

To the Frank and Kathryn Yoder children,

You'll never know how much these letters from dad to me, that were written long before you were born or even thought, of mean to me. They reveal dad at age 21 and I want you to get to know him at that young age and what he did in the Coast Guard in Japan on isolated duty.

We were young, I was 18 and he was 21. I think from the moment I met him I was in love and wanted to be married. You can see it in his responses to my letters.

I included a few extra pages that tell of the Coast Guard LORAN station and their purpose, which is now obsolete. The other is about the island Oshima, Japan and the little town of Habu near the station.

I also need to clarify what "Takue" means since dad used it in almost every letter. I made up this word while I was in high school and it could mean almost anything from: wow, great, love, smile — anything you wanted it to mean and dad used it more liberally than I did through our life.

It was a wonderful life with your dad and I look forward to spending eternity with him and all of you.

Love, Mom Yoder

Article in Navy paper for Far East the Seahawk Dated September 8, 1956.

On a windswept promontory overlooking the craggy surf-pounded shores of Oshima Island, the U.S. Coast Guard maintains an "established outpost of isolation" of great value to anyone who navigates the skies and waters of the Far East.

Like a beacon searching the stormy seas, the Coast Guard's LORAN (LONG Range Aid to Navigation) reaches out to aid travelers within a 1,500-mile radius. The electronic guide to navigation allows for a near instantaneous "fix" to be taken by vessels and aircraft equipped with LORAN gear and operating within the area of effectiveness.

The principal of LORAN depends on the speed with which an electro-magnetic (radio) wave travels between its starting point and its point of reception and rebroadcast. Thus, a "master station (located on historic Iwo Jima) sends out a signal to be picked up and rebroadcast-a calculated number of microseconds later-by a "slave" station (located on Oshima).

Utilizing precision receiving equipment capable of measuring this minute "time lag" accurately, a navigator is able to quickly determine his position- often times more accurately than any other available means of navigation.

The system is most effective when the radio wave travels only over water, and this makes it possible for both ships and aircraft to make use of this useful, often necessary, aid. LORAN stations are strategically placed in nearly all areas of the world, and the resulting networks "cover" a large part of the world's oceans and seacoasts.

Consequently, the stations are often located in very isolated parts of the world, and must be as self-sufficient a unit as possible.

The LORAN station on Oshima is isolated on the south-eastern tip near the small fishing harbor of Habu. Under the commanding officer, Lieutenant (junior grade) Gordon D. Hall, USCG, twelve men must maintain the twenty-some tons of electronic equipment and acres of antennae necessary to keep them "on the air." Four generators power the station around the clock, and supply not only the powerful transmitters and receivers, but also the "standby" equipment (as the signal is so critical, a complete auxiliary system is always warmed up and "standing by" in case of component failure).

Three recently constructed concrete block buildings and a former Japanese rest home house the station and its facilities. The station's only fresh water supply is rain, caught by the roofs and drained into a supply cistern. Mail and supplies are brought in every two weeks on a logistics run from Fleet Activities, Yokosuka (five hours away by boat).

The station is not restricted, but "liberty" —as such— is unheard of. During off-duty hours, the "Green House" (former Japanese rest home) make an excellent recreation hall. A small (and well used) library, lounging chairs, and ping-pong table draw much attention. There is some swimming; depending upon surf conditions. In the evenings, "movie call" is attended by practically everyone, but the man actually on duty at the LORAN controls.

An isolated tour of duty is twelve months for these rugged
Coast Guardsmen.
End

Oshima Sightseeing

Oshima Island, one of the largest and most picturesque of the Seven Izu Islands, lies about 60 nautical miles south of Tokyo Bay.

It is an island of violent and obscure history and formation. It is a plot of ground open to the violent Western Pacific typhoons, frequent volcanic activity, tidal waves, numerous earthquakes and ground tremors.

Nevertheless, the island is heavily covered with green foliage and towering pine trees. The trees are quite important to the island's economy, as they shield it from the storms, provide lumber for the industry, and yield raw materials for the manufacture of charcoal. Historically, there is an 800 year old cherry tree growing there that is an object of national pride.

The island is in the path of the "black tide"-a heavy current boiling up the rich, deep ocean waters to the advantage of fishermen. Salt is also extracted from heavily-laden seawater in ovens set up on the seashore. This industry was almost completely destroyed by a tidal wave somewhere near the start of the 18th century.

The volcanic Mt. Mihara dominates the island with its grumbling fumaroles and frequent activity. The volcano is directly responsible for the rich soil it deposited over the island in the form of volcanic ash during past eruptions.

Dairying and fishing supply the island with food, and constitute some of the claims of self-sufficiency.

A profusion of greenery covers the island with many types of plants-some of them rare and exotic imports. The local manufacture of camilia-oil is also an important industry.

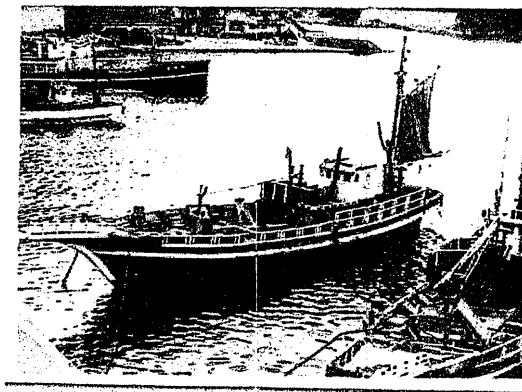
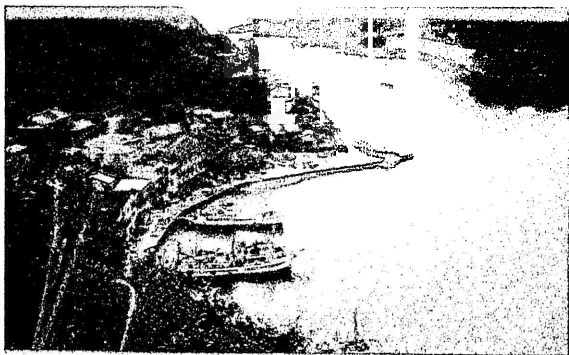
As with most volcanic islands, obtaining fresh water is a perpetual problem. The majority of the houses on Oshima are build to collect run-off into cisterns for future use.

A steamship line running daily from Tokyo or Ito alternately services the island.

(From the Seahawk Sept. 29, 1956)

Habu

The little fishing village of Habu was located close to us. We could see it from our high location and watch the ships coming in and going out. There was for a while a North Korean Ship that use to come in and since we were at war with them, we use to dream of sinking the ship. Never did more then dream of it.



This is Habu Harbor and town with one of the fishing boats up close.

FRANKS LETTERS TO KATHY STEINHAUER

Dear Kathy,

Well I guess you have given me up as dead. I should have written sooner but I have been real busy. I got the last of my shots last Tuesday and till I get to San Francisco my arm will be safe. This last shot about did me in, I could not even move my arm for a day.

I have been skating only once and the other night I was bowling but I got beat by Connie, by the way I am bringing him home for a couple of days or I should say he is bringing me since it is his car. I want you to get a date for him. She will have to be real good looking like yourself. I will be home this Friday so make the date for Saturday. (Friday the 13) my lucky day!!!

We made it back OK as by now you have guessed. Doug said he got back home with only one wrong turn. I sort of wished that you had come since it would have been good for Doug as well as made me happy.

I think that I lost my wallet. I was out with some kids and I am quite sure it is in the back seat of their car. (I sure hope so)

You seem quite disturbed about that picture so I guess I will have to give you another signed better. OK? I am happy to receive your letters and glad that you like to write. Do you write much else as a rule? I write when I find time and usually that is quite often. But it is when I get settled down that I start as a rule... I have been up to this point been typing with one hand since I did not want to hurry and get done because I had nothing to do anyway. But now I am writing with both and making a good many errors, but ahh...

I am quite sure that it is not to good to be writing or typing on both sides of this. I have to stop now since there is a distress on 500. So be good and I will see you soon.

Love, kisses and other indoor sports.

Frank

January 12, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well I bet you have given me up for dead or something. But I have been kept going so much that I have not had a chance to write to anyone not even to Cathy Longcope. Ha Ha

Well I will fill you in since the last time I wrote. I got to California okay and stayed there less than 24 hours and then flew to Honolulu. I was there less than 3 days but I really had a good time. I went sightseeing and they have one of the nicest liberties I have ever seen. They have nice buildings with beautiful scenic views. I was wondering through a building and I came to a door that said Mayors Office: walk in. So I went in and ask one of his secretaries if I could see him. She said that he was busy and just then he comes walking through so she said, "ask him" and I did. Thus we talked for a little while and I found out he used to live in Pa. about 40 miles from our place. He then took me in and showed me his office and it was real nice.

That night we went out saw quite bit of the island. We hired a Cad. Convertible. I was then stationed aboard the CG Matagorda for transportation to Japan. It took us 12 days and I was sick 9 days but I enjoyed myself. We had a couple storms but 2 or 3 days we could lay out in the sun on deck for all day.

Upon arriving at Japan we or I should say I went through quite a bit of money. I spent \$100.00 for a camera and everything that goes with it. I also spent about \$40.00 for other things. We will be in Japan a couple of more days and then we go to Okinawa then I will get more time to write. So till then be good and Takue.

Love, Frank

P.S. Miss me.

February 20, 1956

Dear Kathy,

I guess I will bore you since this is the second time in 24 hours, but I have the time. And besides I was wondering why you were not home when I called from Detroit. It was too late to be in church. "Bad girl." Don't take me serious. I want you to go out with other guys. I don't expect any girl to wait for a guy that is gone one or two years. Even if she were to wait I would want her to go out.

I just figured out my expenses. I have spent a little under \$400.00 and got a \$100.00 camera. It is really nice. A buddy and I am going to get some shots of a Buddhist temple today. Then I will have slides made of them.

Well must be going. So be good and love you still.

Takue

Frank

February 26, 1956

Dear Cathy,

Well I have lost track of who I wrote and how long ago so I might repeat a few things. First, give everybody my regards and I hope I find all of you in good health.

I will endeavor to give you my location. I am at a coast Guard Base on the island of Oshima right off Japan. The base is on a high cliff overlooking the sea. There is the barracks, Loran and radio building, the commanding officers building and this is also used as his quarters. We have a good garage and some water tanks. That is the base. To go into more, the barracks are divided into little rooms and there are two men in a room. The room has a large locker, a double decker bunk and a table with chairs. We also have two windows. We have a cute lamp and I have a picture I got in Japan. So it is homey, it is framed (the picture) and made out of bark and greens of some kind. I was going to send it home and I still might but I am afraid it might not make it in good shape.

We have boys to do all the work and even making guys beds every morning. They do the house cleaning and cooking. Boy they sure can cook.

We have a beautiful scene from anywhere on the station we can see the ocean and on the left side is a harbor with a little fishing village there. Most of the time that is where we spend our free time.

The only way to get to the island is by ferry which takes about 7 hours and don't take that unless it is necessary since you will encounter trouble. Remind me to tell you what happened to me the next letter. There is a plane on the weekends but it is too hard to get on that.

Right to our backs is a volcano and it is still active. They had a storm not long ago and it was on fire, so the last storm I was looking for it to come to life but it did not. Since I have been here we have a gale and otherwise the weather has not been to bad. It is Japans winter so I did not get out of the cold after all.

I have not done much writing because my work has kept me to busy to inform you all of my doings. My job consists of making five Sked a day and taking care of the correcting of classified matter. I have been poor on my code so I have been practicing in my spare time to improve. I think I am going to like it here and will write more in detail next time. Be good and write when you find time.

Frank

March 1956

Dear Kathy:

Well I just got my first mail. Boy how stupid can I get. The ribbon can move at the most....times.

Well as I was trying to say I got my first mail today and was quite surprised to get such contrasting letters from one girl. Takue...First I had better get myself out of this jam. I wrote one letter to everyone and I was not sure of how long it would take to get mail delivered or even if it got out of Japan. That was about a month ago and so by now I had given up trying to write. It took your letter till today (April 3) to get to me and to explain that we only get mail when one of the men go into the base or the supplies come out. So sometimes it is twice a week and sometimes it is twice a month.

This letter is not carbon and so don't get mad. You might have a right to be mad and I will say that I might be too if in your shoes (they would not fit) But I don't know I am saying anything that comes in my mind and it is not coming out too good. There is so much I would like to tell you and yet I hold back since I am not sure how you really feel about me and I am not sure how I really feel about you. Two years is a long time and you are quite a Hermosa girl (that is Spanish which means beautiful) In two years you will be married or have someone you like and the chances are that you would not even think of going out with me. What I said that last night is just what I meant and if I could think you really wanted me I would cut myself loose from most of my contacts of females. But two years is to long to ask any girl to wait and even then we would change. As it is I have only the girls that I keep in contact with to date when I get back to the states. One thing I dislike is or are Dear John letters and if I cut myself loose from everyone then you change your mind where am I? So I have tried to tell you how I figure and it is up to you. I like you very much and wish that I could have had more time with you but I am sort of afraid to commit myself until you let me know for sure where you stand.

We will leave this subject till next letter and go on to something more tactful. I got both of your pictures today and they sure bring back memories. I thought only old people sat and thought of the times they had but I often catch myself doing that very same thing. It is not to often though since I am quite busy. I had quite a time getting back in to the swing of code but I finally got to the point where I can send and receive good and so I have had time for other things. I know nothing about the insides of the radio and transmitters so that has been taking up a good deal of my time. Then they want me to start standing Loran watches so that is something else I have to learn since I know nothing about Loran. But I will have to learn in 3 days since they have me on the watch then. The next letter I will tell you how Loran works. (I hope)

I have also got a Spanish course out since I might go to college when I get out of the service. I got my first grades back and it was a 94 and the instructor said I did good. So keep your fingers crossed. My sea bag finally got here today and that means that just about everything happens at once. The sea bag, letters, course, film..oh yes the film . I am afraid I am not too good a cameraman since the first roll came back underdeveloped. I did something wrong. I have sent another and I will be able to tell what it is then. When I get a picture of myself I will send it to you. I guess I told you about my new camera. The film is sure costly though \$2.50 a roll.

Well I hear that you are having bad weather back home. About two weeks ago I was in swimming and it was cold but the idea was to be the first ones in and we were. Not even the natives would go in for another month. We have been in twice since then and I am really looking forward to the summer since they do a lot of skin diving. They have fins and masks on the base and they usually get a good number of fish. When we went in we were diving for these little shellfish like that you put on a fire and cook then you break open the shell and eat. One look discouraged half of us, a few of the fellows ate but we just watched. No one died to my surprise. Be back in a minute I have to eat chow now. Takue.

...Back...Something else when we were down swimming we all did not know too much about where to swim so I just worked my way out to water via rocks and then the water was breaking over the rocks and got them soaked then I took the plunge. Boy from then I was reeling and trying to get out in the deeper and safer water since the water would dash you up against the rocks and get messed up. I got caught in a big wave and it took me in among the rocks from there on I was in reach of a hospital bed for about 3 minutes. Finally I worked my way out and everyone thought I had it and would be cut up and broken in a couple places. But I did not have too much, only a cut on the leg. Then as I was working my way in I slipped and cut my finger and a few other places. So I got hurt more out of the water than I did in. I had trouble typing and sending code for about a week but is okay now but my foot is still bothering me from a cut I got. I have not given it a chance to heal. I am always on the go. So ended my swimming experience and I think I came out of it a wiser man.

The other weekend on Saturday we had a baseball game with the local Loran Station and they have the best team on the island. The ball we and they play with is a hard rubber ball and it is quite a game. I was elected to pitch since I had done some before. We had a fairly good team and were expecting a good skunk. They were supposed to be the best team on the island. Ops I said that once. Well anyway we started out and the first inning I gave them 3 runs. Well we were getting beat according to preschedule. Then the next couple innings I held them to zero and then the chief which is the oldest man on the station got a hit with a man on and that sent in a couple of runs. The chief could hardly make it around the bases but he was the hitter we had. Then another fellow that we did not think any good got another hit and that makes it tie. We held on till the seventh inning and then we had to play extra so I was pitching and walked two men and one stole so that put men on 2nd and 3rd. I threw one right down the middle to the batter and he hit it and it was a little grounder to me so I got the ball and checked to see if

the man on 3rd was going to run. I started to throw to first but the first base man was not there and I tried to hold back my throw but it was too late and on my error they scored and that was the ballgame. We have a game with them in two weeks and I have a sore arm to nurse back into shape but I think we can give them a much better game the next time.

