

Somewhere in the Aleutians

25 January 44

Dear Mama —

Your letter came in 7 days — that is good service. Better than ordinary. The delay in December might have been expected. The heavy volume of packages, etc. always slows down the first class mail.

You've probably read my letters to Bernice and Alice about the Aleutians — I think I've written them both since they allowed us to mention the Islands. Well, anyway — it's a pretty lonesome spot and full of wonder. The things we can tell you about the Aleutians ^{are} ~~is~~ almost unlimited — as long

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as we leave out the military part of it - and discuss them in general. If my pen were only a bit more versatile - I know I could write interesting letters. As it is, I usually just give a general description. The beauty of the sun on snow-capped mountains, the power of the wind, the mysteriousness of the earthquakes (never cause any damage), the never-ending feeling of being aside and apart from the rest of the world - complete isolation - except that we enjoy up-to-the-minute movies in numerous theatres - eat good chow - listen to the best in radio entertainment - sleep in good quarters -

and, of course, that all-important morale factor: mail from home. Your letters are the things we live for up here. Without them Uncle Sam would have no Army - and he knows it, so he does his best - which is very good. With the exception of unpleasant weather - which I know you have read about - this isn't a bad place at all. I am aware of the fact that I and all the rest of the fellows here have much to be thankful for. My job keeps me comfortably tucked away from the rough weather - but I'm not above getting outdoors to enjoy good weather when it

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comes along. I do, quite frequently, believe it or not. I sometimes take long rides on my bike, enjoying the smell of crisp, fresh air - and scenery such as I've never seen before. It's not extremely cold here - there is "a warm Japanese current that takes the chill off the Arctic blasts" - that gustation is from a condensation of the book "Lord of Alaska" - the story of a Russian explorer whose followers settled much of Alaska - and built the Russian churches that today dot the shores of Southern Alaska. His name was Baranov.

I'll tell you more of that some time.

Sorry to hear Uncle Henry is in bad health - I must write to him. Do you know where his boy, Raymond, is? I don't remember him very well - but do remember he was a star in all the sports while in school at Senair City.

I wish I had more time to write - I could write more. Perhaps I should save something, though, to talk about when I write Alice + Bernice. Alice's letter came the same day as yours - but mailed two days earlier.

Blanche wrote me again -

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she said - "your Dad was just
in so I know they're all
well." - she has been good to
write.

I attended another of our
classes tonight, ^{clerk's school} - they come every
other night - then had to see
a film on fire prevention - a
required training film - so I
started my letter writing late.
I will have to close -

OK on the cookies - certainly
no hurry on that.

Hope you are all well +
happy -

Lots of love,
Bill