Tuesday 30 July
Marine Panther

Gracie, My Darling:

We are still in Yokahama 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 Yokahama, 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 has contracted it before they came aboard and it didn't become evident until we has put to sea. Consequently the contagion 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 came 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 hadn't 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 sometime 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 something has taught me to accept just about any situation that arises. My answer to any gripes 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 sumptuous solitude with 381 others in this particular compartment, but I think I'm doing quite well.

I take my little out of the ordinary thing like this

(over)

is just another one of those things that will ~~just~~ give me a deeper appreciation of home and all you guys when I get there, although I hardly need anything to establish how important to me are home and you who are there.

So - shall we just keep slugging with our feet on the ground? Personally, I never felt so much at peace as I do right now because I know that we are on our way home and that you and all the folks are just as anxious that I get there as I am. That makes any little worries that we might have trivial, doesn't it? We've never had any of the big mind tearing worries have we? That all springs from absolute trust. We are very rich in that. Material things assume minor proportions beside the great factor of human relationship. Material necessities will claim their correct proportion when I am back on the scene to meet my responsibilities. Pardon me, then, if at the present I think more about people (you all) than I do about any thing else.

Let me repeat - there is absolutely no cause for worry, as you could see very easily if you were present on the scene.

We have movies every night and there is plenty to read. The food is good and we can keep clean. Needless to say, we get lots of rest.

Keep planning for the great day when we get together.

God Bless all of you
I love you
Love to all of you Your guy Chet.