

21 December 1945

Dear Ones,

I guess that I did not write yesterday or today - at least I know that I have missed a day someplace during the week. No news - we continue to work on shipping and dumping ammunition; the paper work war continues - Bob Howes tells me that the letter with the three indorsements concerning our stock record cards was sent down to SoPac. It is really farcical and it reflects terribly on this command - what fun. The ordnance office here is covered since the regulation specifically stated that the cards would be kept up to date insofar as personnel were available - and I have proof that we requested men and that this command refused them. Now Spalding and Trosper have sent down to Sopac asking for men to clean up the records - it is my guess that they will get a terrible blast back from that headquarters. All the other things remain fairly fouled up, too - despite my protest Major Trosper insists that we set up a new record system since accountability goes into effect on 1 January: a very stupid move for this base when you consider that we are scheduled to close on the 15th and that on the 1st we will be in the midst of all our shipments. Sprague had to make out an affidavit as to why he missed the plane and that matter is still on the fire -- what a life. The only reassuring note is that other people have the same trouble - Silvia, Howes, everyone finds the Colonel impossible. Bob especially is in wrong for a bunch of little inconsequential things despite the fact that he is an excellent AG. And Bob is in the midst of registering a gripe - he has been eligible for release since December 1 and so far they have kept him here despite the fact that the volume of activity here doesn't rate an Adjutant General; now he has word that there is an opening for him with the people with whom he worked at Middleboro before the war and the job is a definite advancement - so he has a buck slip all ready to put in, in which he requests that he be released at once... so goes life on Santo! I guess this letter is repetitions of what I have covered in other letters - I hope you don't mind! As I recall the last letter I wrote was very gloomy - I do want you to know that I am not depressed in spirits at the moment - I am taking things in stride during the daily routine and laughing them off - I am not letting things bother me or get me down. I get a kick out of the various blow-hard nincompoops of this headquarters like Lt Col Lewis and Captain Hoggatt who expect me to get all excited over every little bit of nonsense that concerns Ordnance..... Anyway (it is a good thing that these letters are not read by others - I'd be court-martialed for sure!!) I have decided that March 11-12 will be the occasion for the start of Bernstein Bitch Barrage - that is what I have labeled the invective that will come from my flying (?) fingers if my status is still indefinite at that time - March 11th of course is the start of my 4th year in Khaki and the 12th the start on 23rd year in this human environment - yup, on March 12th I will celebrate by beginning the BBB

I suppose you heard the news about officer promotions - it came over our news last night and I assume that it applies to me - as a first lieutenant with a year in grade (as of January 28th) and all that time overseas, I will automatically become a Captain upon the start of my terminal leave: what it means is that I will get Captain's pay (\$200 a month) for the period of the terminal leave and the right to wear the railroad tracks if I wear my uniform during that period... Believe me, I am interested in starting my terminal leave for reasons much more important than a Captaincy - I simply want to be on my way out - I wouldn't kick if they reduced me to a 2nd Lt during the period of terminal leave.

The movie tonight is a killer - double feature, Roy Rogers in one and a Faleon story for the other PLUS selected short subjects - wahoo, like the old Saturday morning experiences at the Empire, when we would arrive at 8 in the morning and not get out until sometime around 2 in the afternoon. (You can see how desperate we are for entertainment.) Well, on that note I will leave this house of indorsements, buck slips, letters, affidavits, and what other red tape you may know off, type up an envelope and be off for the theatre -

All my love,

Regards to Doris-

PPS - mail did not come in today as it usually does on Friday - maybe tomorrow - then I can resume the more normal letters - at least the more normal type of letter --

PS * I was very disappointed but hardly surprised that Congress adjourned with so much unfinished business - even if the new session will begin shortly, the psychological affect of leaving somany important and critical matters up in the air is bad - bad on me anyway.

STB