

Gracie, My Darling:

Tuesday 30 July
Marine Panther

We are still in Yokohama Harbor of Tokyo Bay.

Just in case our little situation has made the newspapers, and lest you be worried, I'll give you as much as I can of the big picture. In the first place - let me say that the main inconvenience entailed is the loss of time. It's very irritating when we are so anxious to be together, but you know what my Dad says about bucking the inevitable.

Well, here it is. It has been necessary to put ashore at Yokohama, three men taken down with polio, to put them in the hospital. Now - wait a minute. Don't be alarmed. The ship's surgeon and the ship's officers have assured us that no one on the ship can catch it from any one else aboard. Those three had contracted it before they came aboard and it didn't become evident until we had put to sea. Consequently the contagious or incubation period has passed. We are not in quarantine. Why are we still here? Here is the answer. In the event that some one else come aboard with it, and in order to be prepared if that should happen, the ship's surgeon has refused to allow us to sail without having aboard an artificial respirator - or iron lung. There are three in Tokyo, of which two are in use, and all of them in Manila are in use. So, one has to be flown from the States. It is due here tomorrow or Thursday and we will sail immediately it gets here.

Of the three who have it, two worked in the same district and the third also came from an epidemic district. It seems that there was quite a bit of it in Manila. We were fortunate in that we were located at our camp 10 miles out of Manila. I had not been any place but our camp and Parañaque in a

long time and we never had any disease there.

I'm going into detail because I'm not worrying, and am trying to give you the dope, so that you will realize that there is no cause for worry.

Everyone on the ship is a good soldier and good humor is predominant. Naturally, the urge to get home is prevalent, but everyone accepts and appreciates the wisdom of the decision to await the arrival of the respirator. MacArthur is expediting the shipment. I hope that don't hold it up too much.

I wouldn't have mentioned all this, but sometimes the papers like to play up a story of this kind and I don't want you out on a limb-worrying. If there was any danger the ship would be in quarantine. It's just that they are covering all the angles by having the respirator aboard as insurance.

I never thought that I would be spending any amount of time ^{in Japan}, but here I am.

Honey, I don't know whether it's the army or just age, but some thing has taught me to accept just about any situation that arises. My answer to any griper that I hear is - "yes, but we are on our way home." The arrival there may be a week or ten days later, but the ship is pointing in the right direction all ready to take off when the respirator arrives. I pray you are all well, and I know that I am.

I'm sitting here ^{writing} in supertuous solitude with 381 others in this particular compartment, but I think I'm doing quite well.

I take any little out of the ordinary thing like this ^(over)