (20 tons) was aboard a ship which had left San Francisco on Feb. 25 and which was not due in here until March 15. A "ten day" ship comes over empty and the mail is loaded onto a "20 day" ship - that's how to keep the soldiers happy!

While I'm on the subject of mail, I'll say once again that I still haven't received that mail which you sent to APO 4260 while we were waiting for the plane at Hamilton Field. Am beginning to despair of ever receiving it.

Boy, it really is a miserable day here today. About an inch and a half of snow fell last night. Now it is raining and the wind is blowing quite hard; the snow is rapidly turning to very messy slush! March is coming in just about the way February did. Actually though we can't complain about the weather we've had since we've been here. I understand that old residents are saying that this winter has been one of the mildest on record. We have had lots and lots of bright sunny days. In fact I don't know if I've ever experienced a January and a February which were as sunny - certainly not in central Ohio or New York City!

The amount of work we have to do around the office continues to be very small. And I suspect it'll stay that way until our Colonel arrives back from Washington. That'll not be until the 20th of this month or so. Ed Ekland is having to work a little harder because the Colonel agreed before he left that one of us could go down to the Office of the Chief Engineer and do a job which needed doing. The three of us flipped a coin to determine who would go and Ed lost the flip. We're a little disgusted with the situation because Ed is having to work very hard for OCE and at the same time there are several men in that office who belong there who are doing practically nothing. What it amounts to is that Ed has the ability and the education to do the job and the other lads haven't so Ed is stuck with it. That's why Col. Duke (the boss down at OCE) wanted one of us in the first place. We're wondering what the situation is going to be when our Colonel gets back. We think that Col. Duke is going to try somehow to keep Ed on this job, but we also think that Col. Northrup (our boss) will put up a fight.

Perhaps you've seen in the papers that a crisis has arisen here in Japan over the inflation situation. To try to combat the inflation, MacArthur and his advisers decided that the thing to do was to issue new currency. The Japanese people will have to turn in all their old currency to the banks but they'll not be allowed to have an equal amount of new currency back. They'll be given 300 yen for the head of a family and 100 yen for each member of that family per month. It is hoped that by thus reducing the amount of yen the people have available that the prices of commodities will drop because if they don't drop in price no one will have enough money to buy.

As usual, of course, there are a lot of loop holes. To a large extent the people will turn to barter; they'll just trade whatever they have to trade for what ever they need. The soldiers here are all wondering how it's going to affect them. Cigarettes will probably no longer bring 300 yen per carton (\$20) but on the other hand cigarettes will probably have great "barter" value. And, of course, any money which the troops have will, or should, buy a lot more than it has bought. Just yesterday, for example, I saw quite a good camera for sale. I asked the man how much he wanted for it and he said 3000 yen (\$200); then I asked him how much he wanted if I'd agree to pay in "new" yen and he said, "In "new" yen, 2000!" In other words, this indicates that prices will be down by 1/3; actually, however, I think they'll be down much more than that.

When we turned our "old" yen in we were issued "new" yen in the form of bills which were printed by the U.S. Government for the invasion of Okinawa. MacArthur has decreed that this "invasion" money is legal tender. This had to be done because the Japanese Government was not able to print sufficient "new" yen in time to distribute to the troops. In fact they haven't been able to print sufficient "new" yen for their own use and some of the "old" yen are going to be made "new" by attaching a stamp to the old bill. This morning's "Stars and Stripes" warns that the glue on these stamps is inferior and troops must be careful that the stamp is not lost off the bill. It sounds as though we're really going to have some fun.

Well, today is Marian's birthday. I think I told you last week that I was afraid that the gift I sent her would not arrive on time - it would have if the mail situation hadn't sudden gotten all fouled up. But I'm not too concerned about it as long as it arrives sometime. Speaking of packages, Mother, I'll put a request on this letter, but actually there is little I need. If that pillow and the sheets ever arrive I'll be quite happy. However, if you do send a package, tuck in a few small cans of condensed milk. We have gotten acquainted with a man who runs a jewelry store who has a small baby and I think he'd give us almost anything in his shop for some milk for that child! Over here the mother of a child nurses it for as long as three years (isn't that something?) but something is wrong with the mother's milk production in this case and I guess the baby has a hard time getting along. I know that these are the people who started the war and they're the people who are responsible for killing a lot of American boys, but just the same it's hard not to try to do something to help a little baby which wasn't even born when the Pearl Harbor attack occurred!

I have had no further word from Denison. It's too early yet to expect an answer to my letter asking them to furnish me with a letter to support my application for discharge. I'm told that the fellows who are still in the states and who have been in the Army for 18 months are getting out - do you know whether that's true or not? Hope it is true because that means that sooner or later the 18 months rule will apply over here. If I could beat 18 months by just a little bit I might be able to make it back to Denison by the time school starts in September. You see I'll have 18 months in on October 23rd!

We've had no word from Washington concerning our promotion; we're expecting to hear any day now. We're hoping that the orders will be so written that we'll receive the higher pay for this month (March). The raise amounts to \$19.20 extra per month. As a private overseas and subtracting my "ducks" I draw \$23.40; as a corporal I'll draw \$42.60. Of course, one of my "ducks" is a \$7.50 War Bond. Indidentally if those bonds haven't been arriving, don't worry about it. My records are probably all messed up and they haven't been taking one out - or maybe they have. Maybe some day I'll find out! But don't worry!

Don't think I'll start another page. Keep writing every week.

Mother, will you send the package
I've asked for
Dick

Love to all,

Dick

Sunday, March 10, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

Sunday again and, by golly, if it isn't a bad day. It's the funniest thing - I don't believe that we've had more than two Sundays with nice weather since we've been here in Tokyo. The weather will be nice all week and then will turn bad on Sunday. It's cold today and from time to time a few flakes of snow fall out of the cloudy sky, one of those damp, gloomy winter days.

