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Albert J. Sedlacek Korean War Correspondence

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4-28-1953

# 1953-04-28, Albert to Joan

Albert J. Sedlacek

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#### **Subject Terms**

Boats, doctors, food, health, personal narratives, post-war planning, sailors, soldiers, stores, transportation,

#### **Keywords**

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Prov albut J. Sellacek RA12422130 Prov Go. S.E. Nº 1101 APO 613 C/o Post Moster, SAN Fransico, Calif.



# VIA AIR MAIL

miss Joan C. Palmer 84 West 176th St. Brons 53, New York U.S. A.





USNS MARINE LYNX is a C-4 type Navy transport built in 1945 in Vancouver, Wash. She is 523 feet long, 72 feet wide and can cruise at 17 knots. Complete facilities for troop recreation are available on board. Equipped with modern safe-

ty and life-saving gear, the ship is part of the fleet of transports and cargo vessels operated by the Military Sea Transportation Service, Department of the Navy.

This was the shipse crossed the Pacific on. all docked at yokahawa, Jupan, Med, May 13, 1953. Exactly 3, 129 Brun disenbacked I'll be quite bury the nell several months, but you can expect me lack as soon as my jobs done.

Place Stamp Here

## POST CARD

Address

To

Joanie

with all my fort



SIXTH ARMY April 28, 1953

Diarling:

Mere on oux way, off to sacred,

mysterious & yet lovely Drient, as we

steadily moved out to she blas Parific, through

Pugeth Sound, we stood on deck trying to

get a last look of the U.S. The wien friends

blowing slightly, & as some spray lit acound

no, my thoughts turn from being a infantryman

trafarry beet bottom sailor. I quickly had

these thoughts discharged from my mund once

the heaving gang started the lad above at

1:30 a then I started to write you. I figure

one everyday, dray? I gaing to Lit my

strecher & get some sleep Bood high foarie"

april 29th —

Bot up this morning with a real appeits?

after a long wait my stomach was rewarded with eggs, saveage, sereal, print, brook butter, toppe.

as I went up to the main cleck, the baddowells were filled with moaning & growning troopers away, but they all had one wanter to close was, they didn't reach the raidy in common, I that was, they didn't reach the raidy in time, I that walking on deck, I must paul & we walked to the bow of the ship & just talked a booked out across a pretty by acean.

We stood there for quite swhile, till the (shall we say "aroma") from the overflowing food of the person, who said make the rails, Lites. Paul quietly climbed down his latchury for cleaner breathing, as I went to the hatchway leading to suchbay. Climbing down the stairs again & reviewed the same sign on when I cans on deck, but this time it was double. I told the medic my reason for wanting to go to sickbay + he politily showed me the way. The ductor not tea lick." I quickly told him at know, al came down here because my dunt got inferted again. He looked at it sternly, + said get an the table. It frage my Thunk, took the scalpet - cut, there were Two men being breated for seasistness, who when sow the stuff cooking from my hand just Turned green + ran to the Latrins. He bundaged the hand & your me a penicilling shot tempined to quarters slip . al went buck to my (bunk?) and read a book of ell + again water patienally . He som were allowed to sat a after I again went up on dick for fresh air + a smoke. I was soon driven clown from their, because the belowing y most of its men. I have a atrong stomack + my mind can't be talked into getting seaset, but how much can a human stomach take. So far the only place it can get a way from



The pleluge, is my bunk. at least all al fowe to ap boar is the moraning of the men. We tate about at 8 octock and if just made the closer to the mess helf before they closed it. We all with less mess than ever, since on board. I wint up topsed once more to then came bock sown to my cell block, campailment 4 E. It began this writing, being wirds awake but this rocking puts me askip foot, Joanie, that a beautiful mame! I wonder what it im going to dream about tonight. Proably the two of us on a spipwreched Island board high, if we you!

hot much happened today, except most of the when feel better, thank Book! after clock this morning, I went topside & welked to the bow of the ship of just stood there & boated out across the water & my thoughts then to home if was wondering where you were & what you might be doing at that immens. How much I would lack given to be with you, see & just talk to you the sea is a pretty by place & it can make awful lonely at thought what my morther might have for themes & then my favorities popped through my head.

I was thinking how much I would like to lave seen the baby, before I left. set's furny, Il Minkiwas more worries than Fridalis. after awhile, it went to the suchbay+ got another slot of Pencilin, Then wentdock to my bunk + read the book of started. I slidn's more much except for class, during the rest of the day me played some cards for (no money) and he ged part the time away, it obecan fog us last might but Mwash on a ship weekle statund. alt was about the two is walding down a long deserted street, with wierd creatures, gumping in an out of the stores. It can we finally made our way to the end of the street, there was a large steel box. He started To climb The sleps to get to the box. When we reached & opened the lox thorows mitting in it. I son't know what This dream mean except at leat we were both together cas al wish we were this very moment. com. young to stare man of then did the rack. maybe thought of Ill lave a much more remantic dream, somewhere in my subconcious mind. Bard- Bight Farling I hope when it reach Japan, some of your letters will be reacting for me. "I LOVE YOU AND ANDENFULL LOT!



