October 15, 1945
Monday Morning

Dearest Mother and Lawrence,

As this is the only stationary I have at the present it will have to serve the purpose of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am O.K.

First of all let me tell you about my trip into Hiro-Shima. It was the first city to feel the effect of the great Atomic bomb. You can't believe how powerful that bomb is until you have seen one of the cities that it was dropped on. This was the first time this city had ever been bomb before, but from the looks of the place you would think that impossible for the whole city is destoyed and there isn't even the remains of the ruins left. The places were the buildings were, are nothing but powder. the glass windows or anything else that was glass is all melted and there isn't anything left but huge piles of melted glass.

When we first went into the city all people there ran like scared rabbits. You couldn't blame after seeing what that bomb had done and we were the first Americans to put foot on this city. After about an hour they saw that we weren't going to harm them, now they came out of hiding and came out on the street and tried to be friendly with us. They tried to give us things, buthey didNŠt offer anything of any interest to me so I turned down their offers.

Every vehicle that could hold a sailor would stop and offer us a ride or offered to take us some place, so my friend and I took a bicycle from a couple Japs and rode about two miles out of the city and came to the ruins of Hiro-Shima University of Literature and Science. We looked around the ruins awhile and then returned back to the city and returned the bicyles.

It appeared that most every person there smoked, because most of them were always begging cigarettes from us and some of the richer people paid for them. I sod five packages for 200 Yens which is $13. in American money. That was all the cigs I had with me Or I would have sold more

I went down to the train depot and met a lady about 37 years old and when she saw me she said" So the Americans have at las t arrived." I told her that we were here on a tour and asked her where she learned how to speak English and she told me that she was educated in Hawaii and her parents brought her back to Japan as soon as she graduated from school. She said that they hadn't had any sugar for three years and candy and cigarettes were unheard of. She said she lost her daughter when the bomb hit there and her husband at Iwo Jima. I couldn't help from feeling sorry for her even though I shouldn't have.

It appeared to me that every boy that was able to walk was in some type of military training for all of them had on some type of uniform. When they would pass us on the streets they would salute and bow, and at the same time gives us one of the dirties looks I ever saw.

As we ~~xxxxxxxx~~ returned back to the dock to return to the ship, the smaller children, old men and women were down there and they really cheered as we pulled away from the dock. I don't know wether they were giving us a hearty send off or were glad to see us leave.

mo I returned to the ship and was very glad and enthused that I was one of the first Americans to step on one of the Japs cities, especially one that was bombed by the Atomic bomb. I enjoyed it very much and hope that I can have the priveledge of going in again to look the place over. I imagine you have heard enough about Japn

so will talk about something else.

The other morning I picked up one of morning news sheets and was reading down it when Washington Court House appeared on it. I thought for a moment that I ws was seeing things so I looked again and there was a big piece about the Fayette couty draft board walking out. They should have done that about Jan. 27,1944 and then I wouldn't have to had registed I think it is a wonderful idea and they are certaintly right. All I read about in these morning news sheets is about th the American people on strikes. They must think there is a war on and can expect the wages that were paid them during the war. They had better hang onto those jobs for when the biggest part of the service men get home they wont have any jobs.

We have one more operation to make and after that we may return to the

states, so if we do I will be home fro for Christmas. I have a very good chance to any way. I don't want you to send anythin out here for my Christmas, because my mail has never arrived yet. I haven't had any mail since Aug. 22 and it is getting damn hard to take too. The last mail we got was the day we reached Ulithia. There was a destroyer pull in here with mail for every ship but ours. I guess it is because we have been transferred from one ship to another so damn many times. Oh well I can take it if the next fellow can.

X Say Lawrence what do you think of that world series this year? I was hoping like hell ~~xxxxx~~ that the Tigers would win, for I had $15 bet on them. Ohio State has been paying me five ~~XXXX~~ dollars each sat. that they win their football game, and they haven't lost one yet. I hope to be home next year with civilian clothing on and sitting at the Ohio State Stadium each game

they peace play there. Want to come along

I read in the news sheet that all the fellows in the Army with two years service can get out after March 1st. Wayne will probably be out about the same time I am. Mother when he gets out try and make him go back to school and graduate. He is going to need a diploma after things start getting rough.

Well as I am on watch and am really not supposre to be doing this I expect I had better knock this off and start to work. You people be good and take care of yourselv If you see dad tell him I said hello and try and write him a letter and tell him to tell Ron that I am still looking forward to be building roads this time next year. Must close kkkw now so be good.

Your Son,
Bill