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Mackey, Eugene (3)

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ASCOM City, Inch'on, Korea

20 December 1945

Dear Miss Tate:

Just a line or so to let you know that I am still around. Since I wrote you last I have received two letters from you which were very welcome. I was especially delighted to re-receive Handy's address as he at one time was in this outfit in the states. Most of the fellows over this way are either in Manila or Saipan with asprinkling spattered over the Pacific. 1st Sgt Vernon Baker, 4513 Qm Sv Co, APO 331, on Okinawa, and I correspond quite regularly. I did not know that he was on the island until a couple of days before we left and then did not have time to run down to see him.

My good news is that in about 12 days I expect to be on orders to report to a disposition center for return to the States! Jan 1, 1946 makes all EM over here with 50-54 points eligible for return to the states and I have what was once the low score of 52, but what is now the High score of 52. If this group moves like the other groups that left here I should be home and a civilian once again by the latter part of February at the most. At least I will be in the states by February or late January. I guess you can imagine how high my moral is at this time. Out of our regimental strength of 596 EM, 425 of them have 50 points or more; so you see there will not be much of an outfit after January.

I guess you have noticed that since my last letter I have made a couple of strides forward. I guess it is in keeping with the Yuletide spirit that the Powers that Be decided to be generous.

I am hoping that the latest issues of the Bulletin will reach me before I leave for the states. It seems that periodicals like newspapers, etc, take quite a while to reach here. Some of the fellows that have been here a little longer say that it has taken their papers almost a month to come from Okinawa here. Uncle Sam is slipping up with his mail system in these post-war days.

I imagine the campus and students are gradually getting back to normal now and even less and less uniforms running all over the place. Has there been any word as to whether the ASTR program will function any length of time after the cessation of the state of emergency has been proclaimed?

The many times I have written you I have never asked you

if you knew my cousin at Miner College across the street. Her name is Mrs. Theressa Brown and she is in the English Dept. She taught a class of ASTP also while I was there during the existence of the Original Engrs. I think she came over to teach at Howard for a short time after the head of the Howard English dept, whose name escapes me now, was drafted.

Well I must close for this time. I think it advisable now to ask you to address all further correspondence to my home address because by the time this gets to you I anticipate being transferred from this unit, in the stage of my trip to the states. My address is:

Eugene P. Mackey
304 Larimer Ave. East End.
Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

I hope that you had the best of Merriest of XMases and the Happiest of New Years will be yours. I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Eugene P. Mackey