may 1st Well today we had a movie on board ship. Dean martin o gerry Lewis in War with the demy the picture is about year old but lufile al didn't see it before. It was quite amusery and it took my mind away from home. He clow isn't getting any better & I'm getting hungrier by the day. I went to
the sickley for my last shot & they bother
at my thund & shed it is almost lealed. It looks like a you chunk of ment, all lasted up after bunch of started reading your letters and felt at ease. It's harp to write on board skip with its tossing & everything. With mothing really happening from day to day the contents might seem awfully regulioned! I started day dreaming white I read your letters land thought about all the Things we did all the places we land gone together. I especially Thought of Two places. I guess one we conever forget, everytime il think of it il have to laugh & get a little red in my lace.

alls the time when we went to Horence's birthday porty + you put the cake in my face. It wonder if you ever think about that time or would you nather jorget about it. The other place that I was thinking about, was the time we went to Rochaway. not that the day was so important that it should stick out and he remembered set just that after we had firming what little swiming who diet ( you hardy wen west in) + we dad dinish eating. We went to the answerment grank + you were so scared to go on the rolle colester. you were like a sighten kiel & after we came down you wouldn't go on amything that howhed dangerous. after, if you remember, we decloded to lay on the beach + listen to The radio. after you had called your mother To unswed her you still were him to that I ship's drown you. Remember as we were bying on the sand how the san was real black of the stars were shining over us & how Their light would make finney light on the water Al started getting cold after That maybe in worn's such on important day to remember, but at give anything to be there mow, with you, booking up to the sky faving you close, and just histing to waves a music. Well mow I have something to think about while trying to fall osless. "Exite racht mine schone Engel."



SIXTH ARMY

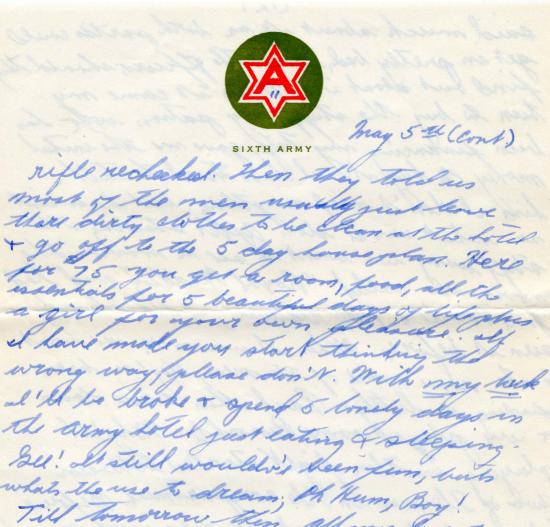
Joanie; I'm diging from hunger. What junk their seeding us, by I wouldn't feel that stuff to a beagult. I could go for a jury thick stack or some Paga, ravioli or even some lamburgers. With the food a new cool represency glass of beer. Ammon, but it's willy a dream. When I'm settled over in Horea, in a mice Bunker" you can start sending a package or two of food. That is if the killy is replined????? al bet I sound like a log; always talking Well today is faturday and what away to spend its cramped up in & "cattle-boat". This way at least I can't spend any money don't love any to spend. When it lift To board the skip, on Tuesday, They was a money order ( That may father set to me) slaying in the loc, in the Bor Office al Lone they forwarded it to Joycan, so when all get of the stip, it the waiting There really wan't much to say or write albert, so al'el read if book or if Paul comes over we'll pluz some cardo. So any Mieder selen

Lunday may 3 rd Hey had services belong for the men, but at didn't see the getting my to go. not only am so hungry has layy as well alive finished three books so far + & started on a new one this morning. so for al relad "Desenchanted" Connery fow", "morning foweney a mon al im redding a tone Danny Fisher". By the time of come some a l'el be a expert on all the movels written in the last 10 years. The slap long food for Blakfort Times. supply we had Turkey, but you would've needed a microscopt to find it. It's getting larder by the day to find something to write maybe if I threw somelooly over the fide, I could write something interesting? Paul came down a few minutes ogs, 4 les bech warten, grem to first writing so we can play cards to lif you will I'll close writing, okay. of really muss you gretty bad, at wight I was a real good owinner, then I'd swim night back to the U.S.A.



SIXTH ARMY May 4 th maybe my luck is changing, I lope so, anyway. Today wo lad Bings on the ships for my compactment. my bank mate, from Co'C' at Dix, and myself went up to game a little early. We looked at the prices, which compressed a watch, Parker 50'sel, pipe, writing Lis, AWOL boy & a few more they all told win any of these things it would plotosly be the Awal Page; The game started + I wan the first game, the prize being No MWOL Bay. Il felt like giving is back, knowing al wouldn't lave any use for it, where se'm going. Hoving levan el couldn't compete in any more games, so al went book down to my hunk. Som the game was over the gulys came down. al quickly tried to sell the bag, it was worth \$6. to somebody. algot \$3 - for it bought the jupe from the day who was is. Il pipe coal of so actually of gain on the deal besides the pipe. So now if fare something at ear use while al'in over bere. mot much else daggen todag? so I'll say "Demain j'ecrit" Okay?