The past week has been quite uneventful. We did about as little work as usual at the office, went to two or three movies, and that's about all. There was a little excitement last night. As George Burridge and I were coming from the movies we had to go past the Dai Ichi Building (the main Army headquarters bldg) and darned if the place wasn't on fire! The fire engines were out and they had hose strung to the upper floors of the structure. We couldn't see exactly where the fire was located and we couldn't find out from anyone what the story was. But apparently it wasn't very serious because this morning we looked around a bit on the 6th and 7th floors and could see no sign of the fire except a little water on the floors of the corridors. We concluded that the fire may have been on the roof of the building where the Army has installed a couple of Diesel powered electric generators which are housed in wooden shacks. Funny that this fire should have occurred because this morning's Stars and Stripes reported that two other fires occurred yesterday and last night. One of them destroyed the barracks and garage of a Quartermaster Trucking Company and the other destroyed the installation of a nearby Infantry Company. It seems like there have been a lot of fires but it's not difficult to understand when one considers how inefficient and dangerous the oil-stoves are which are used to heat most of the Army installations!

One rumor that's disturbing us greatly is that they're considering moving us again! We have just gotten nicely settled into our new quarters and they've just gotten them fixed up quite nicely and now here we go again. It seems that the Government is bringing 400 civilian women over here from the states to work in the offices and they have to find living space for them. So they're moving officers out of one of their billets, moving them into the building where we are now living, and we'll move out into another building which is just being fixed up, but which, of course, will probably not be entirely fixed up by the time we move. The officers who are being moved are mad and so are we. No one knows why the 400 women are being brought from the States - don't know whether the big shots are more interested in what the women will be able to do during the day or more interested in what they'll be able to do during the night! I suspect from witnessing some of the antics of the officers that they're most interested in those night-time activities! A lot of these officers are only gentlemen by Act of Congress believe me! It's a funny thing, I suspect that most of the people at home think that it's the common soldier who misbehaves and is unfaithful, etc. but actually I think the officers are more guilty than the men! They certainly make fools of themselves over the relatively few white women who are available here but they by no means restrict themselves to the white women - one of the officers billets about a block from our office is just crawling with Japanese girls almost every night and we often see them coming out of the building early in the morning when we go to breakfast!

The mail situation continues to be bad but in yesterday's paper there was an article which promises relief. This month they promise that a much greater proportion of the mail will go out by air than went by air last month. Right at the present time I have received no letter from you or from Marian which is not at least a month old. The last letter of yours I have received, Mother, is the one you wrote Feb. 10 and the same thing is true with regard to Marian's letters although I have not yet received her

5th, 6th, 7th of Feb. Two ships came in this week - I got three letters from Marian, the ones she wrote on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd of Feb., but that was all. I thought that I might get the package you sent on January 26th but apparently it did not get to California in time to catch these ships which left there on February 9. Oh, well, maybe it'll be on the next ship! Boy, I tell you the fellows are really mad about the mails being so tangled up and it doesn't seem that there is any very good excuse for it!

Was surprised to receive a cable from Marian this week - it came on Monday. I had sent her one on Friday, March 1 for her birthday and it apparently arrived on Saturday, March 2nd your time and she sent a cable right back to me. Bill Treby, the man who runs the telegraph office and drugstore in Granville, also sent me one of those "canned" message cables just for fun at the same time.

Everyone over here is watching the Russian situation with a great deal of interest. We hear reports constantly from men who are just back from Korea that they're having a dickens of a time with the Russians over there. I can't understand it - there certainly is no reason under the sun why Russia should want to get into a war with the U.S. Russia is quite exhausted from the war she has just been fighting and I don't see how she could feel that she has a chance of gaining anything by provoking the U.S. I'm very happy that Byrnes spoke plainly to Russia about the Iranian and Manchurian situations, and I'm quite confident that the Russians will do something about getting their troops out. I think they, the Russians, have been pushing and pushing just to see how far they were going to be able to push us before we began to push back. And now that we have pushed back, I think they'll behave! Good, Lord, I certainly hope so. A war with Russia would be unbelievable! I wonder why in the world when no one wants war there always seem to be wars in the making! It's very discouraging!

Just back from dinner now. Our meals haven't been quite so good lately as they were when we first arrived here. Although I think that some of the change is probably in our minds - what I mean is that we've grown tired of the food to some extent. We've been having a lot of chicken lately - so much chicken that the fellows are beginning to groan when they see it. I know that it doesn't sound right to say that a person can get too much chicken, but it is true. We've had no roast beef in two or three weeks. Have lots of meat loaf, stew, hamburger, some ham, pork chops once in a while. Canned peaches is our most frequent dessert and when it's not peaches it's pears or fruit for salad. We used to have ice cream twice a week but lately we've had it on the average less than once a week. We expect that sometime this week the mess hall in our billet will open up. It was supposed to have been ready last Monday, but as usual the plan went wrong. I suspect that when it does get open our food will be better because they won't have to cook for so many.

Well, one week of the new yen era is past and we seem to have survived the monetary crisis quite well. Each time we get a Japanese bill now we have to take a bottle of musilage and stick the little stamp onto it more securely so that it will not be lost off - the glue the Japanese used is absolutely no good. The little stamp makes an old bill into a new one.

Guess that's about all for this time. I'm anxious always to hear from you.

So long, Folks,

No news of our promotion!

No mail from APO 4260!

No news concerning the discharge situation!