Another thing that happened that was fun was I was out taking a walk one Sunday morning and I came to our ground lines. (They are wires stretched out on the ground and down to the rocks on the shore. There is a cliff so that you cannot see the ground wires from the base but I happened to be walking down by the cliff and I saw a man sitting over a fire. Well I did not know at the time that it was CG property and did not think anything of it. But as I was walking by the man kept looking at me and then I wondered what he was doing. Just then he started to pick up his things and put the fire out and leave. So I did not think anything of it. I was wandering why he wanted the fire so I walked a little ways till he was out of my sight and waited for 4 minutes and then went back. He was still there to my surprise but as soon as he saw me he started to get his things together again. In a while I went down to where he was and smiled (that is all you can do here since no one understands English and I do not understand Japanese) He quickly got his things together and left. Leaving the fire covered with stones. I of course was curious of what was in the fire but I waited till he left before I looked and there was some of our ground wires. The reason they take it is because a ship comes into the town from Korea and they take whatever scrap and wire they can get back to the Commies. I did not know all this at the time though so I got my gloves out and took one of the bundles of wire out of the fire and took it back to the CO (commanding officer). He knew what it was and right away wanted me to take him to the fire so I did but the man had come back and when we got there he was looking at the fire. As he saw us he started to run. It was hard for him to run since he had to go around many rocks and I was on top so I gave chase and soon as he saw that I was beating him he stopped and smiled. I took him back to the CO and we went back to the fire. There we pulled about 8 bundles of wire out of the fire and took the wire and man up to the base. There we got one of the boys that work for us to tell the man what he was doing and find out what he thought. The guy said he had taken the wire and so we took him up to the local cop. The cop listened to our story and to our surprise, CO and myself, he did not want to press charges since the man was his neighbor. We insisted since if he was not given something he and others would keep stealing our wire. Soon we would not be able to transmit. The cop said he would call his boss on the other end of the island and have him take care of it. We went back to the base and the CO decided to see if we could not get the man to work on the base to make up for it but the cop had already called and so we had to go to the other end of the island and ask the big man about our idea. They agreed so we had the guy come for a week. He showed up the first day and then the second day he called and said that he had to go to Tokyo to see his sick father so we let him and then the cop came around the same night and he said that the guy did not go, he was still home. That is where we are now and I guess he will come to work or go to jail which they call the monkey house. By the way many of the guys on the base just sit and try to think up ways to get rid of that ship. (Commies)

One more thing that happened that you might be interested in. We were all looking at a movie and one of the boys that work for us called and said that our cook was in trouble and going to get beat up by some fishermen. We got in the jeep and all ran down to town. By the time we got there we saw one of our boys waiting outside of a café and he said the cook said not to come in till he started to fight. The CO is a good guy and he walked down from where we left the jeep figuring that if we cleaned up the place he would not be able to stop us till he got there. So he took his time. He of course was the last one so as he passed a house the cook comes out and ask what was going on. The old man was surprised and hurried to tell us that it was okay. In the mean time we had got impatient and went into the café and there were a couple fishermen and our Japanese boys. They said that the fishermen and his friend had said that they did not like Americans and that is what the fight was going to be about. We, some of the boys, started to go for them but the chief keep peace and got us out. But it let everyone in town know that we would stick up for one another

One of the most enjoyable times that I have is when I get a haircut. Boy they sure do give you the works. They work on you for about an hour and your head and body gets a workout. It only cost 25 cents and they really know how to cut heir (no) heir (no) hair (got it). Takue.

Well it is movie time so I will stop long enough and see what movie they have tonight. They have movies every night. You have nice soft chairs and you can lay down if you feel like it. Most of the time I play ping pong after the movie. I am good but I still get beat. Be good , see you in 3 hours. XXXX

Well we had "The Man From Larime", which was okay but I saw it in the states. I got beat in ping pong 2 out of 3 so I've got to practice again.

Being it is so late I will sign off so let me see; I want you to remind me to tell you about my work with the radio and also my cooking and how much I miss you. Give your family my regards. Take care of yourself—oh heck I will get on another paper.

I forgot to tell you about my typing. As you can see it is full of errors but the boat leaves in the morning at 4 am so I am trying to get this done since the mail might not go out for quite a while. I am making many errors and not correcting them. I will make a bet with you: I can write more letters to you than you will to me. Okay?

Hay (it is for horses) what kind of work do you do? Thought I would forget didn't you? I am looking over your letter now and answering the questions it holds. I did not even remember I had a birthday. Thanks for thinking of me then. I wish I did take you to the haunted house since it would have been fun, when I get home I will. I still want to take you pigeon hunting. Takue

I remember the dress very well in the picture and if you want to be called Kathy so be it. But you only said to have the correct spelling in the next letter so I can spell it wrong in the rest of

my letters. Right? I know when I can get away with a lot—you are too far away to pinch or tickle me.

This has been your first letter. Now I was reading over your second and I became quite sad and dejected. You were right I did send you a carbon copy also along with 23 other people. I generalized the letter so as not to take much time and besides that I did not have my sea bag with my writing paper and gear. I know I told you the reason on the first page but I still am sorry that you feel the way you do about it. There is only the one thing I can say that will help matters and that is that I might be able to get home a little before two years. But I still would be in the same place I am in now. After reading your second letter I think it more or less answers my question about if you care. You would not have gone to all that trouble to scold me if you did not. Cathy Longcope also wrote me but she took it as a joke that I sent carbons so I guess that more or less sets me straight on about you two. I would like to be able to tell you about things that I would not tell anyone else and have you tell me the same. But I don't want to have you cut yourself off completely from social contacts because of me. The time span is too long and it is not fair to you.

Well I must be making a Sked so I must sigh off for now. Be good and I will be too. Miss you very much and wish you were here. I really mean that. Love kisses and other indoor sports.

Frank

PS Takue

April 6, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well I have to get out of this habit of writing since it is not good for you to think I write this much. As a rule I don't and the only reason that I am now is I don't feel like writing to anyone else. There is a pile of letters here that have to be answered but I just don't feel like it. It seems like everyone in the school knows that you are mad about getting the same letter as Cathy Longcope. No less than 4 people have told me about it. So you can see I am getting it from all over. I think you ought to give me a kiss for all the teasing I am getting from home. (Pa) I told mom that you had a pretty well detailed letter about quite a few things and she will undoubtedly be calling you sometime and finding out about some of the things. I also told her you were a goof and I liked you very much. Of course she knows more of my girls then I do so she undoubtedly knew about it all the time. But I love her as I do the rest of the family and would not do anything in the world to hurt them.

I miss the kids and wish I could see them soon. Mrs. Walsh was telling me of having them down for a day when the schools were closed and she said they were still as active and lovable as ever. She wrote and told me about her fish. I don't know if I told you or not but when I was taking her to Philadelphia she had two of her fish guppies with her and they had two baby fish while on the turnpike. It was quite something and she was just telling me how well they were getting along.

Do you remember Mrs. Horn? She and her husband were down to visit their daughter in Florida and when they got back they said that it was quite a change from 80 degrees to the two feet of snow that you all are having. They are fine folks and like a second mom and dad. (and sister) to me. Well I will sigh off for a little while since the fellows want to go and play tennis or baseball. We have not made up our minds yet. Be good. Takue...

Well we played baseball and I got a sore arm. We will be in fine shape for the game tomorrow. Three of us have sore arms and two of the boys can't play. Well we have an excuse to get beat anyway. It is 8 pm and I just got back from the movie. It was good, a wild west and a lot of shooting. Reminds me of the days when I was young. Takue

The fellows are going up to one of the local villages that have a lot of cherry trees and see the blossoms Sunday. I am looking forward to getting some good pictures if I don't have watch. In which case I will just sit and write to you ok...

I feel sort of tired and silly tonight and wish you were here to pester. Well anyway I wish you were here. I like your poems and often when I have nothing else to do I sit (notice that I am always sitting) and read them. Weather you know it or not your writing is something like a well read poem.

Guess what I think I am gaining weight, well I will not come out and say I am getting fat but that is what it boils down to. The food is the best and I don't do anything to work it off. When we

can swim everyday I will keep in shape. Tell Bridgette Webber thanks for sticking up for me, at least I know I have one friend. (Now I bet you are wondering what she said but I will not tell unless you ask in the next letter. I might forget by then ...takue

I was sitting here thinking what to write and remembered our star so I just went out to see if it was there and it was the highest and brightest over the station. I wonder if you could be looking at it too. Anyway I sent it a kiss. Let's see it will take about 20,000 years to get there and another 20,000 to get back. Well as far as I am concerned one every year for the next 40,000 would not be enough to send to you. Miss you.

I thought I wanted to stay out here for two years but I think that you might have me trying to find a way to get back sooner. I think maybe I could but we will see. The mail does not go out till Sunday so I will just add. Have a schedule to make, be good and sleep tight. Good night dearest.

Buenos dias senora (good morning miss) Well I have just got through going over the canteen records and found out we have a bill of \$221.50 to pay on a loan to the fellows. They just bought a new coke machine and the men made loans to the canteen to enable them to buy it. So I will have fun trying to get rid of that debt. I have a record book where I do my book keeping. It has all the back bills and the record of each man on the base so I can just about judge a man by the way he keeps his bill. I have a file of request and order sheets with all the supplies that the canteen has ordered in the last year. It will enable me to figure out what to order. For example I look up candy and find out that they cost the canteen .03 cents and I sell them for .05 cents. I make a profit of .02 cents. (I went to Hilltown High School)

The biggest article I sell is beer and the next is Coke. Well I guess cigarettes come close to beer though. We make a good profit on beer; about \$1.00 a case so it is good for the canteen. As of yet I have only had one or two cans since I am not a beer drinker. We have a chief here who buys it by the case and in three or four nights he finishes off a case. That is good for the canteen but I don't know about him.

It is a good thing I decided to write a little to you before I started to keep my log for my Sked or I would have had to start a new log after I found out about the red type. It is quite good looking though and you might like it. Let's see what happens when I push down all the way.....all red but I think the tape will stick after a while so I had better switch back. There now that is not a romantic but it serves the purpose. Right? Takue. Well I must do my Sked so wait for a while. XXXXXX

Today is another day and I am tired, I just got through hiking up the mountain and we went into this cave that were full of these little bugs. They are poisonous or something. Then we were playing a little football and I almost got my leg taken off by our dog. Well they are going to show a movie and then I make a Sked but I don't think I will get a chance to write anymore this time so till next letter which will be a week or so I miss you and wish more and more that you were here with me bye..

With Love, Frank

P. S. Give my regards to the family and everyone else that should receive them.

April 9, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well your letter finally got off. The Navy sent a LCU out with our supplies and they left at 4 am with your letter yesterday. Due to bad weather they came back and this morning they left at 4am again. So far they have not come back so I guess it will make it alright. Today is the 5th of April 11:05 am and they have me standing a Loran watch. It is not too bad. I have to make a short weather check and get a time check from a commercial station J J Y . They give the time all day. It sounds like a clock that counts off the seconds and every ten minutes the proper time by code (Morris). Every 15 minutes I have to make an entry in the log we keep (that's like a record) On the hour we have to check the Loran signal, and equipment. So far the signal has been alright so I have not had to worry but If something happens I will have to yell for help since I don't know how to correct anything.

I still have my radio schedule to make. There are five a day 7:00am, 8:45am, 9:00am, 3:00pm and 9:00pm. Usually all I do is set my transmitter on frequency and put the radio receiver on the same frequency then try to get hold of the radioman at Guam. He has all the frequencies for our unit at Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Guam and about 4 other stations are on these schedules. I also work the Navy in Tokyo. They usually let us know when the LCU is coming and we have to guard the frequency that they guard in case they would get in trouble we would be able to help them.

They have a picture of Truman hanging here from "Life" magazine and one of the guys like him. Most of the rest of us don't and we often kid him.

I also just had the complete works to the canteen turned over to me. I have to order beer, Coke, cigarettes, candy and everything that we sell. Then I have bills to collect and pay. They just bought a Coke machine and we are in debt about \$300.00. I take over at a bad time. I hope to get rid of the debt as soon as possible.

We have sunny weather today the temperature is close to 70 degrees. They say that in the summer it is cool since we are on a cliff and we get a good deal of wind.

This stationary is hand painted and I think it is real nice.

Well I guess that tells you just about all the interesting things about my life here. Some friends in Detroit wrote and told me that they had seen Pearl Buck on TV there. It was quite funny four people including Mrs. Walsh herself told me about it. You are the only one I have written to up till now so would you please give my mon a call, and tell her a letter is on the way. It will have just about the same news as yours including I miss both you and my family. I was tempted to call from Tokyo when I was there 2 months ago but I found out it cost \$10.00 a minute so that was out. Give my regards to your family and does Shorty see my letters? Takue Be good and write soon.

PSxxx Love, Frank April 9, 1956

Dear Kathy;

Well this is going to be a short letter since the boat goes out tomorrow. I have not had much time to do any writing lately since the canteen is getting to be more of a worry. Today I lent the canteen \$150.00 to try to get it out of debt so I hope that it does okay. By the way that leaves me with next to nothing but it is a good place to put my money since I am not going to use it right now for anything else. The weather is getting better and today we were transplanting pine trees. The station is more like a hotel. We just finished painting the greenhouse blue so I guess they will change the name to suit the paint. It is the place where we spend most of our free time. A TV ping pong table, movies, the canteen, bar that someone built on their spare time and library.

The sky is really clear tonight and I was looking at our star again. It is really shining bright like my thoughts when I think of you. Oh I wish you were here with me to see the things I am seeing and do the things I am doing. It would be a lot of fun. My Spanish is coming along fine and I am going to do a lesson soon about a page of this letter and I will try to get some done since it has been a few days since I have studied. I just finished writing the letters I should have written when I was writing to you last week. Mostly males; my brother, my friend in New York, Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Walsh. I am waiting for your letters and hope they get here soon.

Hi, the mail did not go on the first boat so I have till ten to get this letter finished. The sky is beautiful and the temperature is 82 and it is only morning. It is a shame I have to be on watch, but I have the whole afternoon to get outside. I had 5 hours of sleep last night and still feel good, I guess I could do with less if I had to since I often did at home. Remember some of our late dates. Takue

If my line of thought runs all around it is because every fifteen minutes I have to make a check of the equipment and so I forget what I was talking about or was going to say. Of course I think my thoughts run around in circles anyway.

Those pictures of you are really good and I often look at them. The door in them came out nice and I can't for the life of me think of when I saw it. Of course being with you I guess I did not have time to see it. Right?

I did not tell you that I was growing a beard and it got to a good size. The boy that works for us said that all the gangsters wear something like it and he thought it was nr. 10 (which is bad.) So I got tired of it and cut it to sideburns. They still did not like it so finally I got tired of sideburns and now I am back to normal. I got all the girls here in an uproar but so far I have not bothered with any of them. The other day one of the boys said that one of the girls in town wanted to see me since she was told I was a gentleman because I did not come in and drink with the other fellows. I went down during the day and talked with her for a while. Not a bad girl but not as nice as you. On my way back to the camp I stopped to look in at some cloths and the old woman told me to come in and we talked (at least tried) for a while and then her son came in and she served us tea. It was quite a friendly gesture and I enjoyed it.

Well I guess I had better get some of the work done for inspection since today the old man comes around and checks. Be good (good) good and write soon.

Love Frank

P.S. Miss you

P.S. I still smoke my pipe.

P.S. Did you take Spanish?

P.S. Take

P.S. -- -- .

Kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss kiss

XX

Excuse me I am acting like a school boy... still love u though

April 14, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well I got your letter today and so I think I will try to get an answer on the boat before it takes off. This is the 18 of April and if you don't get this in 10 days then you know I did not get it on the boat. You sound good and excited about your Washington trip, I sure wish we could have gone in our senior year. Those darn Sell-Perk kids.

Well the boat came in today and they brought in the supplies that I had ordered. Some of the stuff they did not have in stock so it only totaled to \$96.48 which is about half of what I thought it would cost. The only candy we got was Clark Bars and we got a whole case of them. We got two kinds of pipe tobacco (P Albert and Edgeworth) got 100 cigars and cigarettes (Luckys and Camels) razor blades and of course beer. No Coke this time and I think we are going to run out. So the canteen is stocked to a certain extent and with a little luck I might be able to batter some of those bills in a couple of months.

