

Netherlands East Indies

12 Nov 44

Dear Inez,

I haven't written in several days, because I couldn't have written a very enjoyable letter. As I sort of half expected, I got my ears knocked down insofar as promotion is concerned. There has been a change in our Table of Organization which changes the job of Medical Inspector from MAC back to MC. So, my promotion papers were returned for that reason. Also, that results in my being excess in the division. I can't say I'm sorry about that. For, as I've written before, I feel it's about time I changed surroundings. I'm hoping I can get something good, but any sort of change will be all right. As I'm slated to be a permanent captain, it seems, I would like to get as comfortable as possible. A job in a nice hospital wouldn't be bad. I've already told Col Jenkins and Col Goodwyn that I couldn't go back to the battalion.

A day or so before my papers were returned we had a request for the names of individuals who had had certain training which I did have. I talked to the Chief of Staff and he reported my name, stating that I was available for transfer. When the papers were returned I was very glad this action had been taken. If I get that assignment I will be very pleased. Of course I may not be one of those selected. But it's a possibility. (It's the kind of work I went to school for in Chicago).

Our first officer leaves tomorrow for Australia for a 15-day leave. I didn't even put in my name for I'm hoping later on we will be given leaves to the States. That would be a little better, I believe.

Don't worry about me as a result of the disappointing turn of events. I've gotten over it and am just anxious to get going on a new job.

I'm anxious to hear from you as the last letter I received was the one of the 31st. I wrote Gene as I said I would, and today I mailed the story of ~~mine~~ my dancing with the Indonesian maiden to the kids. Perhaps they will enjoy it.

Did you ever get up to Jackson to see Joe or Herbert? After thinking the book proposition over, I've come to the conclusion that perhaps neighter of them could piece those letters together with any sort of coherence. I would like to do something about it, though-- mainly to have something to do to occupy my time. What do you think about this idea? You go over the letters, beginning with the first one in which I described pulling into the harbor and seeing the little girl on shore (I believe I wrote that to Nan or Sue). Copy a brief synopsis of those which tell a story and send it to me. Just very short notes so I will recall the incidents. I believe I could expand the stories into readable form. If you think that you could do this, go right down the stack and send me three or four sheets with each of your letters.

Also, I'd like for you to number each of the photographs you have and send me a list of them. Something like this:

1. Boys showing lizard to native man.
2. Father John
3. Swinging bridge.

Then I will readily know what pictures you have negatives of. I should have done this myself, but didn't, before I sent them home. (Incidentally, I haven't received the pictures I sent to Jack Hancock-- and did I send the negatives of the native dance? I know I wanted some extra prints of them.)

I wrote a story about Father John for the Aussie magazine "Walkabout" but haven't heard from it yet.

Goodnight, darling, and loads of love.