Love,

Dick

Saturday, March 16, 1946
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

Writing a little early this week chiefly because there's noting else do do around the office this morning. In fact, right at the moment I'm the only one who has arrived at work even though it's 8:30 - one-half hour after our official starting time.

First of all, Mother, let me say that the package which you sent arrived last Monday and I certainly was pleased to have it and I thank you a lot for sending it. The pillow is certainly swell and the sheets are heaven after sleeping between Army blankets. Thank you also for the soap and the candy although actually we can buy all of those two things which we need over here in the PX. As a matter of fact, the three of us have remarked that when we receive letters from home asking what we want sent, we're hard put to answer. There's very little we need which we can't buy. However, if you see any good Army discharges for sale you might send one of them - I could certainly use it !

Except for the package I've received on other mail now for ten days. Several ships were supposed to arrive the middle of this week. Some of them did arrive, but I guess that they were carrying no mail. In this morning's paper there was an item saying that the ship which does have over twenty tons of air mail aboard and which left San Francisco on February 25 has been delayed in arriving but is expected within 48 hours. In an announcement in Sunday's paper General MacArthur announced that air mail service was to be restored at once, but so far there has been no sign that this has been done. However I do think that the worst is probably over now and we will get a little better service in the near future.

I believe that this past week has been the dullest since we arrived here. We've had practically no work to do, there have been no entertainment events of any particular interest. Seems as though we've just sat around waiting for the time to pass. On Wednesday we had to have three more "shots" - one for typhoid, one for typhus, and one for cholera. For the first time since I've been taking these shots I was upset by them - had a dickens of a headache and a little fever all day Thursday and had about the sorest pair of arms you can imagine. Hope we're finished with the "shots" now for a while. You might be interested to know that since I've been in the Army I've had 16 "shots" of one kind and another and two small pox vaccinations. It would seem that I'd be immune to most everything. I suspect that we received the typhus shot this week because there are a good many cases of that disease here in Tokyo. The Army is out spraying people with DDT to kill the lice which carry the disease, but they haven't been able to get it entirely under control. I guess that one of the difficulties is that some of the Japanese who are coming back from Korea and other places on the Asiatic mainland are sneaking past the authorities and miss out on the DDT treatment. I haven't heard that there are any cases of typhus amongst the troops here. I suspect however that you read about the ship from here being quarantined at Seattle because she had a suspected typhus case aboard.

This week for the first time the mess hall in the building where we live was opened for service. It's really very convenient for us now - we don't have to walk five blocks to meals as we formerly had to and we just have to come across a narrow street from the place where we live to the place where we work. We're really very well fixed.

now and we're wondering how long it's going to be before the Army decides to move us - that usually happens just about the time things get settled down.

Yesterday a rumor reached us that the Red Cross was distributing sleeveless sweaters to the troops so we rushed right over and it was the truth. We each got a very nice sweater and they fit quite well too. So, Mother, you can tell any of your friends who have knitted those sweaters that they finally reach their destination. The one which I was given was knitted by someone in the San Diego, California chapter of the Red Cross. The Red Cross is certainly a fine organization, is very worthy of whole-hearted support. They've just opened another club here in Tokyo. The one large one they had was always slightly over-crowded.

I suppose that our Colonels will be back sometime this coming week. Imagine we'll be a little more busy after their return, but I can't see how we'll have an overwhelming amount of work to do. It will be good to have Colonel Northrup back - he's really a swell guy, full of wise-cracks as anyone I've ever known and he likes nothing better than to cut Army red-tape which, of course, endears him to us!

I hope that this coming week I'll have some news from Granville from Denison concerning what they will do about the application for discharge which I plan to submit. I am assuming that they'll supply me with the necessary letter. Will be very surprised and very disappointed if they don't! I still haven't any strong feeling one way or the other concerning the chances of success when I do submit the application. I really think that this fool Russian situation is going to slow down demobilization to some extent although I feel also that it will assure the continuation of Selective Service. This week I sent a cable and also wrote a letter to Prof. Kerr of Columbia asking him for a letter to support my application. Thought that it might help to have a letter stating that I intend to pursue research leading to my PhD degree.

It's Saturday afternoon now. I have just this minute received a cable from Marian saying that Denison sent the letter supporting the discharge application on March 14. So that's that much, at least. Now I'll wait to see what Prof. Kerr does and when both letters arrive I'll get the application under way and cross my fingers!

I guess I haven't said in this letter that I still haven't received the mail forwarded from APO 4260. However, this past week both Ed and Larry received their's - why my mail did not come at the same time only God and the Army Postal System knows! However, the fact that they did receive their's gives me hope that mine will come sometime. The last letter of your's which I've received, Mother, is your's of the 10th of Feb.

It's time now to close up shop here for another week. Actually our quitting time is a very unimportant thing because we spend most of our waking hours around the office here. About all we ever do at our room is sleep.

So long, now, folks, until next time. Hope by next week-end I'll have a couple of letters of yours to answer.

Love,

Dick

Sunday morning!
Darned, f---t isn't snowing again today!
Three Sunday, in a row!

Tokyo, Japan
March 24, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

Week before last I received not a single letter; this past week I received 32 letters from Marian, 4 from you, Mother, 2 from Dean Richards at Denison, 1 from Prof. Wright, 1 from Sherm and Virginia Neuschel. I also received a package from Marian and a cable. Wasn't that a week? I was kept busy all week long reading mail and trying to answer some of it.

One of the reasons there was so much mail was that at long last the mail which you sent to APO 4260 (Hamilton Field) caught up to me. I had just about given up hope that it would ever arrive, and I was certainly glad to see it. And so - I heard all about your Christmas. It sounded pretty nice. Sounded as though you had a lot of fun digging cars out of the snow and putting on chains, etc. etc. Too bad the weather had to act up quite so much. Marian tells me though that she had no particular difficulty making her various journeys. I'm pretty proud of the way she can get around by herself. I'm certainly hoping that I'll be around with you all next Christmas - this being away from your family at that particular season is, as they say, "for the birds" !