I think I told you I put \$150.00 in the canteen, and two days later I got a letter from my sister wanting \$180.00 for a reducing machine. I told her she is starting to think and act like a woman (wanting money) She seems to think that it is important for her to get this machine and so I was a little sorry that I put my money in the canteen. The next time the mail came in I got a letter back from Michigan where my brother is living that had on it that he had moved. This is a matter that you don't know much if nothing about. I have this brother in Detroit and he is about 18, a fine looking boy and mighty good farmer. When I stopped in Detroit on the way out to the far east he was working on a farm and when I was there he got an old car. (1949) His name is Bob and he has been apart from Lil, Ray and myself for most of our lives. He is all alone and no one to look after him or check on him. This sort of worried me and now I am afraid that he might get into trouble if he quit his job. When he was working he made good money but when I was there he was just making out and so I think he might be broke now or close to it. Of course Lil does or did not know anything about this. This of course made her trouble look small and I told her so. I have sent a letter to the home where Bob is supposed to be under the care of and they will look him up and find out how things are. Bob is one thing that I can never forgive myself for doing. When we left the village at Detroit he could not go with us since he has no far east features. I tried to make it so he could go but finally decided it was better for Lil and Ray if we went along with the plan. This ment Bob would stay in Detroit. I'll never forget the day that we left, everything was packed and I looked around and could not find Bob. I went up to his cottage and when I got to the top of the stairs I heard him crying. He was only 9 or 10 then and I did not know what to do. He saw me and tried to stop but could not and I did not know what to do or say. I told him I did not completely understand what was going on myself and as soon as I would try to get him with us. Finally I got him to come down to say goodbye to Ray and Lil and as we pulled away he waved good bye and started to cry again.. That is the last time I saw him till this year which is about 6 or 7 years. We have kept track of him and other than that we have not been able to do anything. I tried to have him come live with us but it is impossible so I have been told (not by mom or dad but by the board of directors of Welcome

House.) So if you wonder at times why I seem so hard or not hurt easily I have been hardened the hard way and it is not easy to forget those things that mean so much to you.

I don't think I ever told anyone else what I just told you and I don't think I would tell anyone else. Not Lil, Ray, Mom, Dad no one so please don't talk about this to anyone since it is only what I think sometimes and I often wish I had an outlet for my thoughts. (at least some of them.) I hope you don't mind to much if so just tell me and I will not trouble you anymore. (at least not with my problems)

Jack T. is a good friend and I think what he was referring to is he and Don were kidding me about my girls and said when I left they would take over. I told them after I left if they wanted to go out with a gal I was dating I had no objections as long as the girl wanted to go. I did not want them not to date a girl just because I went out with her, (They might never go out again) (Just kidding) So that is all I can think of unless you are going out with another guy and they are mad at you for this. Both of the boys are mighty nice fellows and I am happy to think of them as my friends.

Don't forget to write and tell me about how you and Betty got along. I can imagine what fun you must have had. Well must be signing off for now. Be good and love you.

Frank

April 19, 1956

Hi Honey,

Well today we had quite a time. To start in the beginning. It started out as any other day, I had the 4 to 8 watch (I hate to get up at 4 when I have to)I then made my radio Sked with Guam and Tokyo and ate. Then just as most of the men were finishing a bus full of students from Tokyo came in. They had gotten permission to tour our base and see how Loran worked etc. This took most of the morning and right near the end a couple of us were playing ping pong with some of the students and they beat us good. The Japanese people like to play this game and as a rule are very good at it.

After they left we had chow, and then the CO decides to take the jeep and explore some of the mountain roads that we have never been on. Myself and an ET 1 went with him hoping to get some good pictures.

There are no highways here like in the U. S. They are for the most part dirt and ruts. (Today is Saturday and we have off from work.) So off we went. The jeep is the oldest the Coast Guard has and really in bad shape So we go bouncing along the main highway!! We turn up a little road that looks more like a path than anything else. Both sides are covered with thick under growth and trees, so the only place water can go is down the road when it rains. In some places the ruts are 3 and 4 feet deep. We got started up the hill (understatement of the year) and about half way up we came to these cross roads. We were coming on 1 and wanted to turn onto 2. Ha! We turned alright and could not make it so the CO backed up and somehow got wedged between 1. There was hardly room to go straight let alone get sitting sideways. The old jeep was puffing and heating up and the old man tried to rock it out with no success. Finally we got to digging with tree limbs and finally worked it out. On we went finding a rut as big as a good size river. We could not go any further so we turned back and man?! The brakes were soon smelling from the rubber and so we were like flying down. Then a door got caught in a tree trunk and ripped the whole front off the jeep. We loaded the remains in the back. (where I was trying to stand) and continued. The roads for the most part are cut through mountains and you have dirt and roots on both sides as high as the jeep and sometimes higher. In many places there was no inch on either side of the jeep. Guess I had better sign off since I will be going to bed as soon as my relief comes. Be.....well anyway I miss you and think I will try to find our star tonight. Takue

Frank

April 24, 1956

Dearest Kathy,

Well, I received your post card and 5 letters besides. The last one only took a week. So things are looking up. I first want to say that I am glad you told me about York Fischer. Of course I am not to happy but I want you to go out and have fun. Bridgett did not say anything against you, she only told my sister that she wished I would write her. As it is I am to busy to get my girls all a letter so, just you. Today I had my first run in with one of the first class petty officers about when I go on 2 mcs(?) it disturbs the Loran. I am to tell the watch stands so he can shut off the auto sync which keeps us on the master signal. This all is new to you and I guess you don't know what I am talking about, but by the two years you will. Takue Anyway everything is straightened out and we are friends once again.

The other day we played another game of baseball, I pitched, we lost. The score 9 to 12. I gave 5 runs in the first inning. Boy something tells me I am not to good a pitcher. The last three innings I held them scoreless while we got our 9 runs but it took to long to warm up. This weekend we have three games scheduled and I will be lucky to pitch one. My back is acting up. I sprained it while batting the other day. (More fun) We have play off's with the six teams on Oshima and so most of the fellows want to win a few games. If you thought your hand writing was bad. As you know I do very little writing, most is with a typewriter. If I try with my teeth I would undoubtly get the same results. My my. So much to tell and so little desire to sit and write letters. I wish you and I had a telephone. Takue

My drivers license came in a while back and so the other day I took the truck and two of the fellows to the ferry. The trip takes about 1 ½ hours and when you get through bouncing around on these roads it feels like 10 hours. There are two busses that run along the road plus a few trucks and motor bikes. For the most part you can't see where you are going past 50 feet because of bends. Also most of the road goes along a deep drop off to the ocean. The roads are narrow and two cars have trouble passing and often one has to back down. The secret of living is your horn. Without it you are as good as dead. Anyway it all adds up to the less driving I do the happier I'll be and longer I will live. I only drive when the CO orders me to. By the way you did not tell me about your car accident! So shoot. Remember what I always said about women drivers. Ha I would not be kidding, but I know it was not to serious since you referred to lightly in your letters.

Well will write again before next boat so be good and miss me.

Love always, Frank

May2, 1956

Dear Honey,

Well I thought I would try to answer some of your questions. Let's start with your April 14th....you had just got back from Washington D.C. and you said you did a lot of running around. But you said nothing of how you and Betty got along, I am asking more or less to kid you so don't get mad.

You said you went to see my mother, well I am glad that you did and want you to go often. As for babysitting I think mom will be glad to get someone like you to take care for the little devils (kidding, love them all) Of course you must do better than the last time I was babysitting with you. Takue

The only reason I thought that Shorty saw my letters was that I know that you two are good friends and usually tell each other everything. It is not that I mind, and in most of my letters I don't but I was just curious. Another thing that I have been wondering about, have you told Cathy L. that have written to you? I won't be mad just wondering.

I am trying to hold a Sked at the same time so if I have to copy some code on this letter you will know what it is. As a matter of fact I will use this as a log and you can see what it is all about, here goes:

NRV DE NRV4 QRU INT QRU IMI K

NRV NRV NRV DE NRT3 NRT3 NRT3 QRU INT QRU K

NRV DE NRT1 QRU INT QRU K

It goes on and on. KSY

And that is how it is done. Will hit the rack for now but will finish later. Be good.

Now it is three days later and I have been real busy trying to do everything that has to be done. We have played two games this past weekend and I pitched 5 innings. The first one we had two doubles and one triple. Then the next game which was only this morning I had a double two walks and a fly out. I only pitched one inning, the last, but had a good game at 3rd base. We got beat both games and I think that most of the teams considered us as the worst team on the island and I guess we are if we keep up the way we are going.

Today when we were coming back from the game we had the jeep and there were about 7 piled on. Myself and one of the boys that work for us were on the top and when we went around a sharp bend off we went. It got us both a little dirty but nothing to worry about. The CO was driving and he was red but we all had a good laugh.

We got a new seaman today and his name is Schultz and he was born in Detroit just like I was. He now lives in Calif. And he seems to be a nice guy. He used to live right where I worked and lived there for about 2 years. So we know many of the places and so on (not girls).

I miss you and wish I were back home more often than every raindrop. Here is a poem from my Spanish book. It expresses my thoughts very well:

Of all the flowers, the violet:

Of all the emblems, the cross:

Of all nation, my own land

And of all women, you.

Like it? Takue. Well I guess I will sigh off for now since I can hardly keep my eyes open. If I get time before the CO goes in with the letters I will add to this letter, if not I will give you my love and bye's now. I am sorry that I have not written as much as both of us would like and will try to get more mail to you in the future. But if you do not hear from me as often as you would like I am still thinking of you and hope you are of me. And of course above everything I miss you and wish u were here.. Good night Kathy

May2,1956

Monday April 30, 1956

Dearest Kathy,

Well today has been quiet for the most part. I had a watch this morning and then the rest of the day we have been digging up our ground system. Most of us are getting a good sun tan and I might even be losing a little weight. I totaled up the canteen bills yesterday and 12 men spent \$162.00 in one month. Most of it was beer and Coca Cola. I expect the boat in tomorrow and it should have about \$100.00 worth of stuff. In a few months I have to pay off a few of the men that are leaving. That will be \$80.00 so it will cut down my buying power a little but not to much. (I hope) I guess we made about \$20.00 profit last month so it was not to bad.

This afternoon some of the men saw a ship coming into the harbor with a Russian flag on her. Tomorrow is May Day so we expect trouble (actually we want it, the excitement could be refreshing) May Day by the way is the big day for the Commies and in Tokyo they cancel all liberty for men in certain areas. When on watch we wear a 45 and can keep it loaded if we wish. I usually do and I have become fast with drawing it since I often just take ½ hour practicing. (The second Billy the Kid.)

I told you about my hitting improving, well I am now batting clean up and so good so far. Right now most of the fellows have sore arms, but mine is in good shape.

This writing is bad and like you I lay in bed. Right now I am laying in this chair. I am on watch and we have a nice comfortable chair to sit in and watch the scope. So I do feel relaxed when I am writing to you and let anything that comes to mine be written.

Yesterday when I came up to work my Sked at 7 am one of our dogs were laying outside the door. He looked okay except he usually jumps to go into the building when I come. I did not think anything about it and when the man on watch went out to take the weather readings he tried to get the dog in and found out he could hardly move. We brought him in and used one of the guys jacket to lay him on. The dog, Bido, started to shake and so we got covering for him. First we felt all over and he did not have anything broken. It looked like he was going to die. Everyone was concerned and the doc looked him over again but he could not figure it out. Then the cook brought some food up, (turkey) they get fed better than the people do on the island. He ate it right up and started to get better and by noon he was walking around. We still do not know what caused it. That is one thing we cherish very much on the station, dogs, they also help us keep people off.

Last Friday they had a party downtown. I did not feel like going so I offered to take the watch. The fellow on watch has his wife here and did not want to go down either. To pass the time we played poker. I know next to nothing about the game, but I soon learned. One of the fellows had his wife playing with us. He told her if she lost 200 yen she had to quit at the end of the first hand. She was ahead by 800 yen and just about beating the pants off him. After that she started to lose. Finally she lost 400 yen and he made her stop. Then he went on to lose 4,000

yen. Boy was he mad. I lost 50 yen, but came close to losing 1,000 yen. The last hand two of the guys from the party came in and wanted to play so they sat in the last hand. I won 900 and that made me 50 in the hole for 4 hours playing. 50 yen is about .13 cents. Most of the fellows we carried back and they almost went over the cliff down town. One wheel was over the edge and that was close enough for everyone. If they would have gone over I don't know what would happened..."Oshima crew killed in drunken spill" It would have meant a lot of trouble for our CO.

Remember that girl I told you about well I have not seen her for 2 weeks. I think she went to Tokyo. She is the only nice girl in town that I know and she speaks good English so we talk when I go down, which is not often. She is a bit on the fat side, but nice to know and talk to. Two of the fellows on the base were trying to get her as their girlfriend but I still have no desire for any of the girls here. You still keep me happy. And I will not forget the date when I get home.

I really miss you more and more as time goes on. I hope you will wait for me with your heart , mind etc..... Best be going.

Frank XXX

April 30, 1956

May 31 1956

Dear Kathy

This is just a little note to let you know I am still thinking of you in case I don't get a chance to write before the mail goes out. I thank you for listening to my troubles and will try not to make it often. But you are right and the fact it is better to have someone to tell them to than to hold them up in oneself. That is what is usually done with me and I don't know why I told you since I don't even tell my mother. Well I miss you and feel you can understand me a little better if you know a little about the way I work. (not fast)

I was sorry to hear that you had a cold and hope it will get well very soon. I guess I will not get a chance since we are all going to practice baseball. I'll hit a home run for you.

Here I am back and tired. We played till about 1 hour ago and then started back. Half way one of the fellows found out he did not have his ID bracelet with him so we turned around and went back to look for it. We looked till dark and then sat on the truck with the lights on and tried to find it but no luck so finally gave up and started back. Then he looked again and it was between his wallet. Boy what a life.

I have a little more time now so this might be more than a little note even though the typing will be bad. My fingers are too tired to do what my mind tells them to do.

The other day the head man in the section called up and told the chief that the people on the island were over to his office and complaining about our dogs and the fact that we have been firing on the range and some of the fishermen have been scared by this. He said that we will move the firing range and the dogs must be shot. Our captain was not here at the time and so we could not do anything. There are three dogs that we call our own. One is a German Shepard the other is a Dachshund (hotdog) and one mutt that has been on the base for 15 years. We all like the dogs very much and the chief has a special liking for the old mutt that they call Sad sack. He said anyone tries to kill Sad sack has to drop the chief first. Most of the other fellows stood on the same thought. When the CO got back he thought the same and called the head man and got him to let us keep two of the dogs and we are supposed to get rid of the other one. Actually the one we are to get rid of belongs to one of the men that live off the base with his wife so he will just say he is taking it home and we have no trouble. As you can very well imagine the head man is not too well liked.

My canteen is coming along okay. I still am \$300.00 in the hole but will be out in about 3 or 4 months, if I don't make any errors. I thought about raising the prices and told some of the fellows. Boy you should have heard the complains they gave. I did not raise the prices and they will just have the bill a little longer. Last month I collected \$200.00 in bills and paid out about \$180.00 for supplies, soon we will have enough supplies so that's all we will be doing is selling and letting the money roll in. As it is we still have to get a good stock on beer, cigarettes and some different kinds of candy. There is getting to be more and more figuring to the

canteen as an example, I have to make out request forms and then check the supplies we get when they get in. I have to keep a record of all the money I spend and where it is spent, all the money I collect and where I got it and when I got it. All my stock and how much I sell and on certain articles thus knowing what to order. But it is good experience and I should learn something from it. I only wish I had a secretary to do the work for me. Maybe you....

I got a letter or rather a card from Jackie and he said please write so I got his letter off just before yours. He is more or less my favorite and will someday will make a mighty fine football player.

Looking over your letter I don't want you to get the impression that I have had it hard because I consider myself very lucky. Where ever I have been and whatever I do I always have had the good fortune to learn something. If it be playing sports or taking girls out. I will say I have had my girls out and all the time I learned from each one something new or different. That's the way life is and I have that much more to what I want as a wife and knowing a number of girls gives me a better chance to pick the right one when I pick. You seem to think I thought you as a little childish well don't since I know what I want in a girl and I would not change you. Don't change anything about you since the way you are I feel for you and that is the way I want you to stay. I know York Fischer and I know some of his girls. He is a nice guy from what I know. His sister was in my class and she was real nice and I judge him mostly from her. Mrs. Horn also knows the family by the way you never told me what you thought of Mrs. Horn. The whole family is nice and are good friends of mine.

I am glad to hear about your sister getting married, and sad for you but it does have to happen sometimes sooner than we want. Please extend my regards to them.

Mom wrote and told me about your visit, she likes you and says you are in love. Don't tell her I told you. She also said she was going to ask you to babysit soon. She said the date but I forget and am too lazy to look. The kids will love you but don't ask them about my girlfriends. They might know...that is they might know it is you.

The captain just came in and said I had to move into the other room and watch the scope since I am supposed to be on watch. Now I am typing with the typewriter in my lap. Wish it were you. Takue

If you see Ray get after him to write to me. I should write to him but I have so little time off. The stack of mail I have to answer now is far beyond what I usually have to worry about. It would be good to hear from him and so I will try to get a letter off to him soon.

