Good afternoon Sweetheart;

It is a rainy and cool afternoon here in New Guinea. I have spent most of my day off doing some reading. I returned “Dr. Dogbody” to the library and took out a History of Democracy in America by a professor Hicks of the University of California. It is quite interestingly written, and is easy to follow. Dam still reading “Freedom Road” and like it very much.

How do you like my haircut. That is something I ask for this morning. The barber gave me my usual mustache trim and did a very good job of it. Since one of the points was broken off my scissors, I haven’t been able to do too good a job of trimming it myself. I’ll have to try to get a new pair when and if I get up to the Philippines.

This cool weather seems very nice for a change. I don’t imagine the temperature is below 80° but that seems very cool out here, honest! I’ll freeze to death if I ever get back to the States in the winter time because my blood has thinned out very much in this tropical heat and I will have to get used to the cold all over again. If I get home in summer, the gradual change from warm to
cold will take care of that problem, but if I get
home in winter, the only solution I can see is
to just go to bed with you and hibernate (that's a fancy
bramble for it isn't it?) all winter long. That is the
only way I'll be able to keep warm.

I've been eating cookies and candy bars all
afternoon long. The cool weather seems to have given
me a ravenous appetite. I'll have to quit though
because we're having a good meal this evening. Ham
burgers no less. Since Lavachek isn't P today, he
may be able to bring a few back with him tonight
if there are any left. He's going to get some bread
so we can enjoy your jelly and peanut butter
gifts. Ten o'clock tonight.

If it is still raining tonight, I am
going to pass up the picture. "Objective Burma" is
playing. It is a "rootin' tootin' tale of Errol's ex-
plorations among the hapless Japanese. With Errol Flynn
and Superman both on our side, it is little won-
der that the war is going so favorably for us. We can't
lose.

There is a picture in the new book I got
of an early American dining room set which I
like very much. The furniture is Sheraton style
and had very clean-cut lines. It looks very neat.
The table is an oval one with plenty Sheraton
3.

Lips and looks very graceful. I like it much better than a lot of the bulky furniture which is sold today.

I have been thinking over what you said about my not being happy teaching because of the politics which enters into the picture. That was the main theme of Jim Martin's last letter. He was very much discouraged, to put it very mildly, with the corruptions of our educational system and with teaching methods. It does seem to me that there is something wrong with the methods of teaching in grade schools and high schools. Of late there have been some improvements made but these are only in effect in some few progressive schools while in the great, even overwhelming, majority of schools the old stultified methods of teaching are adhered to. I very strongly believe in stressing vocational training of a sort. Stimulating the student's interest in some lines to which they will stimulate his desire to learn other subjects. What I mean is this. Let me say that a boy as interested in carpentry. He should take a course in carpentry and during the course different matters can be brought up such as the necessity for him knowing how to express himself, he problems of arithmetic which he encounters in his work and many other things along these lines. Then the problems
of English, mathematics, etc. would be clarified for him. He would be able to see just how these things can be of use to him. Under our present system of not coordinating any of the teaching, the student is more confused after he finishes studying a subject than he was before he started. I know that I coasted through high school with damned good grades without learning a thing except in art, a subject which I was interested in. Teaching would be much more effective if the different subjects were correlated. I believe this is the only way of stimulating the student's interest and interest must be stimulated if the student is to learn anything. It's the same principle which is used in some kindergartens and lower grades where the conditions of a small town are created and the students learn by participating in the functions of this model town. They are taught arithmetic in conjunction with their work in a model store. They are taught to read and write by learning to read the names of the objects they run across in this game of make-believe. They can be taught the fundamentals of government by participating in the government. They see just how everything fits in. This could be done through high school or though in a different manner. It is a very much more interesting and effective way of learning than our
Chill and note memory methods which go in the ear and out the pencil without pausing between the two. Most of the old school of teachers who are solidly entrenched in their jobs are very reluctant to try anything new which might threaten their secure position and they use their position to ridicule new teaching methods and to deaccredit them. They, like all reactionaries in all fields, are trying to hold back time and keep things just as they are. This is what I believe is the greatest threat to American growth in all fields. Customs are coming into the land and people want to do things just as they were done by their fathers, “It was good enough for father, it is good enough for me.” This preoccupation with custom resulted in the decline of many great civilizations and is the reason for Britain’s steady drop in importance. I hope it does not happen in America.

It seems that every one of my recent letters to you becomes an essay on the improvement of mankind. It doesn’t cost anything to talk about it though, and you haven’t complained to me yet so I just ramble on and on in my letters. You don’t mind do you Darling?

We just had ourselves a feast. Kowalchuk did us up fine with a couple of hamburgers apiece. We had bread, butter and hamburgers to eat. I was so
full that I couldn't eat any jelly or peanut butter sandwiches as I had intended to. I can save it for another night.
It is time to go Honey. I'll say goodnight and give you a nice goodnight kiss just for being such a very nice girl and for loving me as much as.

I love you.

Freddy