

"Somewhere", Alaska
March ?, 1943

Dear Jewell—

I think I'm letting you down— I have two unanswered letters of yours. I'll try to take care of both with one— is that permissible?

Oh yes, funny things do happen here every day, and of course you can always find people who always have a witty remark on the tips of their tongues, but my memory is no good. One guy said to me once— "I'm going home the first"— of course I asked him— "the first of what month"— "First chance I get"— stuff like that runs rampant. We have a magician (professional) in our company too— very entertaining,— I always enjoyed illusions anyway.

Here's a trick you might like to try - it requires no skill whatsoever. You might call it applied psychology. Take a piece of paper and list the numbers 1 to 4 inclusive in a vertical column. Mark # 3 on the back side, then ask your victim to choose a number with a check mark. I saw # 3 checked 4 times straight - and I was one of the victims. Of course you don't reveal the number on the reverse, unless your number was checked - ^{if he doesn't check 3} just tell the person he's extraordinary, or something.

March 8/43

I got sleepy and quit last night - and I've played table tennis tonight until I'm about fagged out. At least I am due a little credit for trying to write.

I am sending a permit for the photo cases Mama has for me. I planned on writing her again when I got it ready, but she'll get it sooner this way. And tell her I'll write her again anyway. I received another letter from her today, written on the first. I got a letter from Edwin Beck too - I must write him soon. I imagine he feels sorta bad having to stay home - he sure has had a tough time, hasn't he? Russell said he was getting better - Edwin didn't say anything.

We're trying to get the choir started again - a medical officer who reads music is helping us.

I'm sure he can make a go of it if he can find enough who are interested and will cooperate.

Keep the letters coming - I enjoy them a lot. I haven't learned any of the music you wrote for me - yet. Every Tues. evening the Chaplain gives us a program of classical music. He has a swell collection, and it's growing. I hear the first movement of Schubert's "Unfinished" once in a while. That's all he has of it.

Hope everybody is OK -

Love,
Bill