(10) may 5th al lopening that you, were able to understand my Trench, that I used last night. Out land leard that There with all they hearter that I wish you were close to me now in the French Language. Raturally, mot knowing French, of ban It say you or mo, if its true. Sometime I wonder what you think, when I write so often how at this you & long for your love? maybe it sounds thurda funny coming from a jork like me I think at hetter stop this, mutty writing again, rightere. The water is real there no far a The eye can see. The surface is amoth, relques calm would round better, like a like lake. Tomorrow will be Thursday may 7th. We well cross the International date line Tonigat so we'll love Wed may 6 24. elt seems at lave a patron, kert on loard. His guy, met a queex, beeps on luying looks, candy, sode, arguelles, crokes almust anything officed el met him in Pt. Lewis & he plays Pinochle (cards) with us. al know I shouldn't let him be go love with his money, but for a clarge its not me. We were told exiliet today in a lecture on Japan, about gething a pass for 5 days, after your months on the front During that stay in Jopan, you can stay at a rest total, where food o a room is free. all your clother are clean as well as your



the army botel just eating & sleging. Se! It still wouldn't keen fun, buts what the use to dream; At Kum, Boy! Till Tomorrow then, all my love, to my (Dodo ) - D. B. ( Dinky) 0

may 7th Today has been another nice day as far as the weather goes. Livas sunny a warm, the water calm & the men were quito critable. after breakfast we stood on the P.T. line to buy some candy & kolobour tobacco for my m sipe. Oas we stood on line, a fight started between a negro & while boy. one tried to brake into the line & this brought on the fight altwas stop almost as soon as it was started. hobody

said much about it, as both parties could get in pretly bad, with the officers; should they find but about it. When is came my turn to buy the stuff, my patron who has been financing my trip, gave me the inital money to buy it I shaw tried to tell. find I don't need anything, but he went so what can it do after stowing the shiff away we went to see a marker. The movie was called "Royal Medding" and has Jane Powell o Fred Watanie, of his abread, seen it before. When it was over, we want + ale some more of the meso, they've been feeling us lately. Paul then cans down + we played some Penockle. Why'll playing another fight started between Two of The men in The compartment Before it was broke up about six men werd mixed in it. again it was between white + black. He felling here is getting worse everyday. elt was kushed up & all went go back to what they were doing. Me played Till Paul had to go on quard dety. I was booking it a poder game, when my friend gave me a dollar o said" M Sems you want to play my lerra doffer".

I worked it up to 7:35. + Ilen

I deceded to quit. Well now at love some money thanks to my friend,



SIXTH ARMY may gith (cont.)

al yave him his stollar back & gans him Two dollars out of the 7. The real I hope to work up to a more require amount. Well mothering more to write about, except that we closed the Maternational date line during

the night. What a date this has halos, everything is breaking bose. We had a Gang fight last might after at went to las a Today we had a big braws in the med/compartment! This place is getting botter than dell. Here we are 3,000 men going to fight a war, a yet we fight among surselves. While against black against spaniards, southers Lagainst Brotherners, & Casterno vs. Mestirners and Darling al'm mot joking, it pretty serious. showly the late here against one another is getting worse. The you have to do is talk or how crosslyed at someone &

smack, right in your face, it'm swee

glad that at come from 3. 9 me hear about our racial & religious segregation of but its mothing to compact with the hating, I mean really fating a person canse his skin is dark ou he's a yew or a catholic! I never believed to much what I heard about the south. but know one will change my mind mow. The white folks on the ship from the south, Mabbana, Geo, Tenn, & Kenl, Texas dunes all hell, ignorant as for as personel liberties go for other omen. Saying " as long as They stay in Their place we " Thelesate them", "Head same people call themselves american & Christians. The where boys lating the whites for all The pressure put on them. Being in the army a laving the same privilges as the white fand taking to much for granted, over exercing There new born precedom a equality. Mesting Southerners, northerners hohing & feeling rounder at the Easternes for their better Claring money in there pockets, talk about the way people live in the Earl act better thand one another than any where in the state. Hen comes new york, forlowlers all the



SIXTH ARMY may 8 th book.

soilder from these whis & Town get Confused resentful. They can't lunderstand how we can let negroes & Pueto Rican live so char to the whites . have negro doctor help bring about the with of a white child. Having mis marriages with racial a well as religans differences. Here's so many the things & styre reasons till are given for all there later. yet we've going to signing in Korea when our own back your is filthy with significed thoughts to actions, Ale some things were fighting over in Korea for one begins to think which side in the worse, The one your sent To Sight against, the one who sent you or among yourselves. Il ques I have written my self

ant. I hope I lavn't hored you will This shad of the trip of very own stoughts as bad as at truid to make them would Good-might sweethout all my love.

