

Netherlands East Indies
24 Nov 44

Darling,

Since the visits of Zeke and Betty, the Nipponese Moonlight Ramblers, has prevented my writing a letter at night lately, I've taken off this morning just to write you.

We had a very good Thanksgiving Day yesterday, both spiritually and gastronomically. We had Thanksgiving services at 1100, conducted by Chaplain Woolcott (Faulconer's successor). General Lowery read the President's proclamation and General Hutchinson delivered a very fine address. The band had a prominent part in the service. This was their second appearance on this island. They gave a concert Wednesday evening during supper hour. I made a couple of pictures of the service and got General Martin in one of them. He's a youngish looking man and everybody seems to like him very much.

Some of our units had Thanksgiving dinner at noon, some in the evening. Ours was at noon. Great slices of white meat and dark, cornbread dressing, peas, potatoes, fruit cocktail and pumpkin pie, with iced tea. Oh, yes, plenty of giblet gravy. For supper the EM had creamed turkey on toast, too, while we had turkey soup. It was very good, but I'm afraid a lot of the boys ate too much, since they had quite a run of the GI's last night.

We have a couple of Aussie officers living with us temporarily, and they didn't know the meaning of the celebration. But, when it was explained to them and they had eaten dinner, they said they thought it a very fine holiday—"when is the next one?"

In your letter of the 9th you mentioned Jo was reading the letters, but in your letter of the 13th you didn't mention it. So, I rather expect that Jo had decided not to tackle the job. I'm inclined to think, myself, that possibly the only way the book could be written would be for me to rewrite the letters into some sort of sequence. I didn't keep copies of them, of course, so that would be difficult unless I had the ~~handwritten~~ original letters before me. I expect you wrote more about it in letters I haven't received yet.

Got a note from Alson yesterday. He has had an article accepted by Liberty. Said he had submitted several through the War Department, so he doesn't know which will be published.

I'm not surprised that Mamma was hurt by Andrew's failing to wire her earlier. She is so touchy about such things. I expect she's feeling bad toward me, too, for I haven't written her in some time. I should write more often, but I just haven't been in the mood to write lately--as the number of letters you have received proves.

I'm glad Royce got the tools and hope it wasn't too much trouble for him--what did he do, lay off all day to find them? Incidentally, I'm mailing you a box today--an Indonesian sleeping mat and a cane for my old age. Also a lot of shells, which will no doubt vex you. I addressed Christmas cards last night and will mail them shortly after the 1st. Mamma, Smiths, Royce, Canolea, Enterprise, Daily News, Lester Williams, Santa Tackett, Carol Landis. I don't believe you mentioned the kids' V-Mail cards, but I suppose they arrived okay.

I'd like to see you all dressed up in the new duds--I'd like to see you anyway.

Jone
ce