

Saturday morning
January 5, 1945

Dearest Mother & Dad;

Went into the big ball game last night -- and the National League All-Stars and these Manila Dodgers are really putting on a grand exhibition of baseball. Thursday afternoon the Dodgers beat the All-Stars by the score of 2-1, and it took 14 innings to do it. Last night the Dodgers jumped off to a three run lead in the first inning, but the All-Stars kept pecking away at the score, and tied the ball game up in the first half of the ninth. The Dodgers put in a pinch-hitter for their starting pitcher in the last half of the ninth, and, since the Dodgers didn't win the game then, they had to play extra innings. Well, the relief pitcher for the Dodgers that tossed the first half of the tenth should have been on guard duty or KP last night because the All-Stars pounded him for four runs -- and that was the ball game. They had an overflow crowd last night, possibly 35,000 people. We went in right after work to eat at the Roosevelt Club, then go to the game. The meal at the Red Cross was roast beef, potatoes, peas, asparagus & cheese salad, bread, butter, baked custard and coffee. It wasn't the best meal I have eaten there, but it was pretty good. We got to Rizal Stadium about 6:30, and since the game didn't start until 8:00 we thought we would be able to get good seats. However, there must have been lots of fellows that figured there would be a big crowd and they had better go early -- because we had to go to the bleachers far down on the right field line -- and those were the only seats left. I thought that since so many men have gone home that these games wouldn't have the crowds they had been having, but I guess the new men have quickly found Rizal Stadium and are spending their spare time down there. I must admit that that is a good place to spend spare time because one can go there and forget their troubles and woes about having to be stuck overseas. The big guns of the All-Stars thus far has been Frank McCormick. He had two home runs in the first game, had a triple, two doubles and a single in the second, and last night had two doubles and two singles. Last night, Red Barrett -- the Cardinal pitcher, had four hits in five times at bat. The crowd was really amazed at the way he hit -- and they gave him a big round of applause for it. He is still carrying on quite a show, clowning all of the time. Every time he gets on base he really has a picnic. He teases everyone he gets close to -- and usually keeps the crowd in an uproar all of the time. One certainly would never see Mort Cooper do that. Barrett, if not as good a pitcher as Cooper, certainly is 100000% improvement as far as personalities are concerned. And, from the looks of the records at the end of the season last year -- Barrett was a better pitcher than Cooper.

You talk about my mail coming in all messed up -- I got your letter of the 22nd day before yesterday, and then yesterday I get your letter of the 20th. You had been writing about the fact that Sikeston had been having lots of cold weather -- and though snow had fallen all thru the Midwest -- Sikeston hadn't had any snow. Then, the next letter I get tells about the beautiful night -- with everything covered with snow Sikeston looked like fairy-land. Soooooo, I was wondering when the snow came. Then, I get your letter of the 20th and you tell about the snow. Soooo, sooner or later I usually catch up with the news, even though the letters don't come in in the order they were mailed. I was sorry to read that the Cairo Junior Hi had burned. Yep, it looks like Cairo is going to be burned away. The labor unions have tried to ruin the place, but I think the fire bugs are going to burn the town down before the unions can completely ruin the place. It is very, very fortunate that the kids had just left the building, because some might have been hurt or even killed. I know that they have fire drills and fire drills, yet the way the fire spread thru the place, fire drills might have been too slow. I will bet that the kids were more on the happy side than they were on the gloomy side when the place burned. Of course it would have to come right at Christmas, and thus the time they normally would have been out -- had to come right at the holidays. I think that Cairo Hi has enough space to handle the Junior Hi, but I wonder what they will do for a Junior Hi from now on. There might be enough space in the high school building to take care of both High School and Junior Hi, but I doubt it.

Am inclosing some articles that lend a little light on the happier side over here. The other day the article came out telling about the 68,000 berths that are to be assigned to AFWESPAC between the 7th and 14th of January. Those 68,000 berths will take all of the men now declared eligible back to the States, so maybe they will soon lower the point score or months service necessary for discharge. The other article about "Repple Depples Cleared" shows how fast shipping is coming in over here, but I am afraid that the army is going to

let a lot of this shipping go back unused. I wouldn't be the least bit surprised to read that troopships will soon be going back empty because the War Department hasn't made enough men eligible for return to the States. They have lied and lied to us so much and stuck a knife in our backs so many times that I just don't believe anything good can ever be done for us. The Replacement Depots are all supposed to be empty now -- but the War Department hasn't made any more men eligible, so we now have the condition over here of the depots empty -- and plenty of ships in the harbor -- all waiting for men to become "eligible". And this is the American "democratic" way of doing things. I also notice that the Navy is preparing to pull a lot of their ships off of the troop runs because they feel that the War Department won't declare the men eligible fast enough to take advantage of the surplus shipping. One of the Majors in this office wanted to bet 100 pesos yesterday that men with 39 months of service will go on orders the 8th of this month, but something is going to have to happen right away, because the 8th is next Tuesday -- and that doesn't leave much time for the War Department to make an announcement so the men can get on orders by Tuesday. The story goes on to say that men with 36 months of service will go on order the 15th of January -- but I still think that someplace along the line, some big brass is going to throw a monkey wrench in the works -- and this shipping is going to go back empty. When that happens, you are going to see mutiny and AWOL's really start on a grand scale here in the Philippines. All of the fellows are just about ready to start mutiny right now, and with these announcements about the surplus of boats and the depots being empty -- the army will regret not getting the men back as soon as possible now.

Another article that you might read with amazement is the one about the Japs surrendering on Corregidor. There those little yellow Bas-ta-ds have been hiding out there almost nine months after Corregidor was taken, and about four months after the official end of the war. Talk about really fooling the army -- they did. They claim they didn't know the war had ended until a couple of weeks ago -- and thus decided to give up. And to think that the army has been running "excursions" out to Corregidor for about the past five or six months. They turn the servicemen loose for about three or four hours, let them roam all over the islands looking for anything they can find. I know those Japs saw many of the GI's walk by their hide-out, and probably could have easily killed some of them, unless they were out of ammunition.

We are off this afternoon -- Saturday afternoon, and all day tomorrow which is Sunday -- so another week is gone by. If only these next six weeks will fly by!

Loads of love,

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