(16)may gth Loday I Took life real easy a just laid in my behok a read. I finished "Tabille Flet" finished "alstone for Danny Tister" "Tabille Flet" "Case Book of Sherlock Kolmes, Quel in the lain & started on "Turquoise". Once I'm settled over in my new lome, you can send me some Pockel Book editions. ( no westerns or multy mystereys) of guess by mor you should Love received my (so called) fewely Box. el Lope you liked it, even though it warn's finish or from bado 5 the Me get a newspaper live, printed by the ships crew, who in it, we love head about the see-saw conditions in Korea. He general feeling here is " He hell with all this talking most of the mon nather be in a fight than holed to all this lope for talk, that keys on picking your hopes up a then dropping them Mrs Rey on saying to the "Chinese" that we won't leave anymore of the stabling proposal, but the next day were shell there listening to men only. about what I weole yesterday, if bried to stow you what bound of these boys feels think toward one land ther, electh, through tradition a what their parents taught them. Well alguess that's all for to might.



SIXTH ARMY May 10 th

another sunday, and is would be just one more day paway from bom. except that it's Thothers Day. We were deliberating wether today Clevas mothers Day or mot & came to the conclusion that it was. So I lope you will extend my best to your nother, plus all the lagrements health in the world. naturally al would have liked to bedone today + see my mother. you know? When your away you start thinking about all the things you did a said to lund your porents you begin to wonder how they could have taken all your ill treatment. Hen you see, gust for much they must brodyou a hold dier to them. Diel you ever think that by Jum may 1956 you migst be celerbrating your own mother's Day. That is, if everything goes right a if you like it cut to many of your Kygien classe????? I played some poter today & I more land \$21 from the original & started will there. I findly or started on "Brow bests". I never thought at the would like to read son much. We had southern wish chicken today o el was bucky, il got two half's, making one whole chicken. I dinated it weldows

raising an eyebrow. My should hit Yokalama by Tuesday oftenoor & unload. From they, we go directly to Camp Grake, in Buses. al lope that we get paid, plus my money order, should be three, and the money of love now. would give me enough to being some soveners to send home. naturally that would only layous to send home. naturally that would only layous if we stay in lang & rate, longermough for a your. Well darling that all for tholay, lave to shore & then lit my streeker! "Butto hack mem siline Blunde midel may 11, 1953 Jeday was another ordinary day. Bothing paymented on board to change the dull routine of the past two weeks. We did have a physical evam, but that all. While systains laving the exam, somebody helped Thenselves to my book, "Bean Bests". So I started a new book called "loronads 's Children. al was right in the middle of Beau Beste" and I was quite interested in the story. It been anyfully hot down in the compartones all day, so we went upto the main deck. We dids 'I stay up long, there were to many men on dick & the the wind was blowing to much. So we've heer glazing cardo most y asternoon. And having much to write today! I'll end this writing for today.



SIXTH ARMY Trusday

May 12, 1963

al and a fow of the men lad clean up detail today. He worked on cleaning up the compartment for 2 hes after claw. When we finally were finished we went up on leed. While on deck we sigiled a flest of Japanes. fishing boats. Some of the boats were were but mous of them booked old o ready for Davy Jones Lorder". Once the men san Them a big jeer arose from their masort they ran to the rachings to sew the sight I guess is made them feel good to see something besides water & the other men on board. The rest of the day we hept an passing small fishing crafts, as we came closerts gapans The 'ne suggest to hit Japan, at 4 0.4 Emorrow. We had a practice disembarkation dielf, so we'll know just where to go before we love

The ship . Owe group will be all the way up as son of the ship, + well to the last to leave The ship all in all the trip wasn't to land.

The food wasn't good o we had some tweethe among the men, but at most

part it was endurable. Tratually reading your letters over a couple of times a thinking of Lome goast most of the lime away, Even Though it made me fel how at times to Think of leaving you a everyone behind. I hope you down't been worried or gotten pered, because you didn't receive a letter from mo und who. hatwally you it understand me you receive This letter. I hope that money it's contents das hould you on the landwriting caused you unicessary eye strain. Due to the fact that I leaving the sky tomorrow al won'N continier This letter later in Jane. I'll Try & mail this letter right away & start a men one in the the barracks, (man out of wany bullie) So at long last this letter well work, to an end. Darling I hope that we will mever have to class writing to one another for any reason. Jounes at want you To know that I'll always be in love with you, no matter what . I hape you'll always remember this, Okay? Sive my regard, to your pounts, June, Johnny, Ray oth Bang with all my tore

[[Ashley McLaughlin 2/4/17]]

[[Albert J. Sedlacek Correspondence #1]]

[[Page 1- Envelope front]]

Pvt Albert J. Sedlacek [[Stamp: AIR MAIL 6C]]

RA 12422130 [[Stamp: THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE U.S. 3©]]

Prov Co. S.E. NO 1101 [[Stamp: THOMAS JEFFERSON 3C]]

APO 613 [[Faded Circular Stamp: ARMY-AIR FORCE POSTAL SERVICE

C/O Post Master MAY 14 1953 615]]

SAN Fransico, Calif.

[[Text: VIA AIR MAIL]]

Miss Joan C. Palmer 84 West 176<sup>th</sup> St. Bronx 53, New York U.S.A. [[Page 2- Postcard front]]

[[Image: U.S. Naval ship Marine Lynx]]

[[Text: U.S. NAVAL SHIP MARINE LYNX]] [[Text: Wood]]

#### [[Page 3- Postcard back]]

[[Image: Department of the Navy

Military Sea Transportation Service emblem]]

[[Text: USNS MARINE LYNX is a

C-4 type Navy Transport built in 1945 in Vancouver, Wash. She is 523 feet long, 72 feet wide and can cruise at 17 knots. Complete facilities for troop recreation are available on board.

