

May 24th 1945

Dear Ones,

All is well - I did not write to you yesterday. Some mail did come in - it was dated the 15th; I can't figure out where all the blank spaces are, perhaps some of the mail is being shipped by boat. I got the Bulletin with the picture of Stanley Blumenthal on Iwo Jima - conditions on the Volcano islands are markedly different from those on the New Hebrides group. We played a rather poor game of volleyball last night but it was a lot of fun - the spirit was right. Because of a change of schedule I didn't see "Fighting Lady" until last night - it is all it is supposed to be; good color photography and good action,

The news today is that Churchill went through the formality of resigning; he certainly wasted no time in forcing the issue of a general election once the Labor Party had rejected a continuation of the coalition government. As yet our news is spotty, but I will be very interested in the issues which decide the British campaign and the strength of the three parties after the elections. If the Liberal Party can reemerge strong enough to clip into both Labor and Conservative factions, there will undoubtedly have to be a second coalition. It is traditional in British politics for the nominally conservative party to take the lead with moderate reform and win public support to it; on the surface, since they are practically of no numerical strength at the present in Commons, the Liberals would seem to have a golden opportunity of offering a happy medium. I will wait for the various clippings and further news stories. One thing: this election will be a lesson in British politics to the rest of the world and its predominating spirit will make it equal in importance with out vote of last November. The vitality of the Empire policy in the Near East and India are certainly at stake.

I am glad that you received the picture of our chapel. I can't get over the idea of a blizzard in May! Good old New England - the weather is almost as unpredictable as it is in the New Hebrides. I am going up to lunch now - I'll leave this in the machine and be back in a half an hour or so. The news this noon is of the resignation of Perkins, Biddle, and Wickard - I know little about Swellenbach, Clark, and Anderson; I was glad to see that Hopkins was being sent to Moscow. It does seem clear that although Truman is going to deemphasize the dependency on his leadership he is not going to toss over the principles for which FDR stood and the men whom he chose to help achieve them.

After the movie last night we played poker and for the first time in quite a while I managed to win. Usually I do not know where I stand until after the evening is over. Since we play in my tent and Art and I have the ships I am usually banker; and rather than dig everytime I run short, I just dip into the bank! I don't know what is on the entertainment docket for tonight - the movie seems to be pretty sad. I have started reading all the little books we have sitting around the tent: Rex Stout stories, "My Name is Aram," and anything else I can find. I still have to read the Ziff and Warburg books on foreign policy and the peace.

Well, there is really not much to write. The boys were going to take a trip up the coast off the island in a personnel boat but the day dawned wet and overcast and although they ventured out, the roughness of the sea sent them scurrying back. I might have gone with them but Thorpe is off on another jaunt and so even though there is not much that can or has to be done up here in the office I have to be around. We are still way overdue on a husky mail delivery - OK for now -

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

