

608th Port Company,
A.P.O. # 159,
8th July, 1945.

War Mother's Protective League,
Windsor, Ontario,
Canada.

Dear Friends,

The Easter Greeting that was so thoughtfully sent to me finally caught up with me. (smile). The Greetings was addressed to Company "A" 394th Port Battalion, APO 929. This company was redesignated 608th Port Company in November, 1943. So a lot of ground has been covered and many experiences have been witnessed since then. At that time I was in Port Moresby, New Guinea. I have been to Finchhafen, Maffin Bay, Hollandia (all in New Guinea). Then we landed at Leyte in the Philippines, from there we went to Tigbuan, Panay and later moved into Iloilo City. Iloilo City was the best stop that we have made so far. My present station is Mindanao. Things here are pretty well under control.

When a soldier has been away from home a long time he sometimes becomes possessed by the current happenings and loses sight on home and home affairs. Periodic letters and good wishes tend to take his mind off the horrors and hardships encountered on the battle field, and allows him an opportunity to reminisce the good old pre-war days when he enjoyed association and companionship with friends and loved ones. By this medium he is able to get a glimpse of all basis of the ordeals that he is presently undergoing. These letters give him added strength to tackle his daily task, added hope to overcome future hardships and hazards, added faith in the things for which he daily risks his life.

Quite some time ago while this unit was in Finchhafen being subjected to daily and nightly bombing for more than three months, a comrade of mine sat outside a fox hole awaiting Tojo's messenger. While sitting there he said, "Well Ray, if by me coming over here I have in any way stopped the folks at home from being subjected to the punishment that the people here have had to endure, I feel that my trip over here was worth while and I am glad that I made the trip.

At times a soldier is forced to undergo circumstances that do not permit him to reply to correspondence; but please do not think that the letters are not appreciated. It is hard to estimate the full value of mail from home. Sometimes we don't receive any mail for a month or more, and you would be surprised at the affect that this has on the morale of the company in general. Many of the fellows become skeptical of their home folk and get to the point that they don't care what happens; but then the dark clouds disappear and the sun shines through-----Mail Call.

Again I thank you for your thoughtfulness, and wish to thank you for those, who through present circumstances are unable to do so.

May God ever bless you.

As ever,

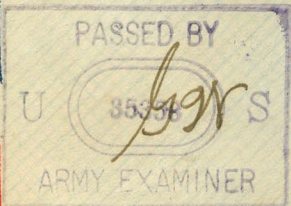
Raymond

Sgt Ray W. Roberts, 36555253,
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c/o PM San Francisco, Calif.



VIA AIR MAIL

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