

The Moluccas
21 Jan 44

Darling,

I haven't written you in several days--been on a little trip which I enjoyed very much--only thing, I was bitten all over by sand fleas when I slept on a beach. I'm writing the kids something about the trip, so I won't bore you with it.

I found a letter here from you dated Jan 7. Also Christmas cards from the Earl Gronstroms and the Dora Reedy circle, which I am reciting.

I was glad to get your letter of Dec 26 telling of your Christmas--received it several days ago, along with a letter dated Jan 3. Tell Gene it looks like he's going to beat me hunting--I haven't even had much chance for Jap hunting. There's deer back in the hills on this island, but I don't care to go after them. But, I'm beating him all to pieces fishing. Caught a ten pound king mackerel yesterday, an eight pound barracuda the day before and a two-foot sword fish today. We trolled from our boat during our trip.

I'm glad Mr. Hunt sent roses--just what I ordered, and glad they arrived on the day I wanted them to.

Thanks for the stamps--I thought it might be more convenient for you if my letters had enough postage when they arrived. Did the woven mat arrive ok? I hope Mary Lou's package was intact. The shells were just about all I could get as souvenirs then. Incidentally, did you and the girls ever receive your shell bracelets and pins? Also, a long time ago I sent Gene a stainless steel watch band, but I don't suppose it got through to him. Also I sent the kids some shells packed in a piece of bamboo about two months ago.

I finally got down to see the "L" boys--made some pictures and got some done for a story about them. The pictures turned out pretty good--I'll send them when I get the boys all identified. I didn't get to see them all, but they said every one was well. I hardly recognized Peanut Bailey and Bully Austin. Peanut has filled out considerably, while Bully looks so much older--as we all do, no doubt, after four years.

I am enclosing one of the pictures I made--snapped some of the boys just as they were leaving church services. Please have ten prints made and send to me so I can give one to each of the boys in the picture. I'll send negatives of the other pictures later and will want some prints of them, too. Did you receive the negatives I mailed about a week ago? When you send them, mail them first class air mail--I think you can mail up to 7 or 8 ounces, but don't make the letters too heavy or they will be delayed.

We made quite a few pictures on our trip and I'll send them when I get some prints--a couple of the fellows had cameras.

Had some "ice cream" tonight--not frozen, just powdered ice cream mix--added water and made a very good drink.

I'm kinda tired, so I'll turn in as soon as I can tonight--

thinking of you

with love

OB