Before I forget it, Dad, let me say congratulations on that nice big legacy from Aunt Anna. Do you feel compensated at long last for that time Uncle Frank refused to let you have the groceries on credit? You want to be careful now that some sharper doesn't sell you a lot of stock in a dry oil well - you know how those birds go out and prey on "the newly rich" ! Also, referring to a later letter, congratulations on that pay raise at the shop. I'd say that was a pretty swell job you have ! A swell job even considering all the "ducks" which they take out of that pay.

Speaking of pay raises -- you remember a long time ago I mentioned that our officers had put us in for promotions. Well, the letter went in to Washington on Feb 1; it finally found its way back here, all approved, this past week. But they had failed to "cut" orders on the promotions and when we investigated how to have that done, we discovered that it would have to go all through "channels" here and will probably take the better part of a month. We also discovered that the whole thing would never have had to have gone to Washington in the first place ! This is the kind of thing which keeps the morale of a soldier so high ! The whole mis-handled deal probably cost each of us a hundred dollars or so, but the Captain just sort of laughed and said, "well, that's Army red tape, you know !" And so perhaps along about the middle of April, we may be promoted all the way up to Corporals ! That job pays \$79.20 a month when one is overseas - of course there are several bad "ducks" out of that - \$22 for my share of Marian's allotment, \$7.10 for insurance, \$7.50 for Bond. By the way have any of those Bonds been arriving? Or is that business all screwed up too? Suppose it is ! Of course, actually we don't need any money over here. I can take six cartons of cigarettes out and sell them for more money than I'd make as a Corporal even if nothing was deducted from my pay (six cartons of cigarettes are worth \$80 !) The catch is, of course, that I can't send that money home - the cigarette money I mean. I'm glad I don't smoke because that means that I have a carton of cigarettes to sell every week ! The only time we can send money home is when we get paid. We're hoping to be paid at the end of this month (first time in four months) and I'm going to try to send all of the money home !

The work you've done on the attic certainly sounds swell. Bet it looks nice !

What do you think of the deal Marian made on selling old "Georgie"? Think that it was the thing to do myself - I doubt if she would have been able to get ceiling price for the car very much longer. I would think that as new cars become a little more available that the used car market will go to pieces. She really didn't have a lot of use for an auto anyway and it was a good bit of trouble for her to take care of a car as old as George was. Marian writes very enthusiastically about the new Plymouths. As a matter of fact I think she has just about decided to go to Newark and sign us up for a new one. It might be that just about the time I get out of the Army we'll be able to get it - and certainly a car is one of the first things we'll have to have!

This week I received the letter from Dean Richards which he wrote to back up the application for discharge which I plan to submit. I think Marian said that she sent you a copy of the Dean's letter. I think it's a darn good letter, but I don't for the life of me know how much good it will do. I haven't submitted the application yet. I've just about decided that I'll submit it first to Colonel Northrup. He still hasn't come back from Washington - expect him this week though. However, I'm still waiting for another letter from Professor Kerr. When that letter arrives and when the Colonel gets back - I'll do the deed! If the Colonel agrees to approve the application and makes a "first indorsement" of it, it'll have to go to Washington to be acted upon by "higher echelons". I think I have a better chance of getting the thing through if it goes to Washington than if it's acted upon here. Inasmuch as we're actually assigned in Washington and not in this theatre, I have an excuse to send the application to Washington. If the Colonel acts favorably upon it and sends it to Washington, I suspect it'll be a couple of months before I hear anything one way or the other. So it's going to involve a long "sweating out" period!

We had some good weather yesterday (Sunday) for a change but I didn't take advantage of it. Spent all the day here at my desk trying to make some first-drafts of the letters which I must write to the Colonel when I submit the discharge application. Got them pretty well in shape I think. Now if the letter from Kerr arrives and the Colonel gets back, I can make my move!

Larry went on a little field trip this week with a couple of the fellows from down in Natural Resources Section. They visited a mine about a hundred miles north of Tokyo. It was a lead-zinc mine - Larry has had a lot of experience around mines of that type so it was very interesting as far as he was concerned. I have to laugh, Larry probably knew much more about the whole situation than the two men he was with and yet Larry sits here in this office and does nothing! That's the Army.

Well, Folks, I can imagine that every now and then there's a bit of spring in the air. Would certainly like to be around the farm now. Suppose, Dad, you're setting some posts and you, Mother, are getting some of the tying done - don't work too hard at it now. Was just thinking the other day about that strawberry patch - is this the year? Wow! I'd certainly like to be there. If this discharge application fizzles out, I figure it'll be about November - oh, well, that's something. I've at least gotten more than half my time in!

So long, now, Folks!

Received Charlie McAllister's address - think I
know where he is!

Love,
Dick

Tokyo, Japan
Tuesday, April 2, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

I am late at starting the weekly letter this week. Our Colonels arrived back from Washington on March 26th; they immediately began to make plans to go to Manila, (they plan to leave tomorrow) and consequently, for a change, we've had a lot of work to do. The Colonels are taking the two Captains with them to Manila so after they have left we'll be here all alone. There'll only be two of us because the Colonels decided that they could take one of us along with them; they left it up to us to decide who should go. We flipped a coin and Ed was the winner! Larry and I were disappointed of course, but on the other hand, Ed was probably most entitled to the trip because all the time the Colonels were in Washington, he had a "bad deal" writing reports for the Office of the Chief Engineer (Colonel Northrup loaned one of us to that office before he left for Washington - that time when we flipped the coin, Ed lost). This present trip will be quite an interesting one - on the way to Manila they plan to stop off for two or three days at Okinawa, and on the return trip they plan to stop at Guam. Ed is pretty excited about the whole thing.

