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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**

barracks, boredom, friendship, camaraderie, commerce, culture, faith and religion, family, food, gifts, health and sickness, holiday, homesickness, injury, loneliness, love, marriage, medical treatment, money, gambling, mother, motion pictures, movies, ocean travel, observation, personal stories, postal service, post-war hopes, racism, racial stereotyping, reading, books, recreation and entertainment, romance, fighting, seasickness, soldiers, souvenirs, Mother's day, tobacco, transportation, Camp Drake, USS Marine Lynx, Japan, Pacific Ocean

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Prov albert J. Sellacek RA12422130 Prov Co. S.E. NO.1101 APO 613 C/O Post Master, SAN Francico, 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 shipsele crossed the Pacific on. all docked at yokahama, Jupan, Wed, May 13, 1953, Exactly 3, 129 men disenbacked. ellel be quick bury the mell several months, but you can expect me lock as soon as my tobs done.

Place Stamp Here

## POST CARD

Address

with all mu

albort

10



SIXTHARMY April 28, 1953

Starling Were on our way, off to sacred, mysterious & yet lovely arient, as we steadily moved out to the blac Paupic, through Puget Sound, we stood on deck trying to get a last look of the U.S. The mind was blowing slightly, & as some spray lit around us, my thoughto twen from being a infantryman tis fancy beet bottom sailor I quickly had these thoughts discharged from my mind once the heaving going started. We lad abour at 7:30 a then I started to write you. I figure I'll write one continuous letter insteador one everyday, Okay? I gaing to dit my strecher + get some sleep - Bood - hight goarie april agah -Bot up this morning with a real appeits! after a long wait my stomach was rewarded with eggs, bausages, cereal, prices, brod's butter, topper. as I went up to the main deck, the baddowells were filled with moaning & growning troopers. Some loging to die, some wantin to clow way, but they all had one thing in common, & that was, they didn't reach the raiding in time. While walking on deck, I mak Paul & we walked to the bow of the ship & just talked I looked out across a pretty by acean.

We stood those for quite suchile, till the (shall we say "aroma") from the averylowing food of the genone, who said make the rails, hitles. Paul quickly climbed down his latchury for cleaner breathing, as I went to the hatchway leading to such bay. Climbing down the stairs again & reviewed the same signt as when I cans an deck, but this time it was double. I told the medic my reason for warting to go to sick bay + he politiky showed me the way. The ductor come in + looked at me sayin, "your not bea lick-" I quickly told him al know; al came down here because mydunb got inferted again. He looked at it sternly, + said get on the table. Is frage my Thumb, took the scalpet - cup. there were Two men being breated for seasidness, who when sow the stuff cooking from my hand just turned green & ran to the fatrins. He bundaged the hand & yave me a penicilling shot tempined to quarters slip . al went back to my (bunk?) and read a book & fell astres. I got up witch chow call was given a aquin brated patienally. We som were allowed to sat a after I again went up on deck for presh dir & a smoke, I was soon driven down from their, because the belanious of most of its men. I have a strong stomach + my mind can't be talked into getting seased, but how much can a human stomask take . So far the only place it can get a way from



The deluge, is my bunk. at least all al have to go hear is The morning of the men. We late show at 8 oclock and I just made the cloar to the meso hall before They Closed it. We all with less men than ever, since on board. I went up topsid once more & then came bock down to my all block, campartment 4 E. I began this writing, being wide awake but this rocking puts me asless fost. Joanie, Clats a benitiged mame! I wonder what it'm going to dream. about tonight. Broably the two of us on a shipweeched Island! bood - night, it have you! April 30th hot much happened today, except most of the men feel better, thank bod! after char this morning, I went topside & welched to the bou of the ship al just stood there & looped out across the water & my Thoughts Thun 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 awful lonely at thought

what my mother might have for a dinner

+ then my forocities popped through my head.