Well I must be doing some Spanish so be good and miss me, as I miss you.

Yours, Frank

P.S. How do you like this stationary? Miss you very much.

The ones I took of my beard were no good since the fellow who took them moved the camera.

I just finished my Sked for tonight and I don't have a watch for two days so I think I will catch up on some sleep. My Spanish is slowing down all the time and I must get on the ball. I have not heard anything concerning Bob, my brother, as of yet and will have to get a letter off to some friends in Detroit to check for me. If I don't get action soon I will bawl someone out, I am rough and tough, and hard to bluff...we learned that in radio school. Well must be signing off for tonight. I hope to get a chance to write before the boat gets here with my \$150.00 worth of canteen supplies. Miss you and send my love.

Yours, Frank

March 1956

Here it is about 3 days later. The weather is not so good and the boat comes in tomorrow. I have got everything straightened out as the canteen is concerned. I still have to get my Spanish lesson done that I had to do when I wrote the last time and aside from that and the fact I have not written to anyone else this last week I am finished with the work that proceeds the boat coming.

They have finished my pants and shirt. The shirt is good but the pants look baggy but they say that is the style in Japan so what can I do. I still don't know when I am going to be wearing them. I finally got some pictures back and they are not taken of anything of interest since I thought that they were exposed and when I was walking from the camp down to camera shop I took a whole role of anything I saw. They just about all came out.

I did not get a letter from you the last time the mail came in so I was a little surprised, of course it was in the middle of the time when I usually get mail, but we got a new enginemen and he brought the mail over. We are losing about 3 or 4 guys in the next month and that will be just about new crew in Oshima.

I still miss you and are wondering how you are getting along. Takue

I got a letter from Babs Fischer the other day and she is in Ohio working for the Air Force. She has plans to go for a while to Germany. She is on a sailing team and seems to be having a lot of fun. If you remember we were classmates together and were ever I have gone she has been good enough to write and give me news. She is a nice kid and one of my star pigeon hunters. I think I told you of the time when I took three Hilltown girls with us pigeon hunting and got about 30 and the next night I took Sell-Perk girls and only got 3 so we were kidded about that for quite a while.

May 18, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Here it is Friday. I am on watch and a little tired. The week has gone by quite fast, as the rest of my time has gone while on the island. I am content and aside from missing you I enjoy the simple life of these people and sense the contentment that comes from hard working and good life that they lead.

This morning at 4:30 am we (the CO and myself) got up and went down to the harbor. The fishermen from Tokyo and many of the surrounding have been chasing a school of fish and since Oshima is the closest harbor they came here to sell and rest. There must have been a good 150 boats there this morning. All we saw were loaded to the top with fish. I got a number of fish pictures and will send them when I get them developed. From the look of this morning I think Oshima supplies of Japan. The way they catch them would not be to good in the U.S. They use lights at night and shoot poles with hooks on. They hold a pole in each hand and just pull them up and over their shoulders. The fish are about one and a half foot long and run together. Every once in a while they get a shark. It so happened they caught one and we were looking at it. Boy those teeth are sharp and hard, I got a picture but it was not to good a shot and I doubt if will be worth sending to you. Since they do most of their fishing at night we can look out and see lights of ships for as far as it has good visibility . I want to try to get a time expositor in the next few days.

We have a new gambling game. It is called "hearts". I knew how to play before and it is only a penny so I have been playing a lot lately. Up till two days ago I was losing by 2 or 3 dollars. Now I am winning by that much. Wish me luck.

The other day my clearance came in from the district so I can learn the combination to the base safe and can handle secret, classified, and confidential material. The last three I was already doing but the safe combination I had not known. There will only be two people who know it, according to the CO. Myself and him.

The other day the mess cook comes in and said two of the dogs that used to hang around the base were killed and eaten by some of the people in one of the towns. I hope you were not eating when you read this. I guess dog stake is not to bad.

I have not heard about my brother yet but should soon since I have a number of people checking for me. Thanks for being interested. I am still quite worried and hope he is okay. Sometime I will tell you the full story on Bob.

So far I have not referred to your letters. I have just said what I wanted to tell you. For some reason I feel like writing to you. I don't mean that as it sounds. Since you are the only one I really wanted to write to since I left home. I am used to being away from home and my girl and

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May20, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Congratulations on your typing. It is much easier for me to type than write and like you said, typing over is easier than erasing. I have not typed these last two letter since I have been too lazy to go into the room where the typewriter is and bring it into the Loran shack. Besides that I need practice with my writing. Your typewriting was not as bad as you seem to think and it was the first time I knew you had a typewriter. What kind is it and when did you get it?

What date does school officially let out? I think it is in June sometime, but as usual I have forgotten. You said you went to Doylestown court the other day. I hope it was not to (? Ky) since Judge Beaster is on the Welcome House board and a very good friend of mine. When I wanted to go into the Coast Guard I had to get the consent of enough board members to make it okay. They were very helpful and helped me a lot. Jack, their son, worked at the same place Dale and I did and also Dale and I have played basketball against Jack. The Beasters are a wonderful family.

So you had your wisdom teeth pulled. I am glad it did not hurt . I have not had mine pulled yet I still have to worry. I wonder if everyone has to have them pulled and also why they call them wisdom teeth.

Don't worry about if Mrs. Horn liked you or not. I am quite sure she did for a number of reasons. All the things you did not take: pipe, wine, cigarettes, coffee are things I never touched when I first knew them and they did not take a dislike for me for it. One thing I have learned in my service time, people admire someone who stands up for what they believe. The only reason I took wine was I wanted to see how it tasted. Being like my second home I did not feel like a guest as you must have. Thinking about I should not have tried to insist you drink some. I just took for granted everyone was at home with Mrs. Horn. I did not drink coffee until I got in the service and it is a must on watches where you have to keep awake for 4 hours at night or early in the morning.

I am sorry that you don't like baseball I must have bored you with the details of it. I doubt if I will anymore since we are losing all our players and doubt we will get replacements. Now we are playing volleyball and if we get a chance we will we will play some of the local teams. Do you like volleyball?

Today is nice and I think I will try to go to the mountains. It is a tourist attraction and something to see and take pictures of.

So you have yourself trained to fall asleep anytime you want. Well I doubt very much you would fall asleep with me. Takue

I have been thinking about calling you from Japan, but the day one of the fellows called his wife and it cost him close to \$60.00, so I let that thought get lost.

May 24, 1956

I just saw a movie and there was a gal like you in it. She was thin with a funny little smile that catches one's eye. I do like her but I do often wish I could be back with you a few hours a day. I am now on watch, the record player is going and I got on all songs that make me miss you. My Spanish is getting in front of me and I undoubtedly should be studying. I am determined to get a lesson done before tomorrow.

The canteen has an \$80.00 bill to pay and we can do it without any trouble. I figured up the bills and I have \$225.80 coming in this time. Also my darn bill has gone up to \$8.30 but it is one of the low ones. Last month I only spent \$3.50, that was the lowest for that month.

The other day it was raining a little bit and we had nothing to do so I wanted to go down to a place I knew. It was upon a cliff and looked out over the sea. Down behind there was like a tunnel that led to the rocks and water. Going along these rocks till you come to a place where the water had dug out a number of little rocks. There fish get trapped and I like to sit and watch them. You can only do this at low tide because at high tide it is mostly under water. The waves can pound up on the rocks and make quite a noise. Well anyway the ET, (a friend of mine) was standing with me in the Loran shack looking out in the light rain and I said to him, "Let's go down to see my fish. He did not want to go and I told him he would not get wet. So finally he put a jacket on and off we go. We got down to the tunnel without not getting to wet and then we started to go through the hole at the end. The tide was high but I did not think to high to get our pools. We started across the slippery rocks and halfway I was behind a rock about 10 feet high and he behind a smaller one. We both heard a big wave coming in and knew we were going to get it. One minute dry the next soaking wet. If we had not been behind the rocks we would have drowned. So we quickly turned and got back to the tunnel. He kept saying over and over, "No I will not get wet." He still kids me about it.

I lost last night for the first time in about two weeks in hearts. I had \$12.00 to the good and lost about \$1.00 last night. Hearts is a good game you don't lose much money and I have a lot of fun playing it.

I am listening to Dean Martin's record of Two Sleepy People. I think I will sign off for now. I have just been sitting here thinking how it would be to be married. That thought is enough to make me stop thinking. Miss you. Takue

Love Frank

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June 2, 1956

I finally got time to write, I have been busy today and it is my day off. (Sat.) I got your letter and was I glad as always to hear from you. I am glad that you enjoyed the prom. I am also glad you sent the picture and I will keep it if it is okay with you. I have it since I cannot find any holder that would do justice to it. So I keep getting a stack of pictures.

I am sorry that I told you about what mom said about you being in love, if that makes you cry. I will watch what I tell you from now on. I think you were just kidding about crying. But I don't want you to cry even if you are just kidding. Takue I am full of news and I am not sure where to start. But I guess the best place is with my brother. I think I told you I sent a letter to the village where they should have a record of him and keep a check on where, what and when he does things. Well as of yet I have not got an answer, they must be busy. I thought that that might happen so I wrote to a friend of mine in Detroit and she (Aunt Beth), she and Uncle Max were going to adopt me when I used to be in the village but they could not take the whole family so it did not work out but I still think of them as being very close since I lived with them for about 3 years. They were parents in the village. Sometime I will explain how it works. Anyway, I ask them to check for me and she did and found out that he had quit and moved to another farm. So things are not as bad as I first thought, which I am glad for. That is another thing I have to think about since I have told him if and when I ever get settled down he would be welcome to come and live with me. I, of course, was not allowing for marriage on my part. I have written a letter to Bob and if he answers I will be sending him a birthday present which is about a month behind. And to think of it I should be sending you a present too, for graduation. What should it be? I don't think they have anything I would like to give you on the island but I will have to look around. I just ask one of the fellows that have been here for 4 years and he said maybe on the other side of the island there would be something. You just sit there and try to figure out what I am going to send. It will be a surprise. But I don't think it will get there real soon. Packages take a long time I think.

As you notice I got a new address and I think it is better even if it is longer. They are setting up a new system whereas we get mail once a week and we have to send it to that address. It is long but when I use it for a while I will be about deleting parts of it.

The guys were kidding me today, they said, "Why not drink and smoke? Look at Yoder it does him no good." I of course laughed. Mind you now, I have talked to a few girls but that is all.

The other day we lost two of our men and one was a real good friend. I took them down to the boats and it was quite a sight to see. You can buy streamers at the store for about five cents and they are quite long. You give one end to the person on the boat and you hold the other end then as the boat pulls away you unwind the streamer. They are all colors and I got a few pictures in color. I hope they come out since it was rainy weather. I was sorry to see Tom go because we had a lot of fun together. I think he was the only sensible one among the ET's and so I will not have as much fun as before. He is getting married as soon as he gets home. I told

Dear Kathy,

Well I missed you more than most days today since it was such a nice spring like day. In the morning I worked out in the sun putting down ground wires and in the afternoon I had off since I had the four to eight in the morning. I got a shower and went to sleep till my three o'clock Sked radio then I went for a walk up till 4:30. It was a little hot to walk in the sun so I mostly stayed under the trees. This country reminds me a lot of the mountains in Pa. I will never again have any doubt as to if I like the ocean or the mountains. The seashore is ok but I like it in the wilds where there are few people to bother.

I just thought of a question that you ask me and I did not answer. The Spanish is a course that I took out on my own and you get it through a service organization. It only cost \$2.00 and they send books etc. Then you send your lesson in to be corrected and about two or three weeks later they come back with remarks and corrections and a mark. So far I have not gotten under 85 and my highest is 97. The last few weeks I have hardly done anything on it but yesterday I decided to get back on it. The reason I have not done too much on it is because I was tired of it so to counteract that I am doing just a little at the beginning of each watch and it does not seem so bad then. There are 24 lessons and I am only on my 9th one. So I have quite a ways to go yet.

Well enough of me and now one of my favorite subjects ... you. By now you have had your test and passed with flying colors. Your graduation will be in the next few days after you receive my letter. (I think) You will leave high school behind you. As for myself, I miss high school, even when the last day was at hand I sort of wished it would go on a little longer. The sports and friends you make, and if you are not going to college that will be the last time that you will be in a big group. I think you will miss high school but will not notice it too much since you already have a job and that plus a few dates every once in a while (fingers crossed) will make the time fly by. It seems only yesterday that I got in high school and still do not remember you when I used to talk to Betty. Speaking of Betty, you seem to be quite bothered by the way Betty acts with boys. I guess the boys like it and she knows what to do to get the most of what she's got. But you and her are two different people altogether and it would be disastrous for you to try and copy Betty I like you the way you are, and can get a dozen Betty's any time you want but there are very few that are pretty and witty. Don't let this go to your head, that is an order. Takue

Well I just finished my Sked and it is now 9:10 pm. I am on a Loran watch and the movie is in progress down in the greenhouse. I have already done my Spanish for tonight and so I have till 12:00 to finish letter writing and do a little reading. Then again I might just sleep. That should not be since it is a court martial offence. But if I get tired I sleep anyway since they can't break me to far down.

While I was in town I was looking for something to send for your graduation and could not find anything. I guess I will have to go to the town I was telling you about in the last letter.

Roberts. As you can see it is quite a good line of movies we got this two weeks. We are due for some bad ones the next boat.

Well I guess I will sign off for now since I am tired and have to catch with my log. Be good and miss me.

Love, Frank

June 6, 1956



June 7, 1956

Dear Honey,

I feel lonely tonight so I guess I will write to you, that usually makes me feel better. I am letting the record player go full blast and have just finished a short novel. It was a mystery and in the end the poor guy got framed for a killing he did not do. It is raining. It's 1am on the 4 to 8 watch and feel that feeling I sometimes get when I want to do something but not quite sure what it is. I sure wish you were here.

I should and was going to study my Spanish as soon as I finished that novel but could not resist the desire to talk to you for a little while. It is good to have someone to say things to and not worry about anything for the present time.

As you can see this is just a bunch of small talk and I will be signing off soon but I feel better already. I went down to get a haircut today and they were closed since it was a holiday at least that is what he called it. Every day that has a 7 in it is considered a holy day and I keep forgetting it. I guess I will get a haircut tomorrow. Today I looked in the mail box and saw that each of your letters were still there so I guess you will get a mess of them at once. Your parents are liable to get ideas when you get that much mail in one shot. I feel like making a poem tonight but the Spanish books are sitting here looking me in the face so I guess I had better get to them. I set up a schedule. I do a little Spanish when I come on watch. Since I have about a watch a day I should get a good part of a lesson done in a week.

By the way I can't type with small letters on this typewriter since it is made special for radio work. I could go to the office and use that one but it has been so long since I used a regular typewriter I don't think I would do so good.

Well Honey I guess I had better sign off for now. Miss you real bad tonight and wish again you were here.

Love plus Frank

June 8, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well here it is night time finally and I am beat. Today was really tiring. Since I had the 4 to 8 watch in the morning I get the afternoon off and I put on my bathing suit and swam to town. It is about a quarter of a mile and it did not bother me at all. Which was a surprise to me since I have not been doing much swimming this year as of yet. I had fins on both feet and that helps plenty. Half over the straps came undone and for about 5 minutes I was trying to get it fixed in the middle of the channel. The reason I went to town was to get a haircut. So after I got a little dried off I went in and the guy got a kick out of seeing me in town with only a bathing suit on. Since a few of the females looked and not only because I had only a bathing suit on, I am not as fat as I think. So have no fear yet. Takue

Then I swam back and got to the base in time for inspection. After inspection I got a mask which covers your eyes and nose and put the fins back on and with two other guys went swimming. They had fishing guns and they were hunting while I was just enjoying the scenery (no senery, double no, scenery, man wait till I look this one up. Back) scenery (Hay I was right in the first place, wait I don't think it is right, I will check again (((scenery)))) How about that. This is funny since I have to run into the next room to get my dictionary out of my brief case and look than come back to the Loran shack. I am tired so that is the excuse I have. Not to good though. Now let's see we were swimming around looking at the scenery, it is really beautiful under water and the life is amazing. There were schools of fish passing by. We did not try to shoot them since they were only about 4 inches long. The big ones stay in the rocks and in the cracks in the rocks. So we go along till we spot one on the bottom and shot him with the homemade spears, and if he is hit he will usually go for a deep dark spot and we have trouble getting the fish and the spear and finally you do and than you have quite a good sized fish. Today they only caught one since I was cold being in the water all day and we left after being in only about ½ hour the last time. The fish was big about 12 inches and either tomorrow or the next day I hope to try to hunt some.

