

Netherlands East Indies
1 November 44

Darling,

I sure was grateful for the mail today--your two letters of the 15th, one of the 16th and the 22nd. Got a Daily News of August 4, too.

I'm so glad the house is coming along in fine shape. I don't recall whether you mentioned papering or not. I think it would be an excellent idea as the entire house needs it badly. I have enough for another money order and will get it off as soon as I can get to the postoffice.

I was glad to get the clippings--although I wouldn't have recognized that old picture of Jiggetts. But, I suppose all of us are looking older now. I know my hair is getting pretty gray.

Yes, we had a sort of field day on bronze stars just before the general left. Most of them were for the division's last month of action in New Guinea--while I was in the hospital.

It's raining harder tonight than ever before--a couple of the fellows are arguing politics and they are having to scream at each other because of the noise the rain makes.

So you didn't like the picture, eh? Why shouldn't I be cheerful--after all I think I've been very fortunate. You are all well and that's the main thing. And, along that line, among the unfortunates was Roth. I'm glad he got to go home, but hate it that it was because of his wife's illness. She had a nervous breakdown and he had to go home to arrange for care of the children as her condition was very serious. I was particularly glad he could get out of this theatre, for he is of a nervous temperament, prone to worry and I think the war was just about to get him down, too. How is Louis Hutson getting along, incidentally? I suppose he was discharged as he was evenated with that in view.

In your letter of October 16th, I was amused at the "quandary" you said you were in. There is only one possibility and if you can't decide I can't tell you anything that would help, I don't suppose. One thing sure, the Daily News was just "shooting the moon" when they expounded their probabilities.

You talked about eating ice cream. Well, I did too--today. We made a deal with a Navy crew for some ice cream mix and got the QM to freeze it in their reefer. So, I ate a large soup bowl full, with peanuts sprinkled on top, and Hershey's chocolate syrup poured over. As good a Sundae I've ever eaten and about the best thing I've had to eat in months. I ate so much I just passed up the sausage patties and noodles for lunch.

I'm sorry to hear about Dr. Purser being ill. I won't mention it to Thomas, for I know he would worry. That man Mabel asked about is somewhere around here on this island. I'll look him up if she'll send me his full name and rank--and what's it to her. I haven't run into anybody who knows Andrew. As you probably know, he's on Makin (so Royce wrote me.) So that means we're getting closer together. Perhaps our paths will cross eventually after all (but not with his coming home this year.)

I'll be anxiously awaiting the arrival of the boxes. You didn't say what's in them, but I like surprises.

You wrote awhile ago that you had a new atlas. Tell Gene to read the papers every day in conjunction with the maps and it will be educating. If he will stick a pin in the map according to news stories in the past couple of months he will easily see how fast the war is moving over here.

Well, the rain is breaking through so 'll have to close the typewriter--can't afford to have it rust, valuable as they are over here.

Lots of love, *de*