(4) I was thinking how much I would like to have seen the baby, before at light. set's fumy, I think was more warried than Friddie. after awhile, it went to the such bagt got another shot of Pericilia, Then wentdoch to my bank & read the book it started. I slidn's more much except for char, during the rest of the day . me played some cardo for (no mong) and he gest part the time away. I drean tog no last night but I wasn't on a ship weeked daland. alt was about the two is walking down a long deserted street, with where oreatures, jumping in an out of the stores. In len we finally made our way to the end of the sheet, there was a large steel hop. We started To climb The aleges to get to The box. When we reached & gened the box there was mitting in it. I son't know what this dream mean shough at least we were both together cas al wish we were this very moment. com. yoing to stare now & then dil the rack. Thaybe Tringht at 'I have a much more romantio delan, somewhere in my subconcious mind. Bard- night Darking il hope when it reach gapan, some of your letters will be reaching for me "I LOVE YOU AN TANFUI LOT!



may 1 st SIXTH ARMY Well today we had a move on board ship. Dean months & gerry Lewis in War with the demy He picture is about 1 year old but hereit al didn't see it before. It was quite amusing and it took my mind away from home. He dow isn't getting any better & I'm getting hungines by the day. I went to the sicklog for my last about they boked at my thumb & shed it's almost lealed. It looks like a ga chunk of ment, all lasted up after bunch & started reading your letters and fell at ease. It's hard to write on board ship with its tossing & arrything With mothing really happening from day to day the contents might seen awfully repetiond. I started day dreaming while I read your letters land Thought about all a. things we did & all the places we lave gone together. I especially thought of Two places. I guess one we comever forget, everytime it think of it, it have to laugh & yet a little red in my face.

(6) allo the time when we went to Horence's birthday porty + you gil the cake in my face. It wonder if you were 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 the that it abould stick but and he remembered al just that after we had firing what little awiming we did ( you hardly even weat in) & we had sinis to eating . We went to the andmusment grack + you were so scared t go an the rolle couster. you were like a prighten kiel & after we came down you wouldn't go on anything that haked dangerous . after, if you remember, we decland to lay on the beach & lister to The radio. after you had called your mother To unsue her you still were har & That I shake !! drown you. Remember as we were bying on the sand how the she was real black of the stars were shining over us & how Their light would make funger light on the water M starled getting cold al gave you my gocker, Boy! I almost those after That maybe is worn't such on important day to remember, but al give anything to be there mow, with you, boking up to the sky baving you close, and just histing to worse muito. Well now I have something to think about while trying to fall osciely." suite racht meine schone Engel."

