



UNITED STATES ARMY

Somewhere in New Guinea
26 March 1944

My darlings.

Just had a nice steak dinner--Ox steak--and it was quite a treat. Today was just another work day, but we expect to be able to take off next Sunday. This morning we did stop work for an hour for church services. Chaplain Bussman is a very fine man and most sincere--which is more than I can say for a few chaplains. The congregation--the entire battalion, except for Catholics who will have mass tonigh.

Our PX opened today giving us a chance to make our first purchases with our Australian money. We had quite a time making change. I just gave the steward a pound and told him I hoped I made out all right with the change. Perhaps you'd be interested in what we can buy at the PX--handkerchiefs, cigarettes, towels, tooth and shaving cream--not rationed. Rationed articles are candy, two boxes of gumdrops, one box hard lemon drops, one package of gum, one small can of peanuts and one small can of grapefruit juice--this is the amount allowed an individual for one week and the total cost was about six shillings--about ninety cents.

I've gotten some bracelets made from Aussy coins which I will send my gals as soon as possible. They're very nice and didn't cost too much.

I hope you haven't been too worried about me, although I know what the anxiety of waiting for letters that don't come does for you. I hope mail will get out regularly now. There was so little opportunity of sending mail enroute. Did you get my cable from Panama? I sent you and Mamma one from here a couple days ago.

Don't bother to send me anything special--I know of nothing I particularly need. I'll send you some money for that account at the bank as soon as we are paid. Write me how you are getting along financially--and otherwise. I hope and pray you're all well.

You know, as the strangeness of the jungle and birds and natives wears off, I'm getting the feeling, almost, of being in a camp in the States. we are so much better off than we were in Louisiana and practically as well fixed as we were in Florida and Texas. The principal difference is the slowness of mail service and the fact that I know I couldn't get home in an emergency--which I hope doesn't happen. I've received no mail since the first day here, but am still hoping. I'll try to write as often as possible--although I've missed a couple days already. I'm writing Andrew again now that I can say we're in New Guinea--have no idea where he is of course. Haven't seen Fred Bradshaw yet, but he came by camp one day while I was away. If you get a chance get George Byrne's address for me. Wasn't one of the Chapman boys down here?

We're going to a creek a little way off this afternoon after work--I know Gene would like to be along--and I'd like to have you all here. Loads of love,