

Somewhere in New Guinea
Saturday, 8 April 44

Darling,

I hate to have to start out every letter with the same old story--no mail, but that's the way it is--very disappointing.

Yesterday was a memorable Good Friday for us--we had our first ice issue and lemon-concentrate-ade we had for supper--good. Saw lots of fellows I knew yesterday--looked for Luther but didn't see him. My good man Friday, Steve St Germain, walked in yesterday so we had quite a homecoming.

You should see our little house now--all screened fly and ratproof, so now we can sit around the tent without our shirts during our time off. Talking of rats, I caught three with a trap underneath my cot a couple nights ago. Probably would have caught some more if I had heard the trap and reset it again.

Yesterday I was driving along a grail--kumai grass 10 feet high on either side. Suddenly I saw ahead of me, sitting in the ditch, a huge wallaby--fully as large as any kangaroo I've ever seen. He gazed at me for a minute then leisurely hopped off on his tail through the grass. I was more excited that he was, I'm sure.

Dominic showed me a clipping from the Enterprise concerning the Hontzas Cambezas fracas--which looks like a real mess to me. He only received the first clipping, so we're naturally wondering how the case came out. That's something I find I'm missing--news. If you would enclose an occasional clipping I would appreciate it--for receipt of second classmail seems uncertain--I haven't gotten a copy of any paper since our arrival. I'm enclosing a note to the Daily News--perhaps that will fix that up.

Just had a nice swim, along with several Buna Boys--and it's "siesta time" in New Guinea now--we have 2 hours and a quarter off for lunch. Yesterday we had a big gang of natives down to build us a big supply shed--those monkeys put up a pole building in one day that would probably have taken us two weeks to build. They are really good workers.

I got your letter about the overcoat--you needn't worry, those are required for all personnel--or were. There's no need for them here for anybody. I wonder did you ever receive the white blankets? I forgot whether you said you had or not. Or did I bring them home when I came on leave. I just got to thinking about them and wondered. Did I write you I had mailed four bracelets to you--I hope the smaller ones are big enough for Nan and Sue. I bought the larger ones--for you and Carol--from an Aussie (they're busy peddling all the time) and made the smaller ones. They aren't so well made, but maybe N & S will appreciate my arduous labors. The coin collection in the smaller ones is quite interesting, don't you think? Today we ate our first ripe bananas--so now we can just reach up in the office and pull one off the stem when we feel like it.

Well, I've got to sign off and take a nap before work begins. Oh, I forgot to tell you we had Good Friday services last night with a large crowd present. Tomorrow we have sunrise Easter services and will have the day off. The chaplain has been busy all day decorating our "chapel" with flowers and ferns--looks right good.

Will write again soon,

Love,