Equipped with modern safe-

ty and live-saving gear, the ship is part of the fleet of transports and cargo vessels operated by the Military Sea Transportation Service, Department of the Navy.]]

This was the ship we crossed the Pacific on.

It docked at Yokohama, Japan, Wed., May 13, 1953.

Exactly 3,124 men disembarked.

I'll be quite busy the next

several months, but you can expect me back as

soon as my jobs done.

[[underline]] Albert [[/underline]]

[[Image: square frame, "Place Stamp Here"]]

[[Text: POST CARD]]

[[Text: Address]]

To

Joanie

with all my Love

[[underline]] Albert [[/underline]]

[[Page 4- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 1]]
April 28, 1953

Darling:

Were on our way, off to sacred, mysterious + yet lovely Orient. As we steadily moved out to the blue Pacifico, through [[Puges?]] Sound, we stood on deck trying to get a last look of the U.S. The wind was blowing slightly, + as some spray [[hit?]] around us, my thoughts turn from being a infantryman to being a fancy bell bottom sailor. I quickly had those thoughts discharged from my mind once the [[h----ing]] gang started. We hhad show at 7:30 + then I started to write you. I figure I'll write one continuous letter instead of one everyday, Okay? I going to [[hit?]] my stretcher + get some sleep—"Good-Night Joanie" April 29<sup>th</sup>—

Got up this morning with a real appeitie!

After a long wait my stomachwas rewarded
with eggs, sausage, cereal, fruit, bread + butter, Coffee.

As I went up to the main deck, the ladderwells
were filled with moaning + groaning troopers.

Some longing to die, some wanting to blow
away, but they all had one thing in common, + that
was, they didn't reach the railing in time.

While walking on deck, I met [[underline]] Paul [[/underline]] + we
walked to the bow of the ship + just talked
+ looked out across a pretty big ocean.

(2)

We stood there for quite while, till the (shall we say "aroma") from the overflowing food of the persons, who did make the the rails, [[?]]. Paul quickly climbed down [[his?]] latchway for cleaner breathing, as I went to the latchway leading to sickbay. Climbing down the stairs again I reviewed the same sight as when I came on deck, but this time it was double. I told the Medic my reason for wanting to go to sickbay + he politely showed me the way. The doctor came in + looked at me saying; "Your not sea sick-" I quickly told him I know; I came down here because my tunb got infected again. He looked at it sternly, + said get on the table. He froze my thumb, took a scalpel + cut. There were two men being treated for seasickness, who when saw the stuff coming from my hand just turned green + ran to the latrine. He banaged the hand + gave me a penicillin shot + confined to quarter ship. I went back to my (bunk?) and read a book and fell asleep. I got up when chow call was given + again waited patiently. We [[som?]] were allowed to eat + after I again went up on deck for fresh air and a smoke. I was soon driven down from their, because of the behavior of most of the men. I have a strong stomach + my mind can't be talked into getting seasick, but how much can a human stomach take. So far the only place I can get a way from

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 3]]

the deluge, is my bunk. At least all
I have to [[strikethrough]] y [[/strikethrough]] hear is the moaning of the men. We ate [[slow?]] at 8 o'clock and I just made the door to the mess hall before they closed it. We ate with less men than ever, since on board. I went up topside once more + then came back down to my cellblock, compartment 4E. I began this writing, being wide awake but this rocking puts me asleep fast. Joanie, thats a beautiful name! I wonder what I'm going to dream about tonight. Proabbly the two of us on a shipwrecked Island. Good-Night, I love you!

April 30<sup>th</sup>—

Not much happened today, except most of the men feel better, thank God! After chow this morning, I went topside + walked to the bow of the ship. I just stood there + looked out across the water + my thoughts turn to home I was wondering where you were + what you might be doing at that moment. How much I would have given to be with you, see + just talk to you. The sea is a pretty big place + it can make [[^]] you [[/^]] awful lonely. I thought what my mother might have for dinner + then my [[favorites?]] popped through my head.

(4)

I was thinking how much I would like to have seen the baby, before I left. It's funny, I think [[^]] I [[/^]] was more worried than Freddie. After awhile, I went to the sickbay + got another shot of Penicilin, then [[went back?]] to my bunk + read the book I started. I didn't move much except for chow, during the rest of the day. We played some cards for (no money) and helped past the time away. I drean't of us last night but it wasn't on a shipwrecked Island. It was about the two us walking down a long deserted street, with wierd creatures jumping in and out of the stores. When we finally made our way to the end of the street, there was a large steel box. We started to climb the steps to get to the box. When we reached it + opened the box there was nothing in it. I don't know what this dream meant except at least we were both together as I wish we were this very moment. I'm going to shore now + [[then hit the sack?]] Maybe tonight I'll have a much more romantic dream, somewhere in my subconcious mind. Good-Night Darling, I hope when I reach Japan, some of your letters will reach me. [[underline]] "I LOVE YOU AN AWFUL LOT"! [[//underline]]

