

Dear Folks.

May 7, 1945  
" 8.

Your letter post-marked April 23 beat those of the 16<sup>TH</sup> and 17<sup>TH</sup> by about a week, the latter having arrived to-day with others from Nance (even earlier), Tack (earlier still, Apr. 9), Sabine (over apologetic as usual) and Bradley (in good form and now teaching about everything at his old school, now called "The Mesa", located at Carpinteria - the old location?). A goodly haul that!

So Ham and family finally "decided" on Bermuda rather than Botwood (Newfoundland - I had to look it up). Well, that certainly is a lucky break, a mighty fine piece of news indeed! Will they be there two years? Seems to me that if given the chance, they might make it indefinitely, which would make it difficult to see them often though it would provide a wonderful excuse to visit Bermuda. A trip there next winter would be a fine idea for you two anyway, and I'd be only too delighted to buy the tickets.

T. Richard

Describe  
Okinawa, Iwo  
and other  
islands & islets,  
including  
looking at coral  
reefs at Misaki.

- Poor old Henry seems to have fallen  
to a poorer lot in the way of islands,  
assuming it's Iwo, though finally making  
corpsal must ease things a fraction.  
Looking at the brighter side of the picture  
I wo might not be too grim. Admittedly  
it's very isolated, at least so far as U.S.  
territory is concerned, but it is far from  
barren, having, in fact, both sugar cane  
fields and extensive woods over much  
of the area, and there could hardly be  
totally destroyed even as the scene of  
the bitterest of fighting. There is of course  
considerable variety in topography.

Though the little volcano, the highest  
point, is actually only a few hundred  
feet high. The climate might be pretty  
fair, and could hardly be either very  
cold or very hot (at least not all year).  
The swimming should be good, and  
the opportunities for shell collecting, fish  
diving (especially through under water  
goggles, glass-bottomed boxes, etc.) should  
be equally good. If there is anything left  
of the civilian population, probably all  
Iap, there might even be fresh vegetables,  
which wouldn't be poisoned once the people

T. Richards

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became educated to the fact that they are to be treated kindly. These people are also supposed to have fished, which might easily mean good fishing for sport as well as for fresh fish.

Of course it might not be Iwo. Perhaps it will be Ojima, which of course is much bigger even than Guam and very likely more interesting than the latter or Iwo. We were around Ojima before and immediately after the invasion, which means that I saw much of the island if not the actual invasion landings. It's very long and narrow and irregular in shape, but it's only rugged here and there and nowhere extremely so. A high proportion of the southern section is cultivated, whereas the northern parts are much wilder and woodier. There are quite a few smaller islands around, some being of some importance, others mere reefs, a few of the latter circular with light green water within them in contrast to the blue water outside.

T. Richard



Having visited Amami on occasion  
and passed close to the northern is-  
lands of the chain when attacking  
southern Kyushu, we've seen prac-  
tically all of the Nansei Shoto or  
Ryukyus or Luchus (most Top islands  
and island groups seem to have more  
than one name) except those few south  
of Miyako. It's a picturesque group,  
especially towards the north, where  
there are volcanoes (probably mostly  
if not all dead), varying from wee  
ones to one higher than Washington,  
rising right out of the ocean.

I got sidetracked above and  
intended to bring all that up later,  
but it doesn't matter. Right now we  
are enjoying short shore trips every  
other day (taking turns) to the little  
recreation islet visited before. Ward  
and I have been collecting shells,  
mostly live specimens this time,  
so I think we should hunt up a  
few score ants. We've also been  
observing fish whenever we can  
borrow a face plate (even better

T. Richard

than gogglers), and the number of different kinds of brightly-colored, oddly-marked species swimming around (darting and dodging when you try to catch them) is really astonishing. For not even having gogglers out here I've dived myself a hundred times since first swimming at Guam. The coral reefs are of course the best hunting grounds for fish and most shells.

Your trip must have been great fun, Ma, and I commend you not bawling it off to go to the funeral. It was nice that each of you and Nance too were able to visit Great Neck even if separately. Washington must have been enjoyable too what with seeing so many friends, cherry blossoms, etc. If Nance goes up to Lt. Colonel, more power to her. Still being a comparatively junior lieutenant, I don't expect to go any higher unless the war lasts longer than most people think it will, so I hope I don't make Lt. Comdr! Tweed jacket, gray flannels, etc., are what I'm interested in.

I'm glad everything's going pretty  
T. Ricard

smoothly in Gardiner. Though it will  
be a lot more difficult without Aunt  
going down there so often. Your walk  
to Oakland and back. Pa. sounds quite  
encouraging.

I had not heard about Russ Keller,  
Ma, whom you did mention in two  
letters. I was a little annoyed when  
starting to tell The Skipper<sup>(Wah)</sup> I found  
out he had known for weeks, but  
the main thing is that it is too  
damn bad to lose such a swell guy.

The canned heat and other things  
finally arrived the other day, and I'm  
sorry to say the candied fruit and  
chocolate were pretty well moulded. The  
raisins are in good shape, however, and  
delicious.

Tack may be a bright lad and all  
that, but for your information and his  
when an air group is ready for action  
and has reached its turn for some,  
it relieves whatever air group needs  
to be relieved. What ship<sup>group</sup> is on then  
is a matter of chance once that ship  
loses its first air group, which may  
have had the same number as the ship

Love T.  
T. Richards

of the started by together. Not much space for mentioning V-E, but change a  
it seems. The announcement, significant as it is, seemed like just another announcement.