

Alaska - 7 Sep

1945

Dear Mom -

Now that censorship is no more I feel more like writing letters. I'll drop you a short note every two or three days to let you know I'm doing OK. - Also I have a lot of pictures I want to send home. You keep them for me and I'll make an album some day.

I have every Sunday off but I ~~may~~ may get stuck for some half-day details. The office I work in writes, edits and types most all outgoing radiograms and receives all incoming radiograms. They come and go fast and furiously at all hours of the day and night. They have run to as high as 45 or 50 for

a 24-hour period. Add that to the routine details of office procedure, and it makes a pretty busy place out of our little pyramidal tent. And there are only three men - the Sgt Major, myself, and one other typist. All the incoming messages have to be copied and dispatched to every section or office concerned - sometimes running as high as 8 copies of one message.

A small scow, called a J-Boat, makes an excursion trip to the village of Teller every Sunday. (Not exactly a scow either. The J-Boats are shaped just like a small row-boat, but they're about 60 or 70 feet in length and powered by a diesel motor) Anyway one of them takes a gang over to the village - there you can see and talk to real

natives, buy souvenirs in a small "general merchandise" store, visit their post office, pan for gold, and otherwise do whatever you can to kill time in a little town. The little store is reputed to have just about anything one could mention that is of use in this country. I would like to go - but I can't help but wonder if it is worth a 10 mile ride in an open boat. The weather is often very miserable. Today the sun was out nice all day but it would be my luck to draw one of the worst. The mountains, visible on clear days only, because they're 15 to 20 miles distant across the sound, are white-capped already. This morning we had a big frost. No snow as yet except a small flurry or two.

(over)

I started this for a short note and new look.

Radio reception is good tonight. I now have KFAR, Fairbanks. A while ago I had a Sacramento, Calif station - and sometimes I pick up a station in Honolulu. These are all standard wave stations, receivable only at night-time. The shortwave stations come in any time, and we depend on them mostly. By shortwave I also get London, Moscow, Tokyo, and Hawaiian and Philippine stations.

Enclosed - two pictures in this one. There are many more to follow.

Love to all,

Bill

P.S. - This wasn't a mistake - writing "upside down" as you'll likely say. On the contrary, that's SOP in the Army. SOP means Standard Operating Procedure. The reason for this is that, when filed, it is bound at the top - see? (But you don't have to file this)