#### [[Page 8- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 5]]

## May 1<sup>st</sup>—

Well today we had a movie on board ship. Dean Martin + Jerry Lewis in War with the Army the picture is about 1 year old but luckily I didn't see it before. It was quite [[?]] and it took my mind away from home. The chow isn't getting any better + I'm getting hungrier by the day. I went to the sickbay for my last shot + they looked at my thumb + and said it's almost healed. It looks like a [[strikethrough]] ju [[/strikethrough]] chunk of meat, all [[lasted]] up. After lunch I started reading your letters and fell at ease. Its harp to write on board ships with its tossing + everything. With nothing really happening from day to day the contents might seem awfully [[repetitious?]]. I started day dreaming while I read your letters and thought about all the things we did + all the places we love gone together. I especially thought of two places. I guess one we'll never forget, everytime I think of t, I have to laugh + get a little red in my face.

(6)

It's the time when we went to Horence's birthday party + you put the cake in my face. I wonder if you ever think about that time or would you rather forget about it.

The other place that I was thinking about, was the time we went to Rockawaynot that the day was so [[strikethrough]] [[?]] [[/strikethrough]] important that it should stick out and be remembered its just that after we had finish what little swimming we did (you barely went in) + we had finish eating. We went to the amusement park + you were so scared to go on the roller coaster. You were like a frighten kid + after we came down you wouldn't go on anything that looked dangerous. After, if you remember, we decided to lay on the beach + listen to the radio. After you had called your mother to ensure you still were living + that I didn't drown you. Remeber as we were lying on the sand how the sky was real black + the stars were shining over us + how their light would make [[funny?]] light on the water. It started getting cold + I gave you my jacket, Boy! I almost froze after that. Maybe it wasn't such an important day to remember, but I give anything to be there now, with you, looking up to the sky, having you close, and just listening to waves + music. Well now I have something to think about while trying to fall asleep. "Gütte Nacht Miene Schone Engel."

## [[Page 10- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 7]]

May 2<sup>nd</sup>—

Joanie!, I'm dying from hunger.

What junk their feeding us, boy; I
wouldn't feed that stuff to a beagull.

I could go for a juicy thick steak
or some Pizza, ravioli or even some hamburgers.

With the food a nice col refreshing
glass of beer. Hmmm, but it's only
a dream. When I'm settled over in
Korea, in a nice "Bunker" you can start
sending a package or two of food. That
is if the [[kithy?]] is repl[[---]]sh???? I
bet I sound like a [[hog?]]?, always talking
about food.

Well today is Saturday and what away to spend it cramped up in a "cattle-boat'. This way at least I can't spend any money, don't have any to spend. When I left to board the ship, on Tuesday, there was a money order (that my father sent to me) laying in the [[box?]], in the [[P N?]] Office. I hope they forwarded it to Japan, so when I get off the ship, it'll be waiting. There really isn't much to say or write about, so I'll a book or if Paul comes over we'll play some cards. So "Auf Wiedersehen"

(8)

Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>

They had services today for the men, but I didn't feel like getting up to go. Not only am I hungry but lazy as well. I've finished three books so far + I started on a new one this morning. so far I read "Desenchanted", "Cannery Row", "Morning Journey" + now I'm reading "A Stone [[^]] for [[/^]] Danny Fisher." By the time I come home I'll be a expert on all the novels written in the last 10 years. We had [[lovely?]] food for Breakfast + Lunch. Supper we had Turkey, but you would've needed a microscope to find it. It's getting harder by the day to find something to write. Maybe if I threw somebody over the side, I could write something interesting? Paul came down a few minutes ago, + he's been waiting for me to finish writing so we can play cards. So if you will forgive me for stopping now, I'll close writing, okay. I really miss you pretty bad, I wish I was a real good swimmer, then I'd swim [[straight?]] back to the U.S.A.

## [[Page 12- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 9]]

May 4<sup>th</sup>

Maybe my luck is changing, I hope so, anyway. Today we had Bingo on the ship for my compartment. My bunkmate, from Co. "C." at Dih, and myself went up to  $[[^{\wedge}]]$  the  $[[/^{\wedge}]]$  game a little early. We looked at the prizes, which comprised a watch, Parker 50' Set, pipe, writing kit, AWOL bag + a few more things. I told my buddy if I won any of these things it would probably be the AWOL bag. The game started + I won the first game, the prize being the AWOL Bag. I [[?]] like giving it back, knowing I wouldn't have any use for it, where I'm going. Having won I couldn't compete in anymore games, so I went back down to my bunk. Soon the game was over + the guys came down. I quickly tried to sell the bag, it was worth \$6, to somebody. I got \$3 for it, bought the pipe from the guy who won it. The pipe cost \$7 so actually I gain \$1 on the dealbesides the pipe. So now I have something I can use while I'm over here. Not much else happen today so I'll say "Demain j'ecrit" Okay?

(10)

May 5<sup>th</sup>

I hope that you, were able to understand my French, that I used last night. I have heard that there are so many ways to say, I love you with all my heart + that I wish you were close to me now" in the French Language. Naturally, not knowing French, I can't say yes or no, if its true. Sometimes I wonder what you think, when I write so often how I miss you + long for your love? Maybe it sounds kinda funny coming from a jerk like me. I think I better stop this, nutty writing again, right here.