Well, what did you do today and did you miss me? I miss you all day and a lot at night. The old man just came up to see if I got any messages at the 9 o clock Sked and I did not so he will be going to bed and I will be going to sleep on watch very shortly. Since I am a light sleeper the busser and clicks from the Loran warn me when it is sending the wrong sig out and I have very little trouble with it.

The boat will be here in five days and I can hardly wait to get the mail. Now that I think of it the chief will be coming back from Tokyo and he will bring the mail with him. He should be back in about 2 days. He just got Warrant Officer and he has to get all new uniforms and medical checks etc. He is quite a good guy and we will have to lose him now since the base does not have a place for a Warrant Officer. He is also a good \$30.00 a month man in the canteen, mostly beer. So I will miss him badly

They are trying to get a call sign and permit for a ham station here. That means we could send messages to the U.S. and if I was lucky I could get Leon Iles and talk to him and maybe you over the radio. He lives in Dublin and we used to play basketball together. He was in the Army and now is out with a ham station at his home. I have to qualify and if we get the call sign I will let you know and we will try to talk if nothing else I will send you a message.

I got a box today and put some things I got for you in it but I have to put a few more things in it yet. I will send some things home for you to give to mom and she will know what to do with most of the stuff. I still have not found what would be a good gift so when I find it I will send it. The stuff I am sending you now is just to let you know that I am thinking of you. There is a lot to go through to get packages sent and I have not done it before so I will be taking my time till I know exactly what it implies. Then it will not be too bad.

I am getting tired now so I think I will say goodnight now and continue next watch. Sleep tight and think of me.

Your Frank

June 10, 1956

Hi,

Just a few lines. Yesterday was the thing I call near a perfect day. I swam in the morning (missed two fish) and then got a hot shower (20 minutes) and then went and got a massage. That lasted for about an hour and cost me 20 yen or .56 cents. I felt real good after that and the only thing missing was you. I will try to get everything ready for your box today but I might go swimming today since I am getting fun out of it.

Well better get to my Skeds since I have two of them within a fifteen minute period. Be good possible pigeon hunter.

Love, Frank

Dearest Kathy;

I have just finished fixing the package up so now I have to give it to one of the fellows that comes over on the boat to mail for me. I am not sure it will go through without some trouble but I will soon find out. Now let me see I have a set of salad bowls for my mother, a table cloth for Mrs. Horn, and the rest is for you. I should have sent something sooner but I was a little scared since there is so much trouble connected with it. You will undoubtedly get this letter much sooner than the package and so when you get the package let me know so I will be able to figure out how long it took. Please give mom the salad dishes and give her Mrs. Horn's present too. The reason for that is I know Mrs. Horn and your observation was right, she does think of me as a son-in-law. So I can very easily see her get a little mad if you came in with something for her for me. She can be very rude if she wants to and she has a clever tongue. She has yet to be rude to me and I do get her mad sometimes when I kid her about Paula being spoiled etc. But I have seen her treat other people mean so I know how she can hurt if she wants to. All in all she is still a good friend of mine and I would not want it changed. But I do not want you hurt either so you give her present to mom and mom will call her or drop it off. I think the less Mrs. Horn knows about you the better. You have a sharp eye for only meeting her once. It took me two years to find out the same thing you found out in one visit. Oh well I miss you all back home.

Sked coming up so I had better set up for it. Miss you so you be good and I should be getting some letters from you this Tuesday. Today is Monday and the sun is shining so I will be going swimming in the afternoon. Wish me luck in hunting fish.

Love, Frank

June 1956

Hi Honey,

Guess what I just did, I just killed a poisonous snake. I am on watch and it is 7:30 pm. I was just standing by the door and one of the dogs was outside looking at something. Then Rex went over and he jumped back so I went over to see what they were doing and there was a small snake. Yoko, one of the fellows wife was making a phone call in the Loran shack and she came out just then and said it was a bad snake. So I got a stick and pinned the head down and picked him up. Tony, the boy that works for us come over and he told me to watch out. I told him to watch the Loran while I took the snake down to the other fellows and showed them what it looked like so they would know when they were running into poisonous snakes. All the local people (house boys and Japanese guys) shied away so I then took it outside and got a shovel and off with its head. That makes about the 5th snake we have killed in about 2months. The others were not poisonous but they were big and green. I might, just for the heck of it, start collecting them since no one on the island has a snake collection, it might be fun.

I had something else to tell you but I forgot it. It will come to me soon I hope. Let's see I slept (ha) for about 2 hours this afternoon and this morning I hauled dirt. That is what I wanted to tell you. When I was taking the truck and two yard boys with the cooks helper down to the next town to pick up some black dirt to cover up a few bare spots on the station, a jeep was coming towards me so I got over (in Japan they drive like in England, on the left side of the road) The road was wide enough but I did not figure how soft it was and I was on the edge and it started pulling the two front tires into the lower part of the land. Most of the road is dug out of the side of a mountain but here it was just a little about the level of the land and we crashed into some bushes and stopped short of a telephone and wire. The truck was sitting on a slant and I think a little more and we would have upset. Everyone gets out and I see how we are sitting then we get the wench (a long line-cable- that runs by the truck) and fasten it to a tree on the right side of us. This time there were about 10 people gathering to watch. A few of them try and did help us by digging away the brush and dirt by the tires. Finally I backed up enough to get us clear of the telephone wire and pole then used the wench to pull us out. I paid the man to fix the road for me 2 packs of cigarettes. It is much cheaper than when you have trouble in the U.S. The boys were a little shook but soon got over it since we had the loads of dirt to get and it was hard work digging and shoveling it into the truck. When I got back to camp I told the CO about it and he did not think it was serious and said nothing so it was okay. It was funny because I was going slow and it seems every time I am going slow and taking my time something always happens. Yet when I am going fast and in a general hurry I have never had trouble. I guess going fast one expects trouble.

The boat comes tomorrow and the mail had better be on it. It is good to get mail but after we get it we start to get a little homesick and don't get over that for a few days. If it was not for the mail we would soon forget home and it would laps back to the sub mind and we would just concern ourselves with our life on the island. But mail keeps us thinking of home and

undoubtedly makes us want to go home. Well here comes my relief so I will sign off for now and write some more tomorrow if I get a chance. Be good and I love you.

Frank

Dearest Kathy,

After receiving your letter I have given it a week to sink in and decided what I should write. You have a good sized problem and it will not be easy for you no matter what course you take. As for me there are two reflexes . One is the way I feel and the other is the way I should feel. First the way I should feel. I think that keeping you waiting 1 or 2 years is very unfair on my part. The thing that makes it even harder is the fact that so much can happen in that time that can change both of us. Right now we think it is just the two of us in the world but by the time a year or two passes how will it look then? Anyway Bishop was right when he told you to go out with a lot of fellows. That I would not mind at all since there is always safety in numbers. But just one is not good. I know by my own experience, that is the reason I was going out with a lot of girls when I was home. It left little or no chance to get hurt and I found that to be true in a number of instances. Now I have just reversed myself and just been writing to you, the rest are a task and that is one thing that I don't like to do on a Loran station or anywhere else.

If it were someone from your class or age group I wouldn't worry either. But York, as I have said previously, is no kid and considers you the same as a young spring chicken. (the way I like you) (that is both of me speaking) I of course don't want you to go out with anyone (that is natural and I am not that one tracked to think it is right) You should go out with others if for no other reason than to know what you want in a husband and you are not going to find out by reading books or sitting home writing to me. You must get out like I said-the more the merrier. Not just one fellow but a number of them. I hope I have not confused you since I am still not sure how I stand on the situation myself. Maybe out of all fairness I just stop writing and let you make your life the way it should normally run or maybe I should tell you not to see York while my word still carries weight. (That I think is out)Then there is the passive attitude which is just let things go along the way they are. I am not that kind of person, but I have not made up my mind so that is the way it will run for a few weeks.

As to Cathy L. I think you are right and I will try to get something to send to her. She was also right when she said Paula gave me a radio. Paula as you know by now is the girl that you are in direct competition with and I think you are just about the winner. (just about) But that is something that only time will tell.

Under the circumstances I think I will just be over here in a year and that I think will help you if you decide one way or the other. I wanted to stay longer and get around, also the chance of saving money is much greater over here then it is back home. But you have made me change my mind.

I just got three letters from you today. This morning I wrote the first page and then I got your letters. Two of them were dated the first of June and the other the eighth. Somehow the mail got mixed up since I got the letter you sent the sixth last week sometime.

Today I was in the water for about 2 ½ hours and really got a good swim in. Also getting a good tan and will send some to you. Takue The water is so full of fish that I can get some whenever I

wish. Since the fellow from Hawaii left there is no one else on the base that has any fish except me. You ought to be proud of me. Takue

The fellow that brought the mail was over to Tokyo to see about his teeth. He went to the longhair music hall and met a nice girl. She and he made friends and the girl had a girlfriend. The fellow invited the girls over to see the base and spend a day here. She ask him if there was (quote) "A nice nice fellow at the camp for her girlfriend". He thought and told her of me, not drinking or bothering the girls etc. and she said okay. He comes in this morning and tells me I have a date about the 6th of next month. I did not especially want it but I will enjoy having a girl around again, it might be interesting. Anyway it turns out I will tell you about what happens. Her name is Sumiyo Umo , nickname is Linda.

Here is a picture that was taken between movies. The girl is the wife of the fellow next to her. Looking at the picture he is the one that used to get all the fish and now is on his way to Hawaii. Yoko is the name of the girl and she paid me the highest compliment that I have yet to receive here. She said that I was the only fellow on the base she really liked (aside from her husband) since I'm not always chasing after the girls like the rest. I told her she did not know me and that is the truth. If she knew me while I was back home she might not have that opinion of me. The fellows call me "the all American",

Any way back to the picture the old man is the one on the extreme left with the goofy smile on his face. He is quite a guy and we have a lot of fun. The fellow in front of him is Comstock and we disagree quite a bit. He is the guy I had the run in with and since I told you of that time we have had about 3 good arguments and both ready to fight. He is like a spoiled child and everyone has trouble with him even the old man has to take a lot of sass but I will not take it from him or anyone. Most of the guys just agree with him in reference to starting something. But I enjoy knowing when I am right and usually disagree whenever I get a chance. The trouble is he is over me by about two rates and if I was a ET, which he is, I would have life bad, but being a radioman I can get away with it. The fellow sitting next to me with the horns is Shorty, he is a nice guy and we have a lot of fun. He also married a local girl but she is not at the movies that night. He is going back to New York this next week and I hope to drop in and see them when I get back. The fellow behind me is Doc he is quite the guy always picking at every little piece of food and it takes him twice as long to get through the chow line. The fellows kid him about it. The guy in the middle of the back is from some rebel state and has the accent and slowness with him. The guy next to him (left) is a seaman who just got here and can throw more bull than anyone I ever knew. Most of the time you don't know if he is telling the truth or not. As you can see when we watch a movie we do it as if we were sitting in our living rooms back home. It is nice to have the greenhouse and the net of the ping pong table is in front.

I have a wonderful chance to do something that I have always wanted to do. Tour Europe. It works this way. When we get finished over here we can go right home or we can take our leave, 30 days, and go by airplane on this tour they conduct for service men. You have to put in for it way in advance and I have told the CO that I would like to get in on it. He will try to find out

through the district if it is alright and it will take about 4 or 5 months before everything is straightened out. But just think of it going over all those countries like that. It will of course cost me a lot of money maybe about 2 or 3 hundred dollars but it would be well worth it. The only regret I would have is that you could not be going with me. So much could happen before that and I might not be able to go but I sure am hoping.

I had better drop mom a line and Bob also. Oh yes I have not heard anymore from my brother Bob. He is working and I have sent a letter to him hoping he answers and now I am waiting for that answer. Thanks for asking. Be good, goofy.

Love, Frank

DearTakue,

Well I got three letters today and I am failing to keep up with you but keep ahead of me, I like it that way. First I will tell you about Bob. He was working at a farm like I told you a few letters back. Now I got a card from him and he is joining the Army. He seems quite happy about it and I think it will be good for him. He said he would try to stop in Pa. before he goes in so I hope you get a chance to meet him. I told Lil to take him to you if she is home and I will I write to Mom and tell her the same. He is quite a handsome guy and you had better watch yourself. Takue

Well Honey, I have been doing a lot of swimming lately and I have a deep tan. When I go swimming I take a spear and usually fish. The ocean is so interesting that I can't get over it and when I am down there I am in another world. I follow the fish until I can get close enough to get a shot in. The deep caves and sandbars, flowers, fish, shells and other life form is fantastic and I got and will continue to get a big kick out of. There are quite a few eels here and I have been debating trying to catch one.

I just goofed, I think. There is one of my buddies that is going to the states. He is the one that is married to one of the gals over here and I think he is going to have a rough time of it when he gets back since he is getting out of the service and has no job in sight. He has a radio and record combination and he has been trying to sell it for \$30.00. One of the guys were going to buy it then he did not want it in the end. Since the fellow is leaving today it left him stuck with it. So I told him I would buy it, but I have no use for it. I guess I will just send it home and let it sit till I get back. I hate to put as much money as that out without enjoyment in it but it was a necessary thing. (I think)

The canteen is more or less standing still since two of the biggest beer drinkers have been away. I am not losing anything on it since I have no stock that will spoil but I wish that we got a beer drinking crew so I could get rid of that bill. Now I am the one the canteen owes the most to. \$175.00 and the CO is the next with \$50.00. But that is the only bills left so I hope to get them paid off.

I got two new shirts last night and they are real nice. I wish you could see them. Now I am the best dressed on the camp excluding a suit. Most of the fellows have suits but I have not since I don't like to wear them but I will get one before I come home. Yesterday we were trying to find silk but we could not. When I thought of Japan I always thought of silk, but they don't have any on the island and you have to go to Tokyo to get it. They have rayon and cotton mostly. I usually buy the material and then take it to a tailor I know and she makes up the shirt to fit and pants also. She is good and I have 3 shirts that I had her make. The only trouble is that you can have them made for about \$2.00 and you can buy better material already made for about \$2.50. So sometimes I do one and sometimes the other. Well I think I will fill in my Log and get set up for my Sked.

Miss you. Love Frank

June 21, 1956

Hi Honey,

I have not had the ambition to write and still I am a little lazy but I had better get a letter ready for the boat Sunday. There had been three of us standing a continues (24) watch and it took a lot of life out of me. Now we have another watch stander. He is a new ET and is not a bad guy but will not measure up to the two fellows that left. For news of myself I haven't much. I have been swimming whenever I get a chance which is about 2 hours every other day. This last week I did better than average though and got in almost every day.

About 2 days ago I got 2 new shirts and I think I told you about them. The time is passing so fast I hardly am able to keep up with it. When the winter sets in then it becomes longer but the summer will go fast. I got quite a few fish and it is some sport. The sea is still a fascination to me and I can't get enough of it. There are fish of all colors; some of blue (all blue) and others with bodies of yellow and black strips on them. Then there is the all striped fish and they get quite big. Every once in a while you run across a blow fish which is not good for eating.

I made a belt of leather and put a knife on it and it is quite a thing. No one else has one but I still enjoy it. When I am home I usually have a knife with me, I guess just out of habit when I used to do a lot of hiking. They come in handy and if I ever meet a shark in the water (it is possible when it is warmer) I will not be completely at a loss. Fighting it will be the last thing I will do, first I will be running or swimming away. Takue

The girl that gives me the rubdown works at a restaurant and her cousin came over from the town on the other side of the island to visit her. She is something to see and last year she took the Miss Oshima title. She has the fellows going after her from the base. Yours truly has been down to see and talk to her. She is just looking for a fellow since she gives you the eye and when she thinks you are not looking then she gives the same eye to the next guy. But she sure has got about everything a beautiful gal has to have. They also got a new girl in one of the other eating places and so most of the fellows are in town a lot of the time. Result, canteen not selling to well but when they run out of money they come back to the canteen for credit.

This Sunday is going to be a work day for us since the ship that is bringing our new jeep and Loran times is coming then. They intend to only stay three hours but I think it will take longer than that. They will take the mail out so I will send this by them. It is Friday in case I forget to put it on the top. Then Tuesday the LCU comes with our supplies of food and the canteen stuff too. They will bring mail which I am looking forward to.

I have a chance to go to Tokyo in about a month. The only way you can go is for medical treatment, since we are not allowed any liberty. When I started to play baseball I did something to my back and every once in a while when I am playing or riding in the jeep by hitting a bump or something similar I hurt my back and can't sit or walk without it causing pain. As soon as we get a few more watch standers I will get a chance to go over and have it checked. The chief just came back from the hospital and he said they love to get case like mine so they

can dig in and practice. So it might take a little while if they find anything wrong. I can use a little vacation from the routine by then though so it will not be to bad.