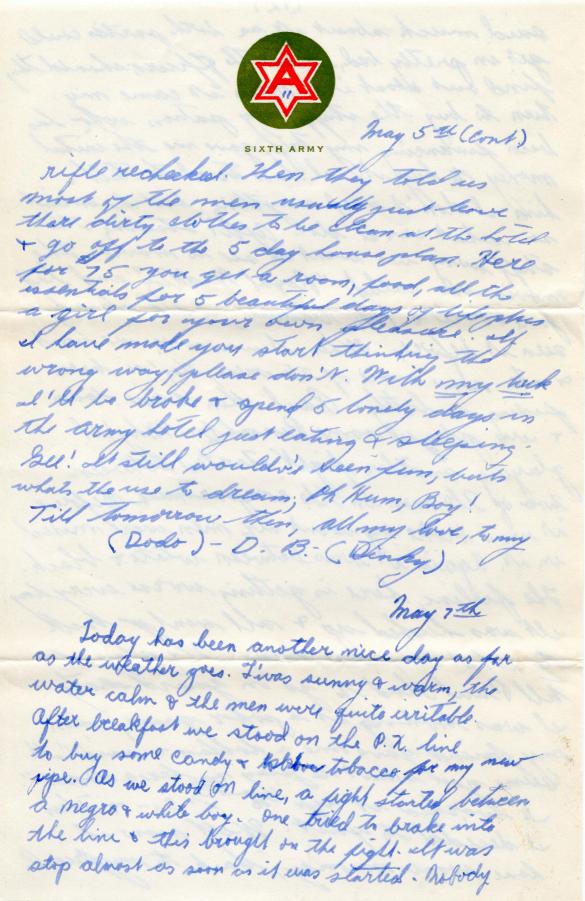


SIXTHARMY Thay 2 mal Joanie; I'm dying from hunger. What junk their secting us, by i de would it feel what stuff to a beagult. I could go for a jury thick stack or some Paga, ravioli or even some handurgers. With the ford a nice cool represhing glass of beer. Ammm, but it's only a dream. When I'm settled over in Horea, in a mice Bunker" you can start sending a package or two of food. Hal is if the killy is replined ???? I bet I sound like a log; always talking Well today is faturday and what away the spend it champed up in & "cattle-boat". This way at least I can't spend any money don't love any To gread. When at lift To board the ship, on Juesday, They was a money otder ( that my father sat time ) saying in the loc, in the Phillics al Love they forwarded it to Joycan, so when all get of the stip, it ell be waiting There really wan't much to say or write albert, so al'il read of book or if Paul comes over we'll plug some cardo. So any Heder selen

C8-5 Sunday may 3rd Hey had services today for the men, but al didn't feel the getting up to go. not only am I hungey has lay as well al ve finished three books so far + il started on a new one this morning. to fart al read "Desenchanted" Connery fow, "morning fourney" a non al'm redding a some a l'il be a expert on all the movel written in the last 10 years. The had lowry food for Allakfort Lunch. Supply we had Turkey, but you would've meeded a microscopt to find it. It's getting larder by the day to find something to write maybe if I threw somebody over the fide, I could write something interesting ? Paul came down a fuir minutes ogi, 4 le's bech waiting for my to finsh writing so we can play cards. So if you will I'll close writing, okay. of really miss you with bad, al wigh I was a real good awimmer, then I'd swim night back to the U.S.A.

SIXTHARMY May 4th maybe my luck is changing, I lope as, any way. Today wa had Bings on the ships for my compactment. my bunk mate, from Co.C. ar Dix, and myself Went up to game a little early. We booked at the prices, which comprised a watch, Packer Si'rel, pipe, writing lid, AWOL boy & a few more thing I told min buddy if it hid win any of these thing, it would plotosly be the Awd May The game started + I won the first game, The prize being the MWOL Bay. I pill like giving is back, knowing al wouldn't love any use for it, where it'm going. Having Revan I couldn't compete in any more games, so al went block down to my hunk. Som the game was over the gulys came down. I quickly tried to sell the bag, it was worth # to somebody. algot # 3 - for 1 bought the gape from the duy who was it. Il pipe coal of so actually I gain & on the deal besides the pipe. As now it have something al edn use while al'm over here. not much else happen todag so l'll say "Demain j'ecrit" Okay?

(10) may 5th I lopen that you, were able to understand my Trench, that I used last night. I law leard that There are so many ways to say at love you with all they hearter that I wish you were close to me now" in the tedad Language. Raturally, not knowing trench, at ban It sag yos or mo, if its true . Sometime I wonder what you think, when swrite so often how at othis you & long for your love ? maybe it sounds kinda funny coming from a jock like me. I think at hetter stop this, mutty writing again, rightere. The water is real that no para The lyl can see. The surface is anoth, relquess calm would roand better, like a inty lake. Tomorrow will be Hursday may 7th. We will cross the International date line Twnight so we'll lose Wed may 6 24. It seems at lave a patron, here on loard. This guy, mit a queer, beeps on higing looks, canaly, roda, agelettes, crokes almus anything Maced I met tim in Ft. Lewis & he plogs Pinochle (cards) with us. al know I shouldn't let tim be go love with his money, but for a change its not me. Me were told epiciel today in a lectures on Japan, about getting a pass for 5 day, that stay in Jogan, you can stay at a rest total, where food a room is free. all your clothes are chean as well as your