The water is real there as far as the eye can see. The surface is smooth, or I guess calm would sound better, like a big lake. Tomorrow will be Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will cross the international date line tonight, so we'll lose Wed May 6<sup>th</sup>. It seems I have a patron, here on board. He's guy, not a queer, keeps on buying books, candy, soda, cigarettes, cookies almost everything I need. I met him in Ft. Lewis + he plays Pinochle (cards) with us. I know I shouldn't let him be so lose with his money, but for a change its not me. We were told earlier today in a lecture on Japan, about getting a pass for 5 days, after four months on the ground. During that stay in Japan, you can stay at a rest hotel, where food + a room is free. All your [[?]] are clean as well as your

[[Page 14- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 11]]

May 5<sup>th</sup> (cont.)

rifle rechecked. Then they told us most of the men usually just leave there dirty clothes to be clean at the hotel + go off to the 5 day leave plan. Here for \$75 you get a room, food, all the essentials for 5 beautiful days of life plus a girl for your own pleasure. If I have made you start thinking the wrong way, please don't. With [[underline]] my luck [[/underline]] I'll be broke + spend 5 lonely days in the Army hotel just eating + sleeping.

See! It still wouldv'e been fun, but whats the use to dream; Oh Hun, Boy!

Till Tomorrow then, all my love, to my

Today has been another nice day as far as the weather goes. Livas sunny and warm, the water calm + the men were quite irritable.

After breakfast we stood on the P.X. line to buy some candy + [[strikethrough]] tabbac [[/strikethrough]] tobacco for my new pipe. As we stood on line, a fight started between a negro + white boy. One tried to brake into the line + this brought on the fight. It was stop almost as soon as it started. Nobody

(12)

said much about it, as both parties could get in pretty bad, with the officers; should they find out about it. When it came my turn to buy the stuff, my patron, who has been financing my trip, gave me the [[enital?]] money to buy it. I have tried to tell him I don't need anything, but he insist so what can I do. After storing the stuff away we went to see a movie. The movie was called "Royal Wedding" and had Jane Powell + Fred Astaire; I had already seen it before. When it was over, we went + ate some more of the mess, they've been feeding us lately. Paul then came down + we played some Pinochle. Why'll playing another fight started between two of the men in the compartment. Before it was broke up about six men were mixed in it. Again it was between white + black. [[The feeling?]] here is getting worse everyday. It was [[hurled?]] up + [[all?]] went back to what they were doing. We played till Paul had to go on guard duty. I was looking at a poker game, when my friend gave me a dollar + said "It seems you want to play so here a dollar". I worked it up to \$7.35 +then I decided to quit. Well now I have some money, thanks to my friend.

## [[Page 16- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 13]]

May 7<sup>th</sup> (cont.)

I gave him his dollar back + gave him two more dollars out of the \$7. The rest I hope to work up to a more respectable amount. Well nothing more to write about, except that we crossed the International date line during the night.

May 8<sup>th</sup>

What a day this has been, everything is breaking loose. We had a gang fight last night after I went to bed, + today we had a big brawl in the next compartment. This place is getting hotter than hell. Here we are 3,000 men going to fight a war, + yet we fight among ourselves. White against black, black against spaniards, southerners against Northerners, + Easterners vs Westerners and all against New Yorkers. Believe me Darling I'm not joking, its pretty serious. Slowly the hate here against one another is getting worse. All you have to do is talk or look crosseyed at someone + smack, right in your face. I'm sure

(14)

glad that I come from N.Y. We hear about our racial + religious segregation but its nothing to compare with the other cities + towns in the U.S. People hating, I mean really hating a person cause his skin is dark or he's a Jew or a Catholic. I never believed to much what I heard about the south, but know one will change my mind now. The white folks on the ship from the south, Alabama, Geo, [[Tenar?]], + Karl, [[Texas?]] dumb all hell, ignorant as far as personal liberties go for other men. Saying "As long as they stay in their place we'll tolerate them". These same people call themselves Americans + Christians. The [[soher?]] boys hating the whites for all the pressure put on them. Being in the Army + having the same priveilges as the whites, and taking to much for granted, over exercising there new born freedom + equality. Westerners, Southerners, Northerners looking + feeling [[?]] at the Easterners for there better [[learning?]], money in there pockets, talk about the way people live in the East + act better toward one another than any where in the states. Then comes New York, here's where all the

## [[Page 18- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 15]]

May 8<sup>th</sup> cont.

soilders from these cities + towns get confused + resentful. They can't understand how we can let negroes + Puerto Ricans live so close to the whites. Have negro doctors help bring about the birth of a white child. Having mix marrigages with racial + well as religious differences. There's so many other things + stupid reasons that are given for all these hates. Yet we're going to fight in Korea when our own backyard is filthy with segregated thoughts + actions, the same things were fighting over in Korea for one begins to think which side is the worse, the one [[your?]] sent to fight against, the one who sent you or among yourselves.