I am making a poem so wait one min.

There it is finished. I hope you will like it.

I stand by the ocean blue,

Below the sand, wind and sand drift,

Brought back sweet and vivid memories of you.

Above: sprinkling the heavens are Gods gifts.

Than my gaze fixed straight ahead,

Not seeing the ocean calm and still,

But seeing Kathy nestled softly in bed.

And if in God's unseen will,

This boy in faraway Japan

In seven months, he will come to you

Green lands and oceans blue he will span,

Just to say one word; TAKUE Franklin T. Tak-oder

Now how about that? That is the first time ever I saw a poem with the lines divided like that but I guess it does not matter to much. It says what I want it to say and what I am thinking and feeling most of the time. There is so much I want to say to you when I get back. It seems a little mean but the longer you wait for something the more you enjoy it when you have it. (I think) Takue I have The Hit Parade on and they have some good songs on. Know that record player I bought from that fellow, well I have already got a buyer and so I will get my money back, it is good since I have no use for the thing. I am glad I bought it from Shorty since he needed the money and could not have got rid of it himself. It is a nice set and worth twice as much in the states but by the time I sent it home it would have taken the gain. Also I have 2 radios at home and I have no need for another.

Give me a balling out or something so I will get some Spanish done. I have not done anything on it for about four days and it is getting far behind. Takue Well I guess I will have to use the red tape since the black had gone bad on me. It has been in for quite a while so I will have to get a new one tomorrow.

I have color film in my camera but as soon as I shoot them I will put some black and white in and get you some pictures of me in my swimming outfit. Well I guess I will sign off for now

since I have to catch up with my Log and that will take me about a good long five minutes than I can try and get a little sleep before I get relieved. Be good and Takue. Me.

Love, Frank

June 27, 1956

Dear Kathy,

July 5, 1956

Well beautiful how are you tonight? I just got finished reading over your letters and trying to pick out the things that I wanted to comment on. When I told you I would write more than you I did not know what I was letting myself in for. You sure have out done me as far as writing goes and I enjoy getting every one of the letters. I look forward to mail day as much as a child looks forward to the treat his father promised him.

We just got a new batch of records in today and they some good ones including Robin Hood. I can sit for hours just with records to keep me occupied. It would be nicer with you there.

I have something to tell you and I feel better if I did. After hearing about York I decided it would be better if I started to date some members of the opposite sex. Just in case I was in for a fall and I did not want it to hurt too much. Well feel at ease since when you date a gal over here you date her whole family. Quite a comical mix up can occur. I think you remember that gal I told you about that everyone in camp was going wild over. She was the one that was queen of Oshima last year. Last night she was down at the place where most of the fellows spend their time when they have off. She was trying to play up to me and I did not want anything to do with it because of the discord among the fellows Then I decided it would do me good. So I ask her to walk me up to the camp when I had to make my radio Sked that night. She said she would and we fooled around for a while, you know me teasing and her liking it. One of the boys that work for us came over and said that another gal that I had been friends with said that she and her mom and sister and another fellow wanted to go to the camp to see a movie. I was up the well known creek. I decided to take the family group and ask this other gal if it would be some other night. She was a little mad and I don't know that she will forgive me for standing her up for the others. Anyway that was my first date and I did not even hold hands. Her mom makes most of my shirts and that is how I met them. But it is nothing for you to worry about since she has to go quite a way to catch up with you. But I will keep in practice just enough to make you feel like it was worth waiting for when I get home. As far as York goes I think it would be best for you to go out with him and others too because of the reasons I gave before.

Let me see now what are some of the questions I have to answer. One is the name of the dog is Rex and he is getting to be more like my dog all the time. I can tell him to sit, lay down and he comes when I call. No one else on the base can get him to come to them when I am there. He trust me and I only hope I deserve his trust. The other night I was coming back to the camp and a dog came out trying to take a bite out of my leg for his supper. Rex got him off from me and gave him a good licking. It was dark and all I could hear was the other dog yipping while running back to his house. So it is good to have Rex with me. Since you said you sent him to watch over me well he is doing that. I can't go anywhere without him coming and I don't think I would go without him anyway. When I sit on the ground he will come up to be petted.

I have some things to straighten out so I will sign off for now and write tomorrow morning on my four to eight watch. Be good till then and I will endeavor to be good too. Love, Takue

Let's see I have a letter to write to Aunt Beth in Detroit. It's been so long since I have written it is a shame. They are the people I stayed with on my way out to the west coast. They are like a family for me since once they were going to adopt me (my spelling is for the birds today as well as any other day about I will do better) Takue They have 2 little boys and they sort of miss me since I used to play with them when I was there about 6 months ago.

I intend to stop there on my way back and spend about a week with them if they have not got company. They usually have someone from their family up but the time I got there was not the visiting season. It is the season for a nice big fire and to hold a gal close. Also nice for ice skating and sledding. This is the time I will be coming home and so I will have a lot of chances to do these things. Do you think you will be about to take part in a few similar activities?

I paid off the last guy for the canteen excluding myself. Now my bill is all the canteen has to worry about and then it will be out of debt.

My Spanish is at a low and I have not even looked at it for about a month. This is bad since I hate to give it up but if I don't start it soon I will have forgotten all I learned.

I have nothing else to say so I will now look into your letters and see what you ask me the last week or so. Be back in a min. I read about 10 letters over and they made me wish I was there with you. You brought back many memories that I had not forgotten but they were just in the back of my mind. It is July and I wish I was back home for a number of reasons like swimming, horseback riding, movies and hikes. (I guess that is all. Ha Ha.)

You seemed quite worried about Paula, well don't since it should not bother me. I think I wrote and told you the whole story and that should explain itself. She is the only other gal that I will really know when I get home excluding yourself. I doubt if she, knowing her as I do, will ever make me the kind of wife I would like to have. So that is one thing I would like to know more about you and the only way I can do that is live near you sometime to see some of your habits etc. This sounds rash but it is not as bad as it sounds if you understand me.

As to my pictures, just tell me what they cost. I figured the price out approx. from the slip of paper that were in the slides and it is somewhere near \$26.00. I did not want them made into slides but it is okay since they came out better than I thought. For the slides you buy another kind of film which cost more when you buy it and then you send it in to get developed. This of course you did not know and it is my fault for not telling you but make sure you let me know the price and I will send mom a check or have her pay for it out of the money I have sent home. I could also have a money order made out to you but I would rather you have to go to mom for the money since it will give me an excuse to have you over and the more you go to my place the better I like it. Besides it is good for you. I hate to think that you are lonely and wish there was something I could do about it. Maybe there is if you are still lonely in the next month.

Thanks again for the concern about my brother, Bob. I have not heard from him for a while and not sure if he is in the Army now or what. I am also not sure where to write to so I will have to

wait till he drops me a line. At any rate I am still concerned about his welfare and hope nothing happens to him.

I am still swimming and enjoying it as much as ever. The other day we went exploring along the base of the cliffs. We found one place where you could go down deep and there was a hole. Upon entering this you would go straight up and come out on the other side of rocks. It was fun. I have not got many fish lately but I have not tried as much as I was when I first started. There is something doing although I am usually short of breath all the time. It would be fun to be able to go under for hours at a time.

The card about the appointment was funny and do I have to write a formal reply or will a phone call do? Takue You know as well as I do that I don't need a card to remind me about you.

Well TAKUE and I will have to be catching up on my log and standing a better batch. Miss you and still wish you were here.

Love, kisses and all sorts of goodies, Frank

P.S. "T" stands for Toy which is my real fathers name.

July 1956

Dear Kathy,

Today the boat got here and I got 2 letters from you. I was looking forward to them since I had been restricted to the base for the last week and had not a chance to see any of the girls in town, not that they mean anything to me but it is nice to talk to a few every so often. Also the gal from Tokyo could not make it so the one that came over was for the guy that got me the date. The one I was supposed to see got sick (seems as all the girls I know are getting sick) and did not come. The weather was rainy and I was restricted so it was good. She is supposed to come over next month though and the one gal that came said she thought that Linda (the gal I was supposed to have) would like me because she did. It was not too good of a thing to say since the fellow she was with was right there but I had just come up from swimming and she just based her opinion on looks which is not always good. She quickly said she was too old for me so as to put her fellow at ease. The gal that the fellows were trying to get, well finally one of the guys got her more or less to himself. That is up till yesterday and she then left for Tokyo. She sent one of the fellows from town that works for us to tell me good bye since I had not seen or talked to her since the time I told her I would walk her to the camp and then could not. It is good for my ego if nothing else.

That instance about me sleeping and telling you to get the dog out of the car: I don't recall it but when I was home I did not get as much sleep as I do here. Either place I don't break any records. Oh, the reason I got restricted is from the time when I was in the mountains and got lost.

It was good to hear that you had a date with Frank Lesh, I know him and he is not a bad guy. I feel better with you out with kids your own age and you can see why. I remember a little about that time when I was two hours late in calling you since I remember the way you sounded on the phone, just like you had been crying and a little hurt. I felt bad about it then and do now also even though I could not help it since I think I got a late start.

This letter will not get out with the boat so it will be another week before it gets mailed. Maybe longer if no one goes to Japan, Tokyo, for some reason I keep calling the main piece of land Japan and don't think of this island as Japan but it is concerted as such.

This fellow I got stuck up in the mountains with has been more or less my buddy and since we do and like to do everything we spend a lot of time together. He is 21 by a few weeks and is very intelligence. Just today he was telling me I should write to his sister since she would like me. I just laughed at him. She is blond, 19 years old. I figure I already have too many to write to that I am not doing and I had not better get involved there. It was more or less a compliment and I was secretly glad he ask me. (Spelling is as bad as usual)

Have to go and set my transmitter up for my Sked which is in 20 minutes so be right back.

Back. I had better sign off now since I am in an argument with one of the fellows. Will write my next watch. Still miss you, Love, Frank. Mail is going out so I am letting this go as it is. Miss you.

Dear Kathy;

Well I have fallen behind in writing to you. I don't know but I think the main reason is that it is so hot that when I sit down I sweat something terrible. So I have written very few letters in the last few weeks. I got 5 from you today and of course I was glad to hear from you. I also got one from Bob (the friend in N.Y.) and one from Mrs.Horn. And one from Paula (that was a surprise since I have not written to her for ages. I am not sure how I should answer it and will try to after I write to you and Bob.

You call me a little stinker, you sent a letter that had 6 cents postage over due. That was the 7 page letter. The only thing is I did not have to pay it so I don't know how it got there. Maybe the CG took pity on me and paid for it. Anyway I think you are right about writing on both sides since it is very important that you write not the amount of pages in the letter. I am listening to Ed ?? and they are singing the Lord's Prayer. So this might not make much sense.

As to the canteen, I think I will be able to pay off my loan to the canteen this pay day. Then I will only have to get about \$50.00 put away for the canteen just in case of some trouble then I will be able to reduce all the prices to what it cost me to buy.

My Spanish is really being put on the shelf since I have not even looked at the books for about 2 months. Like I said it is too hot to do anything that is extra right now and when the winter comes I will want to get at it again.

That remark about the two Kathy's and Frank's was funny and I got a laugh out of it. I know very few jokes since I am not one to remember any I have heard. The things that usually strike me as being funny are the things that happen while I am sitting or standing there watching or being part of.

I cleaned the keys along with the rest of the typewriter about a week before I got your letter. Thanks for the tip anyway. I did not even think of having to clean the typewriter but it went on the blink so I had to tear it apart to fix it and then I saw how dirty it was.

I am going to Yokoska in about 2 or 3 weeks. The reason I am going over is because I have had some kind of trouble with my back. I also have to get my teeth checked. The only reason we can leave the island is for something like that.

I wish Marie luck and I hope she will be happy. As you know, I think, we went out for a while. As far as gossip goes, I think it is one of the things that is cruel and cuts deep. If people would come out and say it in front of the party concerned ok but they do it behind their back and it burns me no end. Mom is one person that is guilty of that and I have bawled her out no end but it seems to do very little good. She is not as bad as most of the people I know but even a little it is not good.

It is too bad you could not make Lil's shower but it is good you can make her wedding. I hope you have a good time even though I know it will be hard since you will not know to many of the

people there. I think there will be quite a few board members so you will get a chance to meet the people that started welcome House and that keep it going. Mrs. Horn told me that they will be there too and so aside from Mom you will not know many. But I have written to Lil and told her about you and I am sure she will see (along with Mom) that you are not whatever you could be. (Sometimes I type myself into the hardest positions to get out of) (Of course Charlie will be there so it will not be too bad.)

Mrs. Horn can be nice and she can be mean. If she starts to cut you so that it hurts then you tell her some of the things I have told you about the island and dwell on what I am and have done in the last few months. I am sure this will stop her. Now I might be jumping to conclusions but I have seen her go to work on different people and she can really make them look sick. I do love her as a second mom and also the rest of the family but I refuse to have you insulted. Think about what I just told you, I might be scaring you away from it. But you said you liked to be ready for the worst and I am just doing that, Mrs. Horn will probably be the nicest person you ever know and I know Paula will be since she has great control of herself. Now don't you go looking for trouble either. Don't say too much about me unless they start it.

You do have a problem with changing jobs. If I were in your shoes, I would go to Washington, but that is the part of me that wants to go to someplace new all the time. I think that if you get a chance to go to another part of the country it widens your education quite a bit. The fact that you would be in Washington when I got home should not enter into it at all. But I am glad it is and does. Now suppose I get stationed in Washington when I get back? Well anyway it is a problem I can't advise or solve for you. You have to work it out yourself. I would hate to tell you something and then be wrong.

I had to make my Sked but just before that I had trouble with the Lo'an. The transmitter kicked out and we were off air for about 8 minutes. The static is really bad tonight and I hardly could read the stations I had to work for my Sked. I had a message to go out and had trouble sending it since I could not hear Guam too well. But finally got it through and now I am watching the ET fix the transmitter. I should be helping him but I would do more harm than good. Besides I want to finish this letter.

Today we went for a hike trying to find that waterfall I told you about. Well we followed the water most of the way and finally found a little place off the mainland that is like an ice cream cone upside down. There was water coming from the mountain so we thought that was the water falls they were talking about. I also had to get back to camp for a Sked. So we rested a while and started back. The beach was real nice there and we intend to go back for some swimming soon. When we got back to the base we found out that we had not got to the falls and they were farther up than we went. So I still have to try to get to them sometime. The weather was real hot and it was hard to hike but I want to see them.

Since I have been in the service more than two years. Since I will not miss it so I have made out a bond that they will take

out so much from my pay. I had a bond out before and so far I had to use it just about as soon as I got them. Mom has a few at home but not enough to make me happy. I have a hard time saving money and so far I have not saved any worthwhile. Oh well I have a life time to earn money and I have long time ago found out it is not everything. (Just helps)

The ET is going around working his head off and I should really be helping him so I had better sign off for now and maybe I can get another letter in before the boat bets here.

Still miss you. Give my regards to your family and all the kids.

Love, Frank Yoder

P. S. Here is the kiss.

Dear Kathy,

Well here I am again. Today I just figured up the canteen bills and they came to a grand total of \$208.00. This will enable me to pay myself off and still have enough money left over to get supplies. Now I will start reducing the prices in the supplies and try to get them down as low as I can.

I got a letter from one of my buddies at a Loran station out near Hawaii, that is the closest place since he is 450 miles from any people. Their island is 3,000 feet long and 250 feet wide and 6 feet above sea level. I am lucky to have this station. He told me that he is going to do his girlfriend a favor and give her an engagement ring when he gets back. So that is what this Loran duty does for you. Takue

If you are lonely I could have some of my better friends date you. (They would have to be good good friends.) But it is better if you work it out and since you have that is good.This is three days later then when I started this letter and I just got up. It is 2:30 am and I can hardly see.

Last night I went to town and at this one place where I know the people they insisted I have something to eat and drink. The drink was sackie, something like a weak beer. And to eat it was seaweed. The seaweed was real spicy and I did not like it but did not want to offend them. So I sort of put it off for a while and finally some of the fellows from camp came. Then I told them to cover for me and when there was one of the fellows in front of me and one watching my host I tossed about half of the seaweed out off the door. The sackie one of the fellows drank since he likes it. So I did not have to do more that taste them. I will know better to come down when they are eating from now on.

They started a big celebration last night and it will continue for two days. They all go to the temple and beat drums and pray. It is quite a thing to see and there are a lot of people all over. The gals dress up in colorful kimonos and so do some of the men. The western dress style is seen quite often though.