I'm pretty excited about some events of last week too. I typed out my application for discharge and handed it to the Colonel and he quite readily agreed to sign the "first indorsement" of it and forward it to Washington for further action. I think there is some reason to be optimistic about the matter. The thing which pleases me is that the final action will be taken in Washington rather than in this theatre of operations. I think Washington will give it more sympathetic treatment inasmuch as they are a little more aware of the situation which exists with regard to the shortage of qualified college instructors. As part of the "first indorsement" the Colonel urged that action on the discharge application be expedited to bring about my discharge by August. So, Folks, I've got my fingers crossed - think I may make it in time to eat some of those peaches before starting the year at Denison September 5! You cross your fingers too!

Another thing - did you notice on the envelope that I'm a Corporal now! Yep, the orders raising us to that illustrious rank came through dated March 29! Now we're hoping that they'll turn right around and put us in for a Sergeant's rating. Theoretically we only have to remain Corporals for one month; in other words, by the 29th of this month, we're eligible to receive another raise in rank and we're hoping that about on the 30th the orders to that effect will be posted! Our overseas pay as Corporals is \$79.20. My "ducks" amount to 36.60 so I'll draw 42.60; we're allowed to send that money home if we wish, and I'll certainly be doing it. Marian certainly has written that she signed us up for a new Plymouth and that forty dollars will buy a tail-light or two! Incidentally, let me explain about the bonds, Mother. Apparently bonds are only taken out when we get paid; I was last paid for November but they told me they would take no bond out for that month (and they didn't). We're supposed to get paid today for the months of Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Now as I understand it, one of these days you should receive bonds for those months. I really think those bonds are more of a nuisance than they are good!

I received several letters from you folks last week - three I think it was. The most recent one was yours of March 19. That was the one you wrote, Mother, to tell about your Christmas. Well, as I've already written I finally did receive that APO 4260 mail, but it was nice to hear about Christmas all over again. I was certainly glad to have all the other news of home. Wish I'd have been around to help you cut that door in the little barn, Dad, that would have been fun. What are you going to do extend the cinders of the drive down that far now? Too bad you're going to have trouble getting your tractor because all the veterans have first priority - I think they're carrying this veter-

an business a little too far. After all, other people have to get along too!

Sounds as though Jack and June have been having their trouble with illness of various sorts. It's really too darn bad about June - I suspect that all the trouble she has had hasn't done much to help here disposition. Which house was it that Uncle Ralph and Aunt Ila sold - the one on Lane Blvd or the flat. I suspect it must have been the Lane Blvd one!

Was glad to hear that Ferd got out of his basement in time to get at his trimming before it was entirely too late. I had to smile about the fact that his brother was back on the same job - I've sorta forgotten what that argument was about that time, but wasn't Ferd arguing that his brother wouldn't want such a bad job as that one back after he had had the experience of being in the Army. I'm sorry you don't see the Potters a little more frequently - they'd be some company for you, but on the other hand, I can understand how it's difficult to get along with them.

I remember, Mother, the spring on your washing machine which broke. Am glad you had Marian's machine to finish up with. What you should do is go right over to Paw Paw and put your name in with Paul Warner or somebody for a new washer - one of those nice square tub, cast aluminum Maytags!

It sounds as though spring has really come around your corner of the world. We've been having some very fine weather here to. Haven't been out in the country for the last two or three weeks so I don't know what things are like out there - the fruit trees should be in blossom I'd think. Am anxious to get a glimpse of the far-famed cherry blossoms.

That's about the story for this time - will try to drop you a note a little more frequently. We shouldn't have much to do while the officers are gone - guess I didn't say that they probably be away for about two weeks!

So long, Folks,

Love,

Dick

I'm very anxious to hear about
your week-end in Grafton. Received
Marian's letter written the 21st this morning.

I'll not expect any news on the discharge application for a month and a half or so after it leaves here. Have to wait for the papers from Prof. Kerr before sending it from here. Hope it can go in about April 15-

Tuesday, April 9, 1946
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mother and Dad and John,

Just a little late again this week at getting to the weekly letter. Yesterday, just exactly a week after you mailed it, I received your letter, Mother and Dad, which you wrote March 31 and April 1. That's pretty good service - some change from the kind of service we were getting in late Feb. and early Mar.! I think your letters come through a little more quickly on the average than Marian's do - I suspect it's because your get to Chicago a little more quickly and hence get a head start on their way to the West Coast.

We had two days off this past week-end on account of the fact that Saturday, Army Day, was declared a holiday. On Friday we planned a trip down toward Mt. Fuji; we were going to drive down on Saturday, stay over-night Saturday night and come back on Sunday. But when we awoke Saturday morning it was raining! I never saw the like of it - it certainly seems to rain every time we have a day off. Well, as long as it was raining there was no need to go down to try to get a good look at Mt. Fuji so we called off the trip. Saturday afternoon we went out to a part of the city here where there happens to be a whole lot of bookstores and spent quite a bit of time looking around them - it's surprising how many English books they have for sale - some very interesting things too!

