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Okinawa

14 October 1945

Dear Miss Tate:

I've finally arrived in the PTO. After spending some 61 days at sea I landed here in Okinawa. This island is a lovely paradise, a Utopia — for insects, bugs, snakes & the like. I've never seen so many different species of the housefly, ant, & grasshopper. Of course — the mosquito is kind here although lately the weather has been a little cool for him.

I guess you have read in the papers about the storm we had here. It was my 2nd typhoon & it was a colossal one.

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The gale ran over the island at 130 MPH & tore up just about all the tents on the island. I spent the night laying behind a small hill on the nice cold wet ground shivering part from the dampness & cold and part from being scared. Our last nights at sea we had a typhoon but they were just peaceful as a baby compared to the latter one. Some of the men went into the hills around the camp & slept or tried to sleep in caves formerly used by the Japs. Some men even went so far as to go into caves with dead Japs, tossed the Japs out & spent a restless night (they say).

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The camp the next morning looked like some of the towns in Germany that the Air Corps had had a picnic on. We are now in pup tents again with hardly any hope of getting large squad tents for some time.

We have been rumored many times going to Korea from here but the confirmation of the rumor has never materialized. I would rather be in Korea because there they have stone & frame barracks & towns & cities. Naha, the Capital of this island, is now just a battle broken city.

I had yet to see my first live Jap although there are quite a few still in the hills around here.

I received the June letter while I was in the Canal Zone route here & I enjoyed its contents very much. As soon as we get paid off this month (we have not been paid in 5 mos.) I intend sending in another money order for my dues. I would like to know if you have Benjamin Handy's latest address? I've wrote to most of the fellows & none of them had his address.

I must close for now as I have some pressing work to do today & which I have put off all the morning. Hope that at last by Easter I may be on my way back to the "Old Country". I remain,
Everest Mackay