I guess I have written myself out. I hope I haven't bored you with this phase of the trip or my own thoughts as bad as I tried to make them sound. Good-Night sweetheart + all my love. (16)

May 9<sup>th</sup>

Today I took life real easy + just laid in my bunk + read. I finished "A Stone for Danny Fisher," "[[Tabilla Flat?]]" "Case Book of Sherlock Holmes", "Duel in the Sun" + started on "Turquoise". Once I'm settled over in my new home, you can send me some Pocket Book editions. (No Westerns or [[?]] [[mystereys?]].) I guess by now you should have received my (so called) Jewelry Box. I hope you liked it, even though it wasn't finish or from Saks 5<sup>th</sup>. We get a newspaper here, printed by the ships crew, and in it, we have read about the see-saw conditions in Korea. The general feeling here is "The hell with all this talking" Most of the men rather be in a fight than listen to all this hopeful talk, that keeps on picking your hopes up + then dropping them. We keep on saying to the "Chinese" that we won't hear anymore of there [[stalling?] proposal, but the next day were still there listening to new ones.

About what I wrote yesterday, I tried to show you what most of those boys feel + think toward one another, cheifly through tradition + what there parents taught them. Well I guess that's all for to-night.

[[Page 20- Letter]]

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 18]]

May  $10^{th}$ 

Another Sunday, and it would be just one more day away from home, except that it's Mothers Day. We were deliberating wether today was Mothers Day, or not + came to the conclusion that it was. So I hope you will extend my best to your mother, plus all the happiness + health in the world. Naturally I would have liked to be home today + see my mother you know? When your away you start thinking about all the things you did + said to hurt your parents. You begin to wonder how they could have taken all your ill treatment. Then you see just how much they must  $[\lceil \land \rceil]$  have  $[\lceil \land \land \rceil]$  loved you + hold  $[\lceil \land \rceil]$  you  $[\lceil \land \land \rceil]$  dear to them. Did you ever think that by [[strikethrough]] [[?]] [[/strikethrough]] May 1956 you might be celebrating your own Mother's Day. That is, if everything goes right + if you didn't [[cut?]] to many of your [[Hygiene classes?]] ???? I played some poker today + I now have \$21 from the original \$1, that I started with [[Thurs?]]. I finished reading "Turquoise" today + started on "Beau Geste". I never thought I [[strikethrough]] [[?]] [[/strikethrough]] would like to read so much. We had southern fried chicken today + I was lucky, I got two half's, making one whole chicken. I finished it without

(18)

raising an eyebrow. We should hit Yokahama by Tuesday afternoon + unload. From there, we go directly to Cang Drake, in Buses.

I hope that we get paid, plus my money order, should be there, and the money I have now. would give me enough to buy some soveniers to send home. Naturally that would only happen if we stay in Camp Drake, long enough for a [[?]] Well darling thats all for today, have to shave + then hit my "stretcher". "Gutte Nacth meine schöne Blunde Mädel".

May 11, 1953

Today was another ordinary day. Nothing happened on board to change the dull routine of the past two weeks. We did have a physical exam, but thats all. While upstairs having the exam, somebody helped themselves to my book, "Beau Geste". So I started a new book called "Coronado's Children". I was right in the middle of "Beau Geste" and I was quite interested in the story. Its been awfully hot down in the compartment all day, so we went up to the main deck. We didn't stay up long, there were to many men on deck + the [[strikethrough]] [[?]] [[/strikethrough]] wind was blowing to much. So we've been playing cards most of afternoon not having much to write today, I'll end this writing for today.

[[image: Sixth United States Army emblem with hand written 19]]

Tuesday May 12, 1953

I and a few of the men had clean up detail today. We worked on cleaning up the compartment for 2 hrs after chow. When we finally were finished we went up on deck. While on deck we sighted a fleet of Japanese fishing boats. Some of the boats were new but most of them looked old + ready for "Davy Jones Locker". Once the men saw them a big j[[--]]r arose from [[two words?]] + they ran to the railings to few the sight I guess it made them feel good to see something besides water + the other men on board. The rest of the day we kept on passing small fishing crafts, as we came closer to Japan. We're supposed to hit Japan, at 4 P.M tomorrow. We had a practice disembarkation drill, so we'll know just where to go before we leave the ship. Our group will be the last to leave the ship.

All in all the trip wasn't to bad The food wasn't good + we had some trouble among the men, but at most (20)

part it was endurable. Naturally reading your letters over a couple of times + thinking of home past most of the line away, Even though it made me feel [[how?]] at times to think of having you + everyone behind. I hope you haven't been worries or gotten [[pissed?]], because you didn't receive a letter from me in 2 wks. Naturally, you'll understand once you receive this letter. I hope that none of it's contents has bored you or the handwriting caused you unecessary eye strain's. Due to the fact that I leaving the ship tomorrow I won't continue this letter later in Japan. I'll try to mail this letter right away + start a new one in the barracks. (ran out of ink, + using [[?]] pen) So at long last, this letter will come to an end. Darling I hope that we will never have to cease writing to one another for any reason. Joanie I want you to know that I'll always be in love with you, no matter what. I hope you'll always remember this, Okay? Give my regards to your [[pounts?]], June, Johnny, Ray + the Gang with all my Love [[underline]] Albert [[/underline]]