Sunday morning I spent writing a letter to Dean Richards at Denison regarding action which it appears the U.S. Office of Education may be able to take concerning my discharge application once that application reaches Washington. The Office of Education has been appointed by the Army and Navy as a certifying agency - the Education Office certifies certain people to the branches of the Armed Forces for discharges and I think it will be possible for them to certify me. Hope so anyway. Sunday afternoon we took quite a long ride out into the country - Yes, the weather was good on Sunday - it was interesting to see what was going on in the agricultural regions now that spring has come. We saw lots and lots of cherry blossoms and many other trees and flowering shrubs were in full bloom. The section through which we travelled on Sunday was not a rice raising area - wheat and barley were the main crops. Over here the grain is planted in rows about twelve inches apart and the farmers actually cultivate the crops as they grow; they hoe the wheat and barley just as an American farmer would cultivate his corn! The farmers were also very busy fertilizing their fields with the very potent "night soil" (human manure) and some of the odors carried by the breezes were "out of this world"!

All of our officers - the Colonels and the Captains and Ed Oakland took off last Wednesday for Manila. They were going first to Okinawa - although we haven't definitely heard, we suspect that they had to stay over on Okinawa longer than they had planned to because of the typhoon which struck the Philippines the same day they left here. They were lucky that they didn't fly directly to Manila because if they had they would have arrived right in the midst of the storm! Larry and I without the officers have had even less than usual to do.

When I stop to think how completely wasted this last year has been it gives me the heebie-jeebies! I sometimes wonder if I'll ever be able to do any work again! Yessir, it was just a year ago this coming Thursday (April 12 last year) that Marian and I left the farm on our way to Washington. Remember? It was the day that Pres. Roosevelt died. We heard about his death for the first time when I went in to the station there in Lawton to pick up the telegram which had arrived for me from the Geological Survey.

Sounds as though your shop is really going to town, Dad. Must be a lot of difference between making those little valves for V8 engines and those giant ones you made during the war. Suppose your place is busy too, John, making those engines for Kaiser-Frazer. Are you in production yet?

So you uncovered the strawberry bed - boy, oh boy, I certainly wish I were going to be there to have some of them this year. This is the first year they'll bear isn't it? Or do they have another year to go? I'm very glad you got the willow and the maple, etc. That willow ought to do very well there - would think that the conditions are just about ideal for it. Suspect that the maple will have a hard time of it because of the way the roots of that poplar are spread out everywhere. A silver maple is the same as a soft maple, isn't it - they grow remarkably fast. I was glad to hear that your mild weather hadn't been of long enough duration to bring the buds out so that your cold snap did them damage. What's the dope on the price of grapes this year? Are they going to be as high as last year? With the shortage of beer there is going to be - wine ought to be in great demand!

Hope that if you get any new neighbors in Joe's house that they'll be people who will cause you no trouble. Have you thought any more about trying to get that land away from Joe? Don't suppose that it's worth a thousand dollars but it's certainly too bad that piece can't be hooked to yours. Then you could have the State set the whole thing out to evergreens! Am I crazy? Could have a mighty nice apple orchard, couldn't you, in that south portion of the place? Or is the land just too bad?

By the way, Mother, I finally got paid last Tuesday and they had taken money out for War Bonds so one of these days you should receive a bond for me for Dec. Jan., Feb., and Mar., Whee, that'll amount to all of thirty dollars! My pay netted me just over \$90.00. I managed to get permission to buy a money order with all of it and I'm sending it to Marian - will buy the right front fender of that new Plymouth!

Well, Professor Kerr's letter supporting my application for discharge arrived and that letter plus the Dean's letters are being photostated now. As soon as the photostats come back, the application can be put in an envelope and sent on its way to Washington. Then comes the time for keeping fingers crossed and the time for uttering those prayers! I'm hoping that the application which will be sent air mail will arrive in Washington around April 22 - 25 (will arrive there just a year to the day approximately after I was inducted) Don't know quite why, but I've been feeling a little more optimistic regarding it's chances for success these past few days. Hope I'm not just building myself up for an awful let down!

It's time now to go to get the mail and I'll close and take these letters to the postoffice with me. Write often because I like to hear what's going on around the farm. Hope I can be there before the summer's over!

Did you say the Lawton Leader
printed the Atoms story? Send
me the clipping!

Love,

Dick

Wednesday, April 17, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John;

I think that this has been the rainiest day we've experienced here in Tokyo. It certainly has been coming down fast and furiously all day long and it shows no sign of letting up even now.

Am late at writing the weekly letter this week. Our officers all arrived back Monday noon and since then things have been popping pretty fast. I have grown so accustomed to doing no work that when some come along I hardly know how to act and what I have to do takes a lot of time. From what Ed Eckland has to tell of the trip they had a very good time. They unfortunately had quite a bit of bad weather which kept them from seeing some things - particularly when they were flying over them, but nevertheless, the trip as a whole was a success. Ed says that Manila is just about the worst mess a person can imagine. The city, of course, was pretty well wrecked during the war and the Filipino people are doing very little to try to clean it up - they're doing much less, Ed said, than the Japanese are doing here in Tokyo. Two things seem to be the matter - first the people are pretty lazy and are inclined to sit back and wait for someone else (the U.S. they hope, I suppose) to pay them handsomely to build back their own city and second no one seems to have any money with which to do anything, most of the people who had money lost it completely during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Apparently the U.S. soldiers in Manila are about as completely demoralized as any soldiers anywhere. There is plenty of whiskey to be had and Ed says that he never saw so many drunk people in his life - they just get drunk and stay drunk for days on end. About four or five soldiers are killed every night either fighting among themselves or with the Philippines people. Captain Shute happened to be an eye-witness of a knife fight between a G.I. and a Filipino in which the Filipino was finally killed! Guess we can be really thankful that we're not down there in Manila. It doesn't sound so good!

Friday, April 19, 1946

Hello, again:

Certainly am having a time getting this letter finished - had a hard time getting it started too.

Things have continued to be busy. The Colonels are quite an active pair and they get things done with a bang. They continue to be about the finest bosses a person could possibly have - we certainly struck it lucky when we drew them!

