

I-E SECTION, HQ., SPBC  
APO 502, C/O POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
DECEMBER 9, 1944

DEAR LIBBY:

IF THIS DOESN'T GET TO YOU ANY FASTER THAN SOME OF MY MAIL HAS BEEN REACHING HERE LATELY, IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO CONVEY ITS MESSAGE ON THE REVERSE SIDE. BUT IF IT DOESN'T GET THERE, YOU'LL KNOW THAT THE WISHES ARE SINCERE AND WELL-INTENTIONED ANYWAY. AND THEY GO TO YOU AND YOURS, OF COURSE. HOPE YOU'LL HAVE BILL AND PENNY WITH YOU FOR THE HOLIDAYS -- OR FOR PART OF THEM AT LEAST. HARDLY SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT A WHOLE YEAR HAS PAST SINCE I WAS HOME LAST CHRISTMAS, WHEN I SAW BILL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES. AND YET SOMETIMES, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH SEVERAL YEARS HAD INTERVENED. TIME IS A TRICKY THING -- AS WITNESS THE LAPSE OF IT SINCE I RECEIVED YOUR VERY WELCOME AND MUCH APPRECIATED LETTER. THIS TIME I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO OFFER ANY EXCUSES -- JUST AN APOLOGY AND A THANKS VERY MUCH, PLEASE COME AGAIN, BUT SOON.

YOU PROBABLY HAVE HEARD, THROUGH MOTHER OR AUNT MABEL, OF MY TRANSFER A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK. IT WAS INDEED A LUCKY BREAK FOR ME AS I WAS PRETTY MISERABLE WITH MY WORK IN THAT QUARTERMASTER OUTFIT. HERE I'M PRETTY MUCH "AT HOME" ONCE AGAIN, THOUGH MY JOB IS SLIGHTLY DISSIMILAR TO THE ASSIGNMENTS I HAD IN THE STATES. OVER HERE, THOUGH, IT'S ABOUT THE BEST SORT OF THING I COULD HAVE WISHED. WORKING CONDITIONS ARE VERY PLEASANT, AND I'M ASSOCIATED WITH A FINE BUNCH OF MEN AND OFFICERS. WE ARE LOCATED IN A NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HEADQUARTERS BUILDING WHICH IS A TREMENDOUS THING. WITHIN A STONE'S THROW IS THE PACIFIC OCEAN -- -- AND A MARVELOUS BEACH WHICH PROBABLY WOULD DELIGHT BILL. WE ARE QUARTERED IN PYRAMIDAL TENTS, AND I'M IN WITH A GOOD GANG, INCLUDING ONE FELLOW WHO WAS MY BEST FRIEND IN TEXAS FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. HE AND I ARE NOW WORKING IN THE SAME SECTION, HE AS AN ARTIST, I AS CHIEF WRITER OF THE INFORMATION BRANCH. THE SECTION, IN CASE THE ALPHABETICAL HODGE-PODGE IN MY ADDRESS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU, IS INFORMATION-EDUCATION, AND THE HEADQUARTERS IS THAT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC BASE COMMAND, IN NEW CALEDONIA.

READ IN THE PAPER (THE "SOUTH PACIFIC DAILY NEWS") THE OTHER DAY ABOUT A 23-INCH SNOWFALL IN SYRACUSE, SO I COULD IMAGINE WHAT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN GETTING. HERE, ON THE CONTRARY, WE'RE JUST BEGINNING TO GET INTO OUR SUMMER, ALTHOUGH WE'VE ONLY HAD ONE OR TWO DAYS WHEN IT REALLY WAS HOT, AND THEY WEREN'T UNBEARABLE. SO FAR, NEW CALEDONIA IS A BREEZE COMPARED TO LOUISIANA. LAST NIGHT WE HAD OUR FIRST RAIN IN MONTHS. IT'S BEEN TERRIBLY DRY AROUND HERE.

AGAIN I SAY, THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER, AND PLEASE LET ME HEAR FROM YOU AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A FEW SPARE MOMENTS. GIVE MY VERY BEST WISHES TO HARRY, BILL, PENNY, AND THE LAMONS.

LOVE ---

*Bob*