

Friday, Dec 5, 1941

Dear Folks,

This last week has been a pretty quiet one for me. We got away and ended up down here in Iloilo. It is not much of a town, apparently the center for a lot of sugar plantations around the island (Panay). It has been a lot cooler than anything I have experienced since leaving the States, and that means a lot. We are able to sleep comfortably so everybody is a lot happier.

We have been right busy in getting things straightened out on the ship, and that is pretty well in hand now. We are getting a new boss on board. He is that friend of the Bunkleys whom they were down south with. I suppose that you have read in the papers of his leaving his old job. The gunboats and marines got into Manila yesterday, I think it was.

I suppose that tomorrow we may know a little more about how things are going to turn out here, after the Japs have explained why they need so many troops in IndoChina. I guess that things are just about as tense as anyone wants to make them now. At least we should get a decision pretty soon, as nobody is going to keep on this way very long. Even the people here are affected by it, chiefly due to the fact that they cannot move their sugar. And the Japs are certainly digging themselves in worse all the time.

Needless to say we are glad to know of the British naval reinforcements in Singapore. We just hope they have a really sizeable force there now.

None of us have any idea of where we are going or what we will be doing from now on. They keep awfully quiet about that, but I imagine that we will keep on the move a good deal.

A lot of those on here have been having colds and a touch of grippe. So far I have managed to remain comparatively free from it and hope that I can keep on. These colds out here are a nuisance and hang on for about two weeks once they get started. I have recently had to spend a lot of time in town here trying to arrange for a movie each night. They think the movies are right important to morale, as the men have literally nothing to do with their spare time, and very little liberty is granted. So far I have managed to get enough of them, but the local supply will soon be exhausted.

I hope that we are going to stay around for at least one more day as I want to play golf tomorrow afternoon. They have a very good little course over here.

I hope that all of you are still well and happy, and that you are going to have a very pleasant Christmas season. I know that you will be glad to have Mary at home again.

Devotedly,
Robert