Right at the moment things are shaping up with regard to two more trips. The first will be to Shanghai and the second to Australia. Yesterday Colonel Berry asked me if Larry and I had decided who was going on what trip; I told him we hadn't decided but that we would decide. So Larry and I "drew straws" - he drew the Shanghai trip and I drew the Australia one! Isn't that big news! Believe me I'm pretty thrilled about it; it's certainly a chance of a lifetime! I know very little more about the trip - don't know for certain when we'll leave but it will probably be sometime between the 15th and 20th of May. Don't know how long we'll be gone, don't know what places we'll visit, don't even know why we're going. Of course, I'm going mostly for the trip - there really is no need to have me along - The Colonels take us on these trips only because they know we enjoy going! We'll travel by air, of course. Don't know if I've ever said but both Colonels are pilots - they have a B17 airplane assigned to them with its crew of four - nice, eh?

Of course, you're wondering as I am what happens if I should happen to have good news concerning my discharge application before we leave. Well, under those circumstances, I might not be able to go, although it would depend on what lee-way was given the Colonels in sending me home. If it should happen that it was up to them when to send me, they might give me my choice of coming home before the trip or taking the trip and then coming home - I think I'd be foolish if I didn't stay over to take the trip - it's a chance of a lifetime. If the news concerning my discharge should come through while we're gone

nothing will be done concerning it until we get back "home" to Tokyo.

Guess that the above is by far the biggest news from here.. I'll keep you informed on any developments concerning the trip.

I finally got my application for discharge off to Washington on April 12. If it takes it ten days to go, it should arrive there about Monday, April 22. As I have written, I don't expect to be hearing anything one way or another for three weeks or so after that.

Everyone over here was pretty disgusted with the way the House handled the Selective Service Bill the other day. Of course, they (the House) can't please everyone and I suppose all the young fellows at home were pleased with what the House decided. But putting all personal feelings on one side and the other aside, it seems to me that the way they handled the bill was a mistake. The way I see it, the only reason the Army has had as much success with its recruiting drive as it has had is because there was the "axe" of the draft hanging over the heads of the young fellows. The House proposed to take away that axe; well, in my opinion, watch the recruiting rate decrease! In today's paper here, we read that the Senate is not too pleased with the measure as the House passed it and there's a good chance that the whole bill may be re-written - that's more like it. Really, that House measure was one of the most stupid things I've heard of in a long time. This is no time in the World's history for a bunch of important legislators to "play politics"!

Well after our rainy day on wednesday, the weather cleared rapidly. Yesterday was terribly windy, but today is really fine. The leaves are pretty well out here on the trees within the Imperial Palace Grounds. We took a little trip into the country the other day and things are booming out there. The wheat is about ten inches or so high. The farmers are beginning to get their fields ready for planting rice; they're preparing the seed beds now where they grow the seedlings which are transplanted into the paddies along toward the beginning of the summer.

Marian sent the letter which Mr. Spicer had sent to you about the piece he had seen in the Lawton paper. It was very nice of him to say the things he ~~said~~ about me! Think I asked you once to send the piece from the paper, would like to see it.

What do you think about Marian's getting the apartment - I think it's swell. I'm trying to urge her to move all our stuff - or almost all of it - to Granville. I think in the long run it would be better than to move part of it now and then we'd just have to mess around moving the rest of it sometime. I even want her to move the piano if you are still interested in having her have it. However, the refrigerator stays exactly where it is - we're not going to move that heavy thing; it's yours!

Now I must get this in the mail if it's ever going to reach you. I promise that I'll do better at writing this weekend! So long, Folks,

Love,

Dick

Wednesday, April 24, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John:

Well my first year in the Army is past; was inducted just a year ago yesterday. Certainly would like to know just how much of the second year I'll put in.

Had a letter yesterday from Dean Richards which contained a carbon copy of a letter he wrote to a Dr. Hollis of the U.S. Office of Education urging that office to take action on the matter of my discharge application. If Dr. Hollis does go to work on the proposition I think that it will help a lot - the Army and the Navy have both agreed to pay attention to the recommendations of the Office of Education. Once again, all I can say is that we'll have to wait and see!

Received your nice long letter, Mother, of April 11 and 12 yesterday. I was awful sorry to hear that you had had some frosts which had done some damage to the fruit. Certainly hope that it will not be too severe. This year must have been like last year - a mild March followed by a cold April. I can remember how cold it was at Camp Atterbury just a year ago. Glad to hear that the grapes are perhaps not hurt. Did the frost hit the orchards nearer the lake as bad?

Was certainly interested to hear all the news concerning the various stores you looked at. The one in Mattewan sounded very interesting, but I can certainly understand how a store of that type would have a lot of merchandise which had accumulated for a long time and which would be almost useless. Certainly sounded as though it was a busy place if three people worked there steadily. Not surprised that the meat situation was bad in the Plainwell store - from what I can read over here the situation with regard to the black market on meat must be pretty bad. I can't understand why something can't be done to clean it up a bit. It's funny but it seems that most of the news we have from the states is bad news - perhaps the Army wants it to be that way to encourage the men to re-enlist. They haven't scared me though - I'm very willing to take a chance as a civilian!

Well yesterday we signed up for a new job! Yep, the three of us signed up to teach a course in Physical Geology here at the Tokyo War College (the college occupies a building right next to our office building). Our Colonels happened to get to talking with the Major who directs the college one day and they mentioned the fact that they had three geologists working for them. The Major asked the Colonels if we would by any chance be interested in teaching a course in Geology because they had had many enquiries concerning such a course. The Colonels said that they didn't know but that they'd ask us. Ask us they did and the proposition appealed to us especially since they agreed to allow us to share the responsibility and the agreed to give us great freedom of action. In other words, we will be allowed to leave on the trips with the Colonels which may be coming up. Also they assured us that our departure from this theatre in the event that we are ordered home for discharge would be in no way interfered with.

