

Alaska -

31 July

1945 - ?

Dear Mom -

Your letter and clipping came today - also Alice's, with more clippings. Thanks very much. All of the Aluminum pictures were taken in the plant where I worked.

Now I have to consider, in writing this letter, not only your letter, but also the long typewritten composition from Jewell. I enjoyed it very much, incidentally - and you may convey my thanks to Jewell and anybody else who contributed. I'm sure Johnny and Russell appreciated it just as much, too. Jewell might also be ~~be~~ interested to know that my shorthand has at long last been of some use to somebody. I started some brush-up work on it a few months before my

2/  
furlough - and have used it for  
brief notes in connection with a  
battalion history for the past  
5 or 6 months. More recently  
I've been taking some 2 and 3  
page letters from our Colonel,  
who uses some words I have  
never before heard of. He sets  
a pretty fast pace - so far, I  
can say with a little pride, I've  
managed to keep up with him.  
In the meantime, I keep digging  
on the brush-up - a text book  
and a supplementary list of Army  
and Navy terms I keep handy -  
I work with them during my spare  
time in the office when there's  
nothing to type. But enough of  
that -

I showed the picture of  
McCray to Capt Kelley. It turned  
out that they went to Ky. Wesleyan  
at the same time. I think the

Captain knew the just casually. Both being high school professors in the same section of Florida, they would naturally get acquainted some time. And from all I can gather, that's about all it amounted to.

I finally answered Russell's letter a few days ago - I still owe Johnny - and a few more. I can't seem to keep up any more. Still it doesn't seem that I'm flooded with mail exactly. Even a letter from Dix Jones came in about a week ago - the first in many months. I haven't written him yet either.

There are three other guys in the tent with me at the moment - they have been hashing over the over-all war situation, including all the phases, elements, strategies, etc. They finally got around to the part

the dear old 331st is enacting, as usual. I only wish I could set down here, word for word, the complete text of the conversation. We'll admit it would get a little boring in spots - but we've gotta do something to pass the time I guess.

I know it is absolutely useless <sup>to tell you</sup> that you shouldn't send me anything for Christmas. But you've popped the question so early and so suddenly - and, since the honest truth is that there isn't a thing I need or want particularly, I hardly know what to say. Suppose you give me a few days - or weeks - to think it over.

About the money in the bank - it would be OK to use it to settle my debt to Bob. But I'll be able to send you a

MO pretty soon, I think, that would take care of it. On second thought - go ahead and pay him. When you can replace it, if you want to, out of what I send by MO.

Of course I remember Joe Mary - he always shook hands with me when he came in - at Bob's store of course.

Say hello to Aunt Mary for me. Also tell Blanche to get that rest like the dr. said. Get Billy's address next time you see her. I haven't heard from or about him in ages.

Don't bother to send any of the pictures taken while I was home unless there is somebody with me. I mean, I don't want any of just my mug alone. I see it too much now.

Take care of yourself - and write again soon.

Love to all,  
Bill