

Netherlands East Indies

9 Oct 44

Darling,

Everybody here is expecting big mail today or tomorrow, and we'll all be mighty disappointed if it fails to arrive.

We're just loafing around, improving our areas, and if it weren't ~~the~~ for the middle of the night calls of the Zeros, things would be very pleasant here.

You remember Sgt Avrett of the Medics--he had a tiny baby while we were at Shelby and I think you met him and his wife. (From Sampson, Ala.) Well, Avrett was given a combat commission as second lieutenant, MAC, yesterday. We're all very proud of him, of course, and glad that he received the promotion. He'll make a very good officer--better than most who went to school for their commissions.

Here's an idea I've been mulling over. See what you think of it. With proper editing, I believe my letters from New Guinea might make a fairly good book, especially for kids. Take all the letters and put them together in some sort of order, and aim them at children readers. The ones I wrote the kids I think might be especially suitable. Call it "V-Mail from New Guinea" or some such title. I believe it would be a war book that is different, showing the lighter side of the combat zone.

I think Jo Foxworth might be the very person to do the job. What do you think of the possibilities? Of course I don't know how the letters sound after they have gotten cold. But, if you think the idea any good at all, how about talking to Jo about it and see what she thinks after reading some of the stuff.

It's just an idea, of course, and the letters weren't written with this in mind, so if you and Jo, after she considers it, don't think it worth while, it's all the same to me.

I believe my tour in New Guinea will perhaps be the most colorful I will have had when the war ends. Whether I put it over in my letters, I don't know.

Another thought, if Jo does think well of the idea and there are any subjects on which elaboration is necessary or rewriting would improve, I could supply the added material from memory--plus a pretty good imagination. The photos you have might be used to illustrate.

I really think the idea worth talking over with Jo. If she doesn't have time to fool with it, Herbert Carver might like a go at it. He's with Dixie Advertisers, you know. Why don't you run up to see Jo or Herbert some ~~weekend~~ Friday and stay for a visit over the weekend. Take some of the letters and photos with you.

Here's hoping the mail does come in today. I know I'll have lots of letters.

Lots of love,

If you do go to Jackson, how about trying for some film--ask Jack Hancock if he can't help me out.