

Request

Monday

1 April 1945
Sunday Morning

Hello Gang;

Well here I am with a long over due letter. Things have happened so fast since I got my orders for overseas duty that I haven't had time to think straight. I have been overseas almost four months now and it already seems like forty years. I guess the fellow that made the statement that, "the worst stateside duty is better than the best overseas duty". Here is hoping that this finds everybody at the station feeling okay and in the best of spirits.

I want to thank you for changing my address and forwarding me a copy of the Letter From Home to my new address. Getting the paper every week is just like a dose of medicine when you are blue. Getting the latest town topics and gossip is one of the best morale builders that a guy overseas can receive. It also gives you a good idea of the post-war plans for Montgomery which right now if carried out should really put our beautiful City on the map.

Well now for a little summary of my getting orders for overseas duty and arriving at my present duty station. I received my orders in October 1944 to report to San Bruno, California for further transfer outside the continental limits of the U.S.. I was given fifteen days delay enroute to count as leave of which I spent the greater part in Montgomery. It was a well spent leave. After my leave was over I reported to San Bruno, Calif. where I was given military training for overseas duty. We departed from the U.S. the latter part of December on board a very good ship. It was a very nice trip. It was my first time aboard ship so you know I enjoyed it. I didn't get seasick at all; although a lot of the fellows did. Thirty days latter we disembarked at our destination. During the trip we passed through the Hawaiian, Marshal and ended up at our destination in the Mariana Islands.

I am attached to a Fleet Hospital Unit which is very good duty. After disembarking we transported by trucks to the site of our Hospital. On arriving we were all struck dumbfounded with amazement at the beautiful scenery which surrounded our grounds for the hospital. Our Unit is situated at the top of a hill and is constructed in the middle of a cocconut grove. There are also a lot of orange and lime trees around us. There are also a lot of the native Papaya trees.

We had it pretty tough at first. We had to sleep on the ground for about a week or so until we constructed tent houses. We had to eat "K" and "C" rations for two weeks. We had to draw water for drinking and washing from other outfits

on the Island. After awhile we made showers out of barrels which served the purpose very well. We had to take and construct our Hospital from the ground up as there was nothing build when we arrived. It was a lot of fun though and we had some swell times. We are now in operation and receiving patients.

For entertainment we don't do so bad. We have a very nice movie and get to see some very good pictures. In fact the picture "I'll meet you in St. Louis" is playing here this week. We have occasional swimming parties and engage in Inter-island basketball and softball.

We have been eating fresh vegetables since January. They can grow almost anything that you mention on this island. We have already had fresh snapbeans, corn on the cob, radishes, spring onions and have been eating watermelons for the past two weeks.

All in all it is very nice out here but I still wouldn't trade a ounce of dirt from Montgomery for the whole Pacific islands.

There is another fellow in the outfit from Montgomery. His name is John Fowler, HA2c. He is really a swell guy and I am lucky to be in the same outfit with him. I hope that we can stay together while we are overseas and come back to Montgomery together. That will be the day for both of us.

From now on you can call me a Pharmacist's Mate Second Class. I passed the examination and was rated as of the first day of April.

May I request that you dedicate a song to my wife who lives at 207 Martha St., Phone 6158. The song is "Our Love!"

In closing I wish to thank you again for changing my address and sending me the weekly copy of "Letter From Home."

Sincerely yours,

W.T. Crowder

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"Letter From Home" Program

Radio Station WSEF

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