This buddy of mine is named Richard De Grees (French) and he is quite smart. Right now I am kidding him with some of the gals since he likes this one and I pretend that she and I are having swimming dates. It is really funny and he keeps after me asking me who I was swimming with in the afternoon when he is on watch. (actually I was swimming with no one but I will not tell him for a while) We got a new watch stander, he is a ET and looks like a wild kid but time will tell. That makes five watch standers so it will not be bad on us now.

As to the film thanks for going to all the trouble. Also thanks for the birthday gift. I think the slides cost more than what you imply but if you insist, thanks..Takue...me

That is funny I keep most of my letters too. Ask mom sometime about them, I have a whole trunk full of them. They date back to when I was a 9 year old. I don't know what I am going to do with yours though since it will be such an inconvenience to bring them all back with me.

Right now I have a drawer full of them and it is not even 6 months on this station, so I can imagine what it will be like when I leave. As to the film, I will take a whole roll of pictures just of me and have them sent to you. I still think it a waste of good film though, but it is more or less your film. So prepare yourself for the worst.

Paula had not written for quite a while and I of course did not write. Then as I told you the other day I got a letter from her. So I answered it and I doubt if she will find it quite the letter she had expected. We stopped writing quite a while ago and her letter actually surprised me a little.

I was just copying some news and they told of these two liners colliding off Nantucket in the fog. They said there were 1,000 passengers and 500 crew men on one and it had to be abandoned. My old ship that I used to be on was on the scene. It seems as if I miss all the action. Anyway I think the Coast Guard will get the paper space due to them. As a rule you will hear very little of the Coast Guard but they save lives every day. As for myself I never heard of the Coast Guard till I joined it and if I knew I was a very seasick person I would have not joined it. The service would not be bad at all if it was not for that fact.

It is getting light and I feel a little more awake then when I started. You say have you been writing this letter all this time...I have. I read through a letter of yours and then answered it and then read the next. I usually read your letters over about three times so any hidden meanings I as a rule find. Takue

I just found some music at this hour in the morning. I don't know if it is a Japanese or American station but it is good. It is Japanese and I got some guy making a speech on it now. No it sounds more like German or Russian. It is German and he just introduced a polka. It is okay but not as my long haired music.

You know when I write to you it takes twice as long as when I write to anyone else. Of course anyone else it is so rare that I have a store of things to tell them but you know just about everything I do or that happens.

Time to say sayonora, which means good bye. I still miss you and will try to write again but think I will not till I get to the hospital. Be good and Takue.

Love, Frank, kid, Takue,. Goofus

P. S. Hug

July 30, 1956

Dear Kathy;

I don't know what I am going to write about, but I guess I will think of something. I am listening to a program from California and there is also one from Indiana. This is really getting the far way stations. Soon we will have a ham set and maybe I can work someone near home. These stations put out 50,000 wattes and we would only be able to put out 1,000 so I doubt if we could work your voice but I could maybe have someone tell you what I said by the mores code. Anyway I will let you know when we get set up over here. It will be for a while since we have to go through a lot of red tape.

Today I was swimming with Rich and we were diving. The weather was nice but the water was rough and we had a little trouble getting anywhere. Then we tried to find a new way to get to the rock we dive from. In doing it I got caught on a big wave and it took me against the rocks and then as the wave recedes you get all cut up. I got it on the side and hit my head. It was funny, when I hit my head the only thing that came to me while being thrown around was; was Rich able to take care of me when or if I got hurt or knocked out. The day before I had slipped on the rocks when I was in towards shore, and then cut my foot on the toe and the side. They looked bad and bled for quite a while. The cook said that I was lucky I was not swimming in Hawaii since there the barnacle are poisonous. Right now I am the most cut up kid on the base. Tomorrow I go to Tokyo to get that checkup at the hospital. It will be a good vacation since I will be able to get 8 or more hours sleep in a row. I have yet to get this much since I came to the station. When I get home I will just be able to pick you up then we go somewhere and I sleep. Takue. Then again it could be that I will be used to it and you will have to be keeping all kinds of hours with me. Double Takue.

I was listening to a re-account of the war in Korea and they were telling about a newspaper man being there and asking questions. It sounded just like the real thing and the static from the sky caused sounds that sound like shots. So this fellow comes in to relieve me for chow. I tell him that it is real and that the patrol is going on to try to get contact with the Commies. He believes me and glues his ears to the radio set. Then he says, "Are they still fighting over there?" He is quite a guy.

Well, honey, I am going to take a roll of film of pictures of me and send them home. I can't get them developed here so I hope it will be okay for you to. I will get a money order and this time I want to pay for them. That is an order. It will still be a little while before I get them taken since I will not do it till I get back from the hospital and that could be anywhere from one week to a month or longer if they find anything wrong.

I guess I will make this one short letter since I am getting interested in a program now. Miss you and with God willing and the Coast Guard keeping their word I will see you next January.

Love, Frank

July 1956

August 11, 1956

Dear Kathy;

Well I bet you gave me up for lost. I have been in the hospital and did not write while there. Most of the time I just slept and got back some of my energy. It was the first time in the six months that I got eight hours of sleep. I also met a couple of nice guys and we had fun going to the movies and raising the devil with the nurses. There was not anything wrong with me that a few day's rest did not take care of. Once you get in the hospital it is hard to get out and I was there from July 29th to August 9th. I found that without a typewriter to write letters I did not have the desire or wish to do any writing and then I got no mail when in the hospital so it was easy not to write. Now I am back and you have six letters for me to answer along with a number of other people so I should be writing for the next two or three watches. The mail will not go out from here for about a week and maybe two so it will be quite a while since you got my last letter till this one but I still miss and love you regardless.

The Spanish is at a double standstill and the canteen is still good. I wish I was home to see that new black dress. Why not get a picture for me. As for the girls here. I still have not got any interest that mean anything. There are a few nice ones in town right now but I still have no more interest in them than talking. The gal I told you about that was coming over for the weekend, well I found out she is getting married so it is better that way I did not even get a chance to meet her. When I was in the hospital Nora, the gal of my buddy, came and saw me on the weekend and then just before I went back to the camp I spent a half a day at her house. It is funny, she said the first time we met that she liked me but I was to young. She is about 34 and she kept saying it or implying it when I see her. Not that I try to make a pass at her because she is my buddies girl. I do not even more than is necessary to be a good friend. Her house is real nice in comparison to some of the houses on Oshima. When I have nothing to write about sometime I will tell you how a Japanese house looks.

It was nice of you to get Lil and Charles a gift and since Lil will be busy I will say thanks for them myself. The picture you sent was one of the best of you I have and I was more than happy to receive it. I am also looking forward to receiving the big one if you still want to send it. I have a picture of you in my radio room and one in my bedroom. I don't carry one with me since I usually do not carry a wallet. Pictures and letters are the one thing that will keep us together for the next six months. Of course love has something to do with it but love is such a undefinable word that I shy away from the use of it. Takue

You should have told me you wanted my sweater, I did not know. Right now I cannot think where it is since I used to keep it down at the Horns with some of my other clothes. I think it is home now and if you still want to use it I will write to mom and have her give it to you the next time you stop by.

Just had typewriter trouble. The one is stuck and does not go back when it hits the ribbon. I guess I will have to tear it apart and find the trouble.

When I was home I did not just date one gal for reasons I have told you. As a matter of fact I have had as high as three gals out in one day. One reason I have no money saved up. So when I took Cathy L. that day at school I had already had a date with her for something or other and I did see you typing. It was quite a funny situation to be in. I had Doug bring Cathy to the car for me. Coward was I not? It is very rarely that I have two gals from the same school and that have a chance to run into each other. This is the way I felt when I was home. Now I feel different but of course I am in a different environment. I don't know if I will feel that way when I get home and I hate the idea of hurting you by being as such. I miss you more than any of the others and hope that will take care of it.

Yes I get seasick and that is the reason I do not like sea duty. That is also the reason I volunteered for this duty in Japan.

Sending my regards along with my love.

Love, Frank

Hi Honey,

Don't shoot me since I am real bad. I should have had mail to you sooner but I have been trying to learn theory and it has taken most of my spare time. Remember when I told you about talking to you on the radio? Well I have to get a permit first and that requires a test. The code and circuit operating is easy enough for me but the theory I did not know anything about so I have been reading the books and applying what I learn to use in the equipment here. It is fun but takes a long time to do it that way. The test should be here in about two weeks. Then my second class test is coming up too. That requires me to have a fast code speed and also a lot more theory. So I am going to be busy for the next month or so. I still miss you and look at your picture every night. It is on my desk. I just got your packages today or yesterday I mean. So will put the big picture on the desk and carry the little one. How is that? Your pictures are really good of you but I would rather have you with me. Right now I am afraid to read your letters over since the boat is here and will leave in about three hours. When I start to read your letters over I usually start to daydream about you and me and do not get anything done. So I will answer your questions on the next boat. I am glad you are getting that job at the Bell Telephone Co. and so it will not be so lonely at night. I wish I were there to comfort you and in six months I will be.

I am glad that you enjoy going to my house so much and when I get home one other date we must have is by the fireplace. As of late we have not been able to send or receive any mail for two weeks at a time. So don't get wandering if you get a lot of letters at once, then none for two weeks.

You are still the only girl friend I have over here. The only thing I have done is hold hands. I guess I am waiting to get home.

Don't worry about getting that picture from Mom, I will send you one that will serve just as well. I will try to send it next boat. Also I want to send that film that I have some pictures of me. I did not use the whole roll on my favorite subject since every time I saw a good picture I took it. But I don't think you should get them in slides. Just the prints and you keep whatever you want.

I have heard from Bob twice. He is going into the Army and seems resigned to it. I think it will be good for him and hope he keeps writing. I sent him twenty dollars since he was out of work and he will need money before he is through boot camp. They are paid very little. I know I was there once.

Time to get this in the hands of the man that takes care of the mail. Be good and love me.

Love, real sincerely, Frank

August 23, 1956

Dear Kathy;

I am sorry that I am causing you so much concern about not writing but I am up to my neck in work and have no time to do anything. I just took the Amateur Test which was hard and have the second class test to take soon plus another test that I am taking over so I might qualify for A School. I might have to ship over for half a year or so but it will get me to be a Radioman on planes and I think the experience might be worth it. It is still a long way off since I might not pass the test and the school might not be open when I get finished over here. Any way it is something to do.

My transmitters are giving me trouble too. The good one is out and we are operating on two other ones but they are hard to put on the different freq's. We are also holding communication checks with Iwo Jima and that consist of two radio checks during the day or night. Now we have done it for a week and they are going to do it for the next week. That means that I will be on call anytime during the day and night when they call. I still have one watch a day. One of them is two thirty every other morning. Some life. I don't mind it to much.

I doubt if I will get a chance to write for a week or so, so would you give Mom a call and let her know that I am not dead yet. Thanks.

I just counted the letters I have to write—30 of them and most of them are to you. So when I get these different test and jobs done then will catch up. Till then bear with me. I am not interested in any gal's so don't worry that way. Well I will have to get to work. Be good and sorry I can't take more time to write. Be good and I still love you.

Miss you.

Miss you.

Miss you.

Love, Frank

September 8, 1956

Dearest Kathy:

Just got your letter and was happy to hear from you. The time is flying but I have little time to do anything that I like. This test business is taking a lot of my time and I will be glad when it will be over.

Got to go to a ball game, Be good and I will finish this tomorrow. By the way the boat comes tomorrow so I will have to finish it then wish me luck.

A day later and we lost our ball game in the last inning. I also finished the test yesterday and now I only have to wait for it to go through then I will be second class.

The LCU came with our supplies last night and it was really rough since we had to work up till about 10pm unloading barrows (spelling wrong) and two generators. Now it is 5 am and I got up just to finish this letter. The boat leaves at six. Very soon now I will be able to catch up with my writing but still have a lot of work to do with fixing my transmitter that is out and holding the four hour radio Skeds a day. (Plus the four hour Loran watch) Miss you as always and am looking forward to coming home to you. Still smoke a pipe and still have Rex to look out for me. Ge good and write soon.

P.S. Takue

Love, Frank

September 22, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Still am behind on my writing and just thought I would drop you a line to let you know I still am thinking of you. These test are all coming at once. I have to take a general test before next Tuesday and then have to go to the mainland to take a code test. Then when I finish that I have to come back and take the writing part of it. I have just finished the test for Amateurs and I think I passed it. It will be a while before I know. I have quite a bit to keep me from writing. You should see the pile of letters I have to answer. I guess people will think it bad of me but that is the way the cards fall. Speaking of cards. I have been dragged into a few games of Hearts and guess, yep, me the winner. I have won \$7.00 the last payday and I am head boy now with about \$3.00. Hearts I enjoy playing but Poker I do not and most other cards I don't like but Hearts is good. When I come home I will not play you for money.

The weather is getting a little colder and I have not been swimming for about 2 weeks. Today I might go since the sun is out. We have started baseball again and yesterday they played their first game. I had watch so I could not go. They lost 2 to 12. Boy did they miss me (just kidding) We just got a new chief and it is just another boss and no watch stander. He seem quite rough and the next weeks will tell how we get along. I am the only Radio Man so I have a little freedom from anyone else. But they still try to give me orders when I have lots of radio work to do. It becomes a game to see who can out figure the other. But I don't do to much work anyway. Well my watch relief just came in so I will have to sigh off for now but I will try to write before the boat comes in. Takue

Well darling, I just got three of your letters today and I am feeling bad about being so far behind in writing. I also got one from my granny and two from Bob (my brother). He is now in the Army and likes it. He was wandering why I did not write so I guess I had better get on the ball. Yet I have just about finished all my test and only have the code and cooping test to take. They will be the hardest. I go Sunday so I still will not be writing till I pass them. I will have to drop Bob a line and explain and also hope you bear with me.

This letter is about two weeks in length and I have your picture to remind me every time I go to bed that I have to write. You sit there on the desk watching to make sure that I bring no gal's in. Well I don't. Please give my regards to everyone I should. I still miss and love you very much. Bye for a while and miss me.

Love, Frank

September 18, 1956

September 25, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Sorry I am so late in answering but I have felt a little lazy of late. The weather here is getting like our fall and that is the best time of the year, I think. I wish I were home so I could hunt. I do a little hunting for crow here but it is nothing like rabbit and pheasant. It is also becoming the weather for nice indoor fires and I sure do miss them. I have the record player on and it is blasting away. I have not done much today. Got the canteen request in and caught up on my logs. I just finished a letter to the Comd. of the CG requesting permission to go on a trip after my tour of duty is over here. It is that trip I told you about through parts of the Far East and Europe. Well one of the other fellows here is going to take it and I think I will go along with him. The first said you had to have \$1,000.00 to pay your own way. Now it is down to \$600.00 and I think I can afford that. I will have to get along on about \$200.00 for eating, living and enjoyment. I will just make it or I might run short in which case I will be in trouble. I know that it will mean that I do not see you as soon, but this is a chance of a lifetime and I know if I don't do it I will be mad at myself later on. I hope you understand. I do miss you and when I get home we will make up for lost time. The only trouble is I am not to sure where I am going to get stationed. I hope and pray it is on a land station since I get terribly sea sick when on sea duty. I have put in all my request for reassignment to the southern states so I will be stationed somewhere down there. Me and all those Johnny Rebs. I will have quite a few good disagreements since I am very much against the way they are treating the colored people now.

Rex has not been around for 2 days and I am starting to wonder where he is. Usually he stays away for a day at a time with some female and then comes back but two days is not usually done without a stop at camp. If he is not back in a couple of days I will have to try to find him. Don't want anything to happen to him.

I have my Spanish sitting on the other table and I have started to relearn it. I got a letter from my instructor telling me that I had not had a lesson in for quite a while and was wondering what had happened. I have not written back yet but intend to as soon as I get around to it. I am hoping I can get a lesson in the next mail, but being away so long from it I have to learn just about everything over again.

I think I will get your letters and figure out the things that you ask me so I can answer your questions and make comments where needed. Be good for a while. Just looked at the time and will be going off watch very soon so I will have to finish this some other time. I still love you and miss you. Be good for a time.

Frank Takue Yoder

Well Honey, it is two days later and it took me that long to go through the letters that you sent me. There were 24 of them and I picked out the things that were most important. I will take

them in the order that you asked them. First my typing is either good or bad according to whether or not I get a lot to do. No one is teaching me since I had it one year in school and then in radio school we had lots of it. One thing you had better keep up on is your typing since I might want you to type some of my love letters. Takue. Seriously typing is very important and you should not get out of practice.