I should perhaps explain a little something about the college. It was organized during these past couple of months and opened on April 8. They have afternoon and evening classes for officers and men who want to take courses at both the high school and college levels. Most of the instructors are civilians who have been hired to come over to

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take the jobs, but they have also taken on some military personnel on a voluntary basis as instructors. We're a little peeved that they don't feel that they can pay us a little something extra for doing the work, but they say that they have no funds available. However, it will be fun we think. It'll enable me to get my hand back into the teaching game and will give Larry and Ed a little experience in teaching - they've had little or no experience to date ! We have no notion how large a class we'll have. Registration will be held during the first days in May; our first class session will be Monday night, May 13 !

Have no new information concerning the Australia trip except that it is planned for the latter part of May - hope it's not much later than that. The more I think about it the more I don't want to miss out on it if at all possible.

Oh, before I forget - I shipped three quite large packages to you in Lawton day before yesterday. One of them contains a Japanese Military Surveyor's Transit, another the tripod for the instrument and the third is a box of miscellaneous junk which I've picked up. You don't even need to open the packages when they come; just stick the stuff away with the rest of our junk ! The amount of postage on them will amaze you and I suspect the mail ~~man~~ will think I'm an awful dope, but remember those stamps were bought with very "cheap" yen. Actually there's about two cartons of cigarettes worth of postage on the three packages !

I should say that the transit is one I managed to get through a deal that Ed worked with the OCE when he was working down there while the Colonels were in the U.S. All three of us got one - they're transits which were taken away from the Japanese Army. Don't quite know what I'll do with mine, but it can always be used by the Engineering Department of any college where I'm teaching. Suppose the instrument is actually worth a hundred and fifty dollars or so ! Can always hock it !

Well, think we're due for another promotion soon. The request for the promotion is all typed up and will go in next Monday, the orders should come through shortly after the first of the month. I'm to become a buck Sergeant and Larry and Ed are to be T/4's (all are equivalent in pay). We're not eligible for another promotion after this one for two months so I'm hoping we'll never make it but will be discharged first. Although come to think of it we'll be eligible the first of July and I hardly think I'll be out by then. It would be kinda fun to make Staff Sergeant but I certainly don't want to stay in any extra days to accomplish it !

I'm waiting to hear from Marian how she reacts to my idea of moving almost all of our stuff to Granville instead of only part of it. Still think we should do it that way or we'll be hauling stuff for months having to strap it to the car and pile it in and everything else and I've had too much of that to enjoy it !

Guess that's about the story for this time. Will keep you informed concerning any new developments !

Love,

Dick

Monday, April 29, 1946

Dear Mother and Dad and John:

Your nice long letter written Easter Sunday and Monday was received today. Letters have been coming through rather consistently in a week and it's certainly nice to have them. I was certainly pleased to hear all about the trees being in blossom and the rye being knee high. Sounds as though things are really beginning to perk under the influence of the April showers and sunshine!

One thing - guard those peach blossoms with your very life because I grow more and more optimistic that about August I'm going to be around there to eat them three times a day - no, better make it four times! This morning in a letter from Marian I received copies of a letter which Dr. Hollis of the U.S. Office of Education wrote to Colonel Hinshaw, Personnel Officer of Military Intelligence Service; in this letter Dr. Hollis certified my eligibility for release! Of course this certification is by no means a mandate to the War Department to discharge me, but, on the other hand, it is a recommendation which carries a lot of weight - at least I would think it would. I'm certainly pleased with this news and, as I say, it causes me to be pretty optimistic. Holy smoke, I wish I knew how soon there would be some news and I wish I had some idea how the news will come when it does come. The ideal thing would be for Washington to give Colonel Northrup the authority to order me home whenever he sees fit providing it's before the first of August or some date around then. If this should happen, I think the Colonel would just about let me "write my own ticket". My choice would be to take the Australian trip and right afterward leave for the U.S. But then, that would be just too good a deal!

Have little or no news on the Australian trip. Am quite certain it will come off all right but it probably will not be until the latter part of May or the first of June. The Colonels are going to make a trip to Shanghai sometime this coming month and there's also a rumor that they'll be going to Hawaii to pick up a larger airplane to use on the Australian trip. General Loper of the OCE will be going to Australia and he apparently wants to enjoy the comforts of a C-54 (a plane like the one we flew across the Pacific).

With the Officers all around we have been relatively busy here at the office, but by no means so busy that we've been at all strained! We spend a lot of time standing around "shooting the bull"; the Colonels are great guys for that occupation. They're certainly a pair!

Sounds as though you're really going to have a big celebration at the Lodge Hall. Too bad you were having so much trouble getting meat to eat - sounds to me as though the meat situation is as badly snagged up as a lot of things in the Army are. I wonder how soon people are going to realize that the only way they're going to get out of their difficulties is to get back to work and to produce some things. The simplest way to end the danger of inflation is to produce so much goods that people will not have to compete with one another to buy!

It was nice that you went over to see Beulah and Bill. B. wrote to Marian and Marian sent the card on to me that you had been there; said that they enjoyed having you. I hope that they got over to pay you a visit. I guess Bill is really a pretty busy boy. It must be nice out at their place at this time of the year with spring coming on! Glad that the shrubbery which Ray Binns left with them survived all right. I'm certainly anxious to see all the new plantings you have made around the house. Hope the willow tree pulls through all right; isn't a willow always a little slow at putting out leaves in the spring?