

Fri. 23 Nov 1945

Dearest Wife & Son.

I just finished show this noon and have a little time on my hands so I will use the time in writing a short letter for you & the boy - It's been better than a month since I have read a ~~real~~ letter from you - 19 days on the ship and 12 days on the island of Japan - So you can see when my mail catches up to me I will have a great deal in store.

Pots has happened this past month or even backing up a while longer - Since I left Utah in the fore part of October.

Train ride across Great Salt Lake and desert - into Nevada - California then into Oregon - A few days at the Port of Replacement changing clothing & resupplying more - A train ride with all my equipment to Fort Lewis Washington where I was able to talk with my sweet little wife on the telephone - Also where I was able to go to church in another state

of the good old U.S.A. - then a ride on
a truck to a ship then onto the ship
for 19 days - 3 days of which were spent
feeding the fish as well as the crew
and troups and the other 16 just
feeding the troups + crew -

While on the ship I had the chance
of attending U.S. Services on the Ocean.
Also I got my first real work out in
the Barber business - I cut some
100 head of hair when the ship was
rolling + rocking - As a chair I found
an Orange crate to be ideal - + some-
out some \$35.00 in cash winners -
as well as a lot of good practice +
experience -

Then one day we sighted land.
Japan Soil - As we gazed out to
the right side of the ship we saw
volcanic mountains and rough
mountainous shores -

Nov. 11, 1945 was a big day
I unloaded from the ship "U.S.S.
Admiral R. N. Coontz" and put
my feet on Japan Soil and rode on
a Japanese train.

By duck road, we had some of the
old train journey & I don't think
and I don't think I will go to our
Present location. Yes we have had a
lot of experience ~~and~~ travel all at
the expense in dollars & cents of the
U.S. Government. But a fellow wouldn't
give 95¢ to have the same thing over
again if he had to be away from his
family again -

Now on with the letter again.

No not there but now. Since I
started this letter I have cut some
30 head of hair & two fellows
just went after a towel & another
fellow just came in so you
can see this letter is coming
by leaps & bounds.

No doubt since I left the State
you have made lots of trips to the
mail box in vain - looking &
longing for a short line from
this ordinary old fellow. Yes, and
I suppose you have had your busy
moments sewing clothing and,

getting ready for that big event. Then
came the day - you called Rozella
of the Hospital - Walter probably went
to Rozella for 10 or 12 days & you
spent 10 or 12 days long lonesome
days in the hospital. And if everything
came out alright you are back to
your own little apt with Walter
& the New arrival.

Say you know my heart will
leap for joy when aboard the
Ship once more the one that
will carry me to you - but I
suppose that won't be till in
the summer some time or
later. Maybe for thanks giving
next or Xmas next. This old boy
will be rolling I don't know for
sure though -

Well so long for now with
lots of love to you & all of
you - Remember I love you -
keep sending my love -
Leland