

21 July 1945

Dear Ted,

I just received your letter the other day and am taking this chance while I'm CQ to answer--~~Otherwise~~ I don't believe I'd ever get a chance to do it. I had expected you to have graduated by now--perhaps you have by now.

I'm still grinding out citations and it's getting to be a complicated mess with all the inconsistency in orders I receive. The battalion exec tells me to make certain that every man in the battalion who originally came overseas with the unit, ^{be written up} be it one who has seen every campaign or one who saw only a day or so and was put on Class B. [The regiment more or less countermands by telling me to cut the citations to a minimum, leaving me of course holding the bag, not knowing what to do with some of the stuff that come. And now ^{the} the guys in the rear have received their citations (Kovac got a Bronze and a Cluster; the Service Company Mess Sergeant got a Bronze Star) it's getting increasingly difficult to get things through for the riflemen. What the regiment wants are exceptional incidents, really heroic. In the general orders I see lately the Bronze Star (in support of combat) out-numbers those for heroism or meritorious achievement in combat by about ten to one. It's a sad mess and I get it both ways--from the company citations clerks, the Bn staff and from the regiment.

Perhaps you've read about the Second Battalion getting the Presidential Unit Citation. There's some hush-hush involved with that. It's more or less a matter of "you got one so I want one." Since the Third's citation for the 1st Battalion is more or less assured (I don't know what's holding it up) they wanted onw for the second. However the Second put in one for this last campaign whereas ours was for the French. We also put in for the Folgarito deal for this last but it was turned ~~mm~~ down by Fifth Army a short while ago. It isn't ^{so} sour grapes but if it's any unit in the regiment who should get it's the Hundredth for that campaign, though the Third got the greatest publicity. Methinks there's something rotten somewhere.

Tell me as soon as you're established in a new place, for I'll send you the 34th Division Book--It would probably interest you. I have only copy but you can send it home for me after you see it. It has that picture of Harada which you saw in Colliers.

Did you know that dear Cwawence volunteered for MIS though he was more or less Shanghaied into it--poetic justice. Tada is now even lower than I am, a mere private. He was busted for AWOL and received the maximum sentence for it too--a bust, two-thirds pay and three month's confinement. He knew of course that they were gunning for him since the CO wanted to promote some of the deserving ones who had seen all the combat. It wouldn't have happened if Tada had tried hard but he aggravated everything by taking off on days when he was on ~~man~~ guard or generally making himself obnoxious, as it's usual with him. One Sunday they set all the traps for him and really caught him with no alibi whatsoever. Frankly I'd have preferred Johnny busted since he's holding up ~~the business man~~ one of the best men in the company. During this last campaign Johnny goes into the hospital (not for wounds--some of the guys suspect a that he broke down) and Kinaga, who's a second gunner led the squad right through. I think you can imagine how much this pissed him off--to do the work in combat and then have Johnny take the cream when we come back. Johnny, I believe, has not seen more than a week of combat.

I was slightly enebriated last night--the first sergeant had a bottle of whiskey stocked away. I was on CQ then and they called me back to the company. Only it was the Bn CO who answered the phone so technically I was called back for important business. I had a few drinks, came back, closed shop, transferred all calls to the company and slowly got tipsier and tipsier. First time that I had so much whiskey in all my life. I'm afraid I can't take that suff straight.

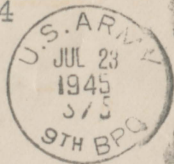
Now that the companies are all split up it's rather complicated carrying on this citations business. But I generally go to visit I and K companies since they're in Florence. I like just to be in a big city of the sort.

I guess I'll have to get back to my work--business is beginning to get started and I can't be seen typing a letter

~~Steve~~ Bob

I'm so used to signing "Steve" that I even tried to be formal with you..

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