said much about it, as both parties could get in pretty bad, with the Thiers; should they find but shout 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 have tried to tell. find I don't need anything, but he wint so what can it do. after stawing the shift away we went to set a market. The movie was called "Royal Medding" and had Jane Powell & Fred attaint, I had abready seen is before When it was over, we want I ale some more of the meso, they've been fieling us lately. Paul then came down + we played some Pinochle. Mhy'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. He filling here is getting work everyday. ilt was hushed up & all went go back to what they were doing. Me played Till Paul had to go on quard duty . I was tooking it a poler game, when my friend gave ome a dollar a said " M blems you want to play retered dotter". I worked it up to ?: 35. 7 Then I deceded to quit. Well now a love some money banks to my friend,

SIXTHARMY may 7th (Cont.) al gave him his stallar back & gave him Two dollars out of the 7. The real I hope to work up to a more required amount. Well mothing mar 5 write about, except that we crossed the International date line during the night. may gth What a daty this has been, everything is breaking bose. We had a logang fight hast might after al went to had 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 inselves . White against thick, black against spaniards southers Lagainst northerners, + Casterno vs. Mestimery and Sall against new yorkers Believe me Darling al'm mot joking, Marthy serious. should the late hors against one another is getting worse. Al you have to do is talk or bok crosslyed at someonet. smack, night in your face , I'm swee

glad that al come from 3. 9. Me hear about our nacial & religious segregition I but its nothing to compate with the hating, I mean really hating a girson 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 now. He while folks on the ship from the south, Mabbana, Geo, Tenn, & Kenl, Turas duribor all hell, ignorand as far as personel liberties go for other onen. Saying "as long as They stay in Their place we'll thereate Them". These same propte call themselves American & Christians. The eaber boys hating the whites for all The pressure put on them. Being in The army a laving the same privilges as the white and Taking to much for granted, over exercing There new born preedom a equality . new Southerness, northerness hoking & feeling rounged at the Castinus for their better laring money in these pockets, talk about the way people live in The Earlo act better thand one another than any where in the state. Then comes new york, porlowhere all the



SIXTHARMY may 8th lond. solder from these eities & Town get confuses resentful. They can't tunderstand how we can let migrous & Pueto Ricens hive so chang to the whites . Have negro doctor, help bring about the birth of a white child. Having mis marrison with racial a well as religous diffuences. Here's so many The Things & shiped reasons that are given for all there later. Yet will going to figing in Korea when our own back yord is filthy with sugregated thoughts & actions, the same 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. I guess I have written my self aut. I hope I havn't hored you with This share of the this of my own thoughts as bad as I Truid to make them would Good might sweethours all my love.

(16)may 9th Loday I Took life real easys just laid in my book & read. I pinisted "altime for Danny Fister" Talille Flat "Case Book of Sherlock Kolmes, Quel in the land "Case Book of Sherlock Kolmes, Quel in the land started on "Turquois". Once I'm settled over in my new lome, you can send me some Pockel Book editions . (20 mestines or multy mystery) I guess by more you should for received my (ro called) fewelry Box. I hope you liked it, even though it warn's finish or from bado 5 the Me get a newspaper lire, printed by the ships crew, and 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 haled to all this lope for talk, that keys on picking your hopes up & then dropping them We key on saying to the "Chinese" that we won't bear anymore of thes stabling proposal, but the next day were shell these listening to new only. about what I wrote gesturday, if tried to show you what have of these boy feels think toward one another, chefty through tradition & what there parents taught them. Well I guess that's all for to might.



