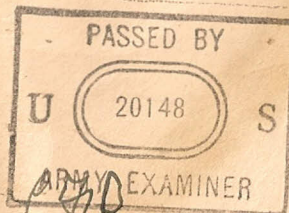


Pvt Edward J. Thomas
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APO 948, c/o PM, Seattle, Wn.

AIRMAIL

AIRMAIL



Mr. & Mrs. Thurman McCoy

17403 Filer Ave.

Detroit (12), Michigan

The Aleutians
16 January 1944

Dear Izzy & Mac:

I efficiently muddled through my files which are based on the W. C. Fields System and inefficiently found three of your letters dated Nov. 23, Dec. 8, and Dec. 26. Because of the difficulty I had, I am thinking of revolutionizing my files to the Robert Benchley System. I believe it can be done simply by stirring my papers from right to left instead of vice versa as prescribed ^{by} bulb-nosed Fields.

I was interested in knowing just what your impression would be when you saw those photographs of me standing in the row boat. These were very deceiving pictures because they made you believe I went fishing. The truth was that I had a couple of hours of leisure time to walk around with some friends a small lake/in an attempt to find a suitable spot for snapshots. We found a row boat anchored on shore and we just stepped in it and had our pictures taken. I suppose if it came right down to a frank confession, I would have to say that there probably was a fish caught. It was the camera that caught it when it snapped me.

You wrote that you gave up your job as a steward. I have been in the Army so long that I must have completely forgotten that you held such a troublesome job. If I knew you were a steward, I would have asked for some of your experiences in handling the problems of others. How about giving me some dope on this? Most problems when they are passed on to somebody else sound pretty funny, especially when they are not your own.

I see that you are not taking my advice in bowling because the scores in your Nov 23 and Dec 8 letters weren't very high. It was very encouraging, however, to notice that you have improved in your letter of

Dec 26. My advice, I guess, is showing some results. Keep using that straight ball, girlie. Just as in everything else, it's better to be straight than crooked.

You gave a very good description of your Christmas celebration and with Mac mixing the drinks I am sure everybody enjoyed himself very much. I was very much moved to know that your first drink was to me. If, however, I had been asked whether you ought to do it, I would have suggested that you drink for me. In that case there probably would have been the possibility of my getting drunk, that is if there is anything to telepathy.

So far I have thanked you only indirectly for the Christmas gifts you have sent me. Now I wish to do it directly. Those soap bars were very slick and novel. I have noticed that my name is not merely printed on the surface but impregnated so that it doesn't wear off for quite some time.

I received a letter from Gertie and Gene and also one from Genie and shall now have to think about answering them.

With love,

Eddie
Eddie

P.S. Let Harry know I received his sensational record-breaking, 17-page letter. Tell him that he forgot to include an index.

Izzy:

Your last letter stated that you paid \$4.80 for my gifts to Mom and Harry. To make the sum an even amount, I am enclosing a money order for \$5.00. If there is any mistake in my understanding and ^{if} the full amount is over \$5.00, let me know. Thanks.

Ed