SIXTHARMY May 10 th another sunday, and is would be just one more day paway from tom. except that it's Thotlers Day. We were delibuating wetle today lives mothers Day or not & came to the conclusion that it was. So I hope you will extend my best to your nother, phis all the happeness health in the world. naturally al would have liked to bedome today & see my mother. you know ? When your away you start thinking about all the things you did a said To lust your porents. you befor to wonder how they could have taken all your ill treatment. Hen you set, just how much they must have you a lold dear to them. Dud you ever think that by for may 1956 you might be celerbrating your own mother's Day. That is, if wingthing goes right & if you tills 't lut to many of your Kygien classe???? I played some gothe today & low large \$2. from the orginal &, that it started with thirs. I finsted relading Turgewise loday & started on "Beau bests". I meror shought at the would like 2 read son much . We had southern prist chicken today and was bucky, I got two half's, making one whole chicken . I finded it weldow

raising an eyebrow. Me should hit yokalama by Tuleday afternoon & unload. From there, we go directly to camp Grake, in Buses. I lope that we get paid, glas my money order, should be three, and the money it love now. would give me enough to being some soveniers to send home. naturally that would only layou if we stay in larg State, long anough for a your Well darling that all for thelay, land to dove & then lit my streeder" " Eatto hack mens siline Blunde madel may 11, 1953 Joday was another ordinary day. Tolling paymented on board to change the dull routins of the past two weeks. We did have a physical evam, but thats all . While upstains laving the exam, somebody helped thenselves to my book, "Bean besto". So it started a new book called "Coronads's Children. al was right in the middle of Beau Geste" and I was quite interested in the story. It been anytully hat down in the compartment all day, so we wont up to the main deck. We didn't stay up long, there were to many men on dich & the twend was blowing to much. to we've her plaging cardo most y afternoon . not thening much to write today! Ill end this writing for today.



SIXTHARMY Tuesday may 12, 1953 al and a four of the men had clean up detail today. We worked on cleaning up the compartment for 2 hes after claw . When we findly were prinched we went up on lect. While on dech we sighted a flest of Jaganes, fishing boats . Some of the boats were new but mous of them hoded old & ready for Davy Jones Locher". Once the men san this a big just arose from this masset they ran to the rachings to seen the sight I guess is made them feel good to se something besides water & the other men on board. The reat of the day we kept on passing small fishing creepts, as we came clower to gapan We're suppose to hit Japan, at 4 0. M Emorrow. We had a practice disembarkation dielf, so will know just where to go before we low The ship . Our group will be all the way up at how of the ship, + will be the last to leave the ship all in all the trip wan't to had The food was ' your a we had some trouble among the men, but at most

part it was endurable. Tratually reading your letters over a couple of times a thinking of Lome past most of the time away, Even Though it made me fil has at times to Think of leaving you a everyone behind. I hope you haven't been worried or gotten piered, because you didn't receive a letter from me in 2 who. hatwally you'll understand me you receive This letter. I hope that more of it's contints has bould you on the Landwriting caused you unicerary eye strain. Day to the fact that it leaving the styp tomorrow al won't continies This letter later on Jagran. I'll Try & mail This billes right anoy & start a new one in the tarracks, ( nan out of buildies) So at long last this letter will work to an end. Darling I hope that we will mever have to class writing to one another for any relason. Joance al 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, Johnmy, Ray othe Bang with all mytore 1 albert

[[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. 3C]]Prov Co. S.E. NO 1101[[Stamp: THOMAS JEFFERSON 3C]]APO 613[[Faded Circular Stamp: ARMY-AIR FORCE POSTAL SERVICEC/O Post MasterMAY 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.

[[Ashley McLaughlin 2/4/17]]

[[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 safety 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.

[[Page 5- Letter]]

(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

### [[Page 6- Letter]]

[[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. [[Page 7- Letter]]

#### (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.

[[Page 9- Letter]]

(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" [[Page 11- Letter]]

(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  $[[^{]}]$  the  $[[^{]}]$  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?

[[Page 13- Letter]]

(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

(Dodo) - D. B. - (Dinky)

May 7<sup>th</sup>

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

[[Page 15- Letter]]

#### (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

[[Page 17- Letter]]

#### (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.

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(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<sup>th</sup>

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  $[[^]]$  have  $[[^/]]$  loved you + hold  $[[^]]$  you  $[[^/]]$  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

[[Page 21- Letter]]

#### (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.

### [[Page 22- Letter]]

[[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

[[Page 23- Letter]]

(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]]