When you send letters to me don't forget the APO 500 since it goes to the Air Force and they don't think and send it to one of their units and it finally works its way back to me but only after a long delay. Also I did not tell you before since I did not think you had to send me any packages but when you do you have to use the old address since the new one they do not take packages and will just reroute it to the old one anyway thinking of pkgs. I still have not sent that film so I will try to remember it this next time the mail goes out.

Bob is getting along fine and I think he likes the Army. If I did not tell you, then I will now. He does not want Lil or Ray to know he is in so don't tell anyone down home for the time being. I sent him twenty dollars the other week so he could have it easier through boot camp. They hardly get any pay at all there.

As to the test I took that might mean that I ship over for a six month period. It would mean I go to school in the states and then be stationed at New York or Florida. It would be working around planes and I could learn a lot doing that I think. I would also be assigned to flights and that would of course increase the interest of it. I don't think I will get it though since it is a hard school to get just right for it only opens once in a great while. Speaking of schools, I am not sure if I will go to college or not. It will be hard for me depending on what course I take. If I learn enough about electronics I might take said course. But no matter what I take it still will be a lot of work and studying and of course money. So I am still under the not knowing course.

As to the bunk beds, I have a top one and they are all right but I think I like the regular ones better. At least when I am married—I think they would be best. Takue. I don't usually have dreams since I am too tired to dream. I believe that people only dream when they have had a lot of sleep and that lets me out.

We do not have any church on the island and if we wanted to go to some sort of service it would be a big temple with idles. So I have not been to church since I left home. But I still think of it and when I get home you will be going with me a few Sundays.

The canteen is coming along fine. But to your question "Do I get anything out of it?" The answer is no, except for the satisfaction that I got it out of debt and have it operating on a paying basis and it all goes to getting self control and respect for yourself.

You seemed a little worried about my having other gals here. Well I still have not found one I like enough to have any great feelings about. You are still the one that is tops on my list even if you say I had you wandering. But I will never take you for granted, you can be sure of that. I know better.

The subject you brought up concerning if a war broke out. Well this is something I never thought of and should have. I am glad that you told me what you would do and where you stand. I am not sure how I feel about another war since I have not given much thought. I do know that if there is one it makes one feel insecure and that would make me operate much faster than usual. Takue But I think that there is not much chance of a war and we will not have to worry about it. It is something to give a little thought to and maybe later on I will answer a little better.

Well this is a lot of subjects and I know you will be writing back on some of them. It seems a mighty quick answer to 24 letters but I will try to catch up with you in the future. Be gooooooooood and miss you so much.

Love, Frank

P.S. Got to make a Sked and then work on canteen reqn. So be good and write soon.

This is an old letter Frank wrote months ago but he didn't get it mailed so he sent it about 9 months later

Dear Kathy,

Well as you know by now Doug's gal did not call so we made the trip alone. When I got to Long Island Doug and I went to a friend of mine and spent a couple of hours there. We played Ping pong and then Doug left, I hope he made it back okay. I then stayed the night and when New Year's came in I had a glass of champagne. I also skated that day since there is a big lake across from their place where all the kids go. It was just like glass but there was snow on it. They have about 2 inches on Long Island and none at home. I was wishing you were with me New Year's night

In case you are missing something, I have your bracelet in my possession. When I got here I found it in my pocket so remind me about it when you see me. (I might give it to some other gal)

Did you go to Youth Center for that dance? I was wishing I could have come back Sunday and gone to that dance.

Well I guess I had get some sleep since I have nothing to do till dinner. Be good and write soon.

Love, Frank

Dear Kathy;

29 September 1956

Do not think that I am back in N. Y. since this is a letter I just found that I wrote to you and never mailed. So I thought I will send it back to let you laugh over a few things.

Not much new has happened except that we are missing about two weeks mail. I think it will turn up sooner or later but is liable to be the latter. At any rate I have only got two letters from you in a two week period and that is not right I am sure.

You might not be getting any mail from me for two weeks since I have to wait that long to get stamps. Maybe someone has a few extra books and I can use them but I just ran out and that is two full books in about three days. I was really behind and had a lot of mail to send to different people and also I had a few pictures to send out to get developed. They take two air mail stamps a piece. I am in a hurry and I do not know why but that accounts for the bad typing. The timers (equipment pertaining to the Loran watches I stand) are going bad and I have to jump up every so often to fix them.

The weather outside is really getting windy and it looks like we might be in for another typhoon, but I have not heard anything about it on the radio. One is okay but let's not get carried away.

Tomorrow I am going to get a fitting for a pair of pants and they are or should be really good. It will cost me about three dollars and then I will have about three shirts made and stop spending money since from then on I will have to save like mad.

I think I will study a little while and then write after since I am sort of tired. Wish I could go to bed but I got to stay up till eight at least and I might stay up and see the movie. They got me getting up at 3:30 am tomorrow morning since I have a watch then. I need some sleep. By the way today is the 29 of September. Be good for a while and I will be back soon.

I am listening to Eddy Fisher on the radio at the same time as I am doing my Spanish. He makes me a little home sick. Back to Spanish.

I don't think I will be about to finish this tonight since I am tired and I get relieved soon. Will do it tomorrow morning and I should be a little more awake. Be sleepy—Takue

Well Honey it does not look like I am going to finish this this morning either. I am working on my Spanish and still have a little to do before I catch up till where I left off a few months ago. I am going to try to get a lesson on this next boat and that is only a few days away. I am quite sure I will get this letter finished before the mail goes out so bye for now. I miss you so much.

Here I am again. I just finished working over at the canteen and I have a few minutes off. It is nice to be the only radio man on the base since no one tells you what to do and can enforce it. It is more or less left up to me what I do and when I do it. Besides that no one knows what I

have to do except Mr. Hall the Commanding officer and now that we have a Chief here Mr. Hall does not come over anymore. I usually keep busy anyway and I think hate just about as much as gossip that I lose time. (try to figure that out).

I have a few letters from you, the ones that I thought I lost. They came in but were all wet and I had a devil of a time figuring some of it out because of the ink was faded. I also got your coded one and you only made one big mistake that I could not figure out. The rest was real good and when I get home we can send code to each other each time I want a kiss. Takue

Nothing much has happened since I ended in the middle of the last time I wrote this letter that I did not finish and that I am trying to finish now so I can send a full letter instead of a half finished one like the one I started three days ago and was almost tempted to send it half finished before finished it. How does that suit you?

I am going to draw advance pay so I can have enough to take that trip. It will be better to have a little more than a little less. At any rate I am looking forward to taking this trip and do hope it turns out as well as we expect it to.

Well Honey, I miss you a whole lot and wish you were here.

I just started smoking my pipe again, I had stopped for a while since I was getting a little cold and it is bad for your throat.

GSIS D UK ESE WKAR (just had it come over the receiver and had to copy it. Sorry it does not make any sense to you but I can figure it out. I did make two mistakes.

Well I better sign off and stand this Sked properly. Be good and think of me.

Lover, Frank

P.S. Takue

Dear Kathy,

Well got your letter today and I only got one. It surprised me since I usually get three or four. Thanks for the stamps but I have quite a few now. I will make sure that I use them only for you though. I have quite a headache and it is because I have got so little sleep lately. The other night we stayed up till twelve thirty and played hearts. Then the next morning I had to get up at three thirty for the watch. We get a kick out of playing hearts. The captain is ahead winning seven dollars. I hope to get a game going tonight and maybe I can bring it up.

I miss you more than ever lately and am catching myself thinking of you more than usual, especially when we get the mail.

Just wrote to one of my aunts and ask her if I could work at their factory for a few months when I get home. I will need the money. I think I will be able to but I don't want to tie myself down to much so you had better let me know if you are working night shift or dayshift now and when I get home. I have quite a full schedule when get home if I do. First I am going to stop off in Detroit for a few days with the same people I spent a week with on coming out here. Then come home and go to work for a month or so and then or during this time somewhere get a car which will take me to St Louis. I am not sure of that trip as of yet. I sort of think I might not go now since I would like to get a car. I'm not to sure how to go about getting this car either.

You said that your brother was in trouble and now I am wondering what the trouble is since you never told me about your brother getting in trouble, or having an accident. At any rate I hope it is not to bad and hope he does not get into to much trouble.

One of the fellows here that is married gets a box of books and stuff from his wife about every two months.

Well beautiful, I am feeling a little better and can't wait till bedtime. So I had better sign off for now and fill this in later when something else comes up. Be good and I miss you. Love, Frank

10-03-56

Got a few more letters from you and it explained the trouble that your brother was in. I am sorry to hear it and feel sorry for him and you all. I guess it is not to bad though since I always wondered what it would be like to spend a year or so there and thought I might try it some time just to see. I don't think that he has to go away, since I am sure your parents don't want him to and any real friends would sure not want him to. But I am more or less an outsider since I do not know your brother. If he is anything like you though he must be mighty wonderful.

You said something about your mom baking a pie. Can you cook real well? Just wondered. You have my permission to make our song "Unforgettable" It is a good song and I like it.

Well it looks like the world will once again be at a World War. Only the right thinking will keep us out of it. If Russia goes into it we will have to get in it. It is a test of the UN. France and Briton will not obey the UN and the only way that the UN will be able to enforce their order is

for the U.S. to go all out and the trouble that Russia is having in their satellites I would say that she would be making many gains but with the trouble she is having our disagreement will not do them much good. It might hurt Ike on the elections and I am all for him. Even though if we get into war it would be silly to have anyone else in office. He is the best qualified man and Stevenson does not even measure up to the man Ike is. I think the country would hurt badly if he got the presidency.

I think that East Germany will revolt against the Commies and once Germany is united they will constitute a world power stronger than France and Britain. Within a few years they will be equal with the U.S. Russia will no longer be a power to be reckoned with. Actually I think that Russia will not get into the war and the next world War will be with Germany. They have lost a few times and each time learned from their errors. Their location and boundaries make it impossible to sit and live in peace with the rest of the world. They are also the most working nation in the world today. The only thing that will insure peace is that the UN gets strong enough. Nations are like people, they do not like to give up the advantages that they have. Thus it will be a long time before the UN will have enough power to withstand the draw out of any one nation.

Enough of this, I get to feeling like saying something along this line every once in a while, usually I just write it down somewhere and put it aside but I thought you might like to see me in one of my moods. Takue

I am sorry that your brother is taking it as such. I would like to write to him so you give me his address. I know he would enjoy getting mail and since I am not anyway connected to his life except by you. (Bad connection now that I think of it) He will not mind getting mail from me.

I am glad that you are babysitting at our place, and I will try to get a letter off to the kids this week. I have so much writing I should be doing and I am not doing any of it. I am liable to lose all my friends if I don't watch it. By the way when you fly down to Washington do not worry, flying is just like sitting at home. The only difference is your ears might feel a little different. I get sea sick and if the plane was bad I would have got air sick but I did not. So do not worry about it.

I am sorry to hear that there are so many gals down at the Bell Telephone Co. that are married and wanting a divorce.

This is about three days later. I just got a letter from you when a new man came to the base. We have been playing a lot of volley ball with the local gals team. They are good and we usually get beat. Some nice gals on the team though. Takue

Right now I am in a disagreement with the head man in the department and we have quite a few heated exchanges of words. He leaves at the first of December for which I am glad and lucky since he could get me in to plenty of trouble. I think I am right in saying as I say and doing

as I do and till I feel I am wrong I will continue to do as in the past. But if I do not watch it I might lose this second class rating I got.

Well enough of my problems, you said you were going to be brides maid, well I bet you will be the sticky's one there (sticky's means wonderful in Japanese) If you get any pictures I want you to save one for me to see. I will be home about the middle of February and will try to surprise you. But I doubt if I can. I will have to call home from New York and you will hear that way.

Well I had better sign off for now and get some letters out to someone else. For two weeks I have only written to you. That is not to good. Be good and miss me, I miss you.

Love, Frank Takue

9-29-56

Dearest Takue;

This is the last sheet of this kind of stationary and I think it would be best to send it to you. First I want to thank you for the smoking tobacco. I got it the same day I got your letter saying; "it should have been there by now." That day by the way was today. I have smoked it twice today and think I will try it now. Stand by one. Got it and it taste good. Nothing like your kisses but good. We do not have this kind at the station and it is a chance to get a change..

As you know by now on account of me getting your mail the boat came in today and we had quite a time of it. First we got one truck stuck and then we had to get the other truck to pull it out and just as the other one got there the first one got out. Then after the boat left and most everyone was up to the camp the old truck slipped half in the drink. While trying to get it out they pushed it further in. Anyway we had to get one of the fishing boats to lift up on the end and with the other truck pull it out.

I have my Spanish here again and do not feel like doing it now. I am tired and I have to strain myself to think. So I think I will let it go till tomorrow morning and then try to get hot on it.

Oh, something I wanted to tell you. When you send packages or anything of value you are to use the old address because the new one is only for letters. The old one is CG LORSTA, Oshima, Navy 3923 Box 35 F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. They said that soon they are going to send any packages back when they are sent to the new address. So it is best not to try them out.

Got my record player to work the other day and it plays 78's. We had a whole lot of them in the greenhouse so I got music anytime I want in our room. It only plays one at a time but it shuts off by itself and most of the records are two on one side. The radio itself is about the best one on the station and I think I might sell it before I leave. But if I don't I will ship it home under orders and it will cost me nothing. The only trouble is that I think it would be hard to get tubes and parts for it since it is a Japanese model.

Still have not heard from Lil for quite a while now. She must be really busy. I have got a letter the other day from Bob. He is writing better than I thought he would. I am happy to hear from him so often. He has a gal in Michigan and is going to take his leave there when he gets out of boot camp. I wish I were home then cause he said he would come there if I was but if I was not he would see his gal. I must rate. (sure glad I do)

You seem to be the only gal I got that writes regularly, mostly because I don't write to any of them as much as I do to you. Most have given me up since I hardly ever get the time to write much, (Don't let that go to your head, beautiful) Takue.

It's about a week and half later and I am on a mid watch. I just got finished with some of my Spanish and thought I had better get a line or so off to you. I got two letters the other day from you and was of course happy to hear from you. I still don't know when I am going to send

those pictures since I have no stamps I am not even sure that this letter is going to get out for a while.

It was good to hear that you babysat for mom. I am glad that you like the kids so much. I am sure that they like you as well. Have they asked you when you are going to get married yet? They ask me once.

The canteen is just out of debt and I am turning it over to one of the new chiefs. It is a little trouble and I could use the extra time for things that I have to do. I have just about learned all I can from it and think it was a very worthwhile experience. I have not been able to reduce the prices yet and don't think I will since there is a lot of things that the canteen can use the extra money at.

Well beautiful, that fellow that was going to go with me is not now. He says that he needed the money for college and I think the main reason is that his parents said they did not like the idea. That means I go on alone. I am scared stiff to try it and still might back out since I can anytime. But it would be so nice to do and I do so much want to see all these other places. I think the money will just work out without too much trouble.

You don't have to gain weight for me. You just be like you were when I get home and I will be happy.

The baseball is at a stand still now. We played a little baseball and football the last couple of days but nothing to tiring since I and everyone else on the station is out of shape.

The end is drawing near and I am getting tired so I will sign off for now and hope to get some stamps so I can worry you with those pictures any more. Till then and till I get home sleep tight. Save your kisses for me. I miss you a real lot.

Frank ...takue

October 12, 1956

October 13, 1956

Well Honey,

Things are moving along here. The crew and the Chiefs and Commanding Officer are at odds. There were about 4 guys that got caught down town and they were not supposed to be so now they are up for masts. This means that they stand trial and have some restrictions of kind. It will not be too bad but it might save me from getting one. I have had disagreements with the Chief and now that these other fellows got masts they will not be wanting any trouble for a while. Now the Chief seems like we can get along okay but it will not take much. The Commanding Officer and I get along good and he is a good basketball player. We often shoot during lunch hour and on holidays. The other day he showed me a list. It had all the guys in camp on it and I was 5 in the line of command. There is only 3 Chiefs and 1 first class over me. I did not realize it till he showed me. There are about 10 under me.

The new change in command has brought discontentment along with it. That is the reason for so much trouble. We had inspection and hardly anything went off right. I sort of feel sorry for the old man since he has had his share of troubles.

Right now I am on watch but I wish I was in bed. I am tired. I still have a bad habit of getting or should say waking up about 3 or 4 in the morning. It makes me tired for the rest of the day.

I do not really feel like writing now so I think I will sign off. By the way I don't want you sending anything for Christmas. I am telling everyone since I will not have a chance to do any shopping myself. It is enough to know you miss me.

Goodnight Takue

10-14-56

Hi Honey, I just looked at the letter I am going to send you and I did not realize it was so long since I wrote to you. I have not sent any mail out since the last boat and now I only have one for you. Please forgive me and I think I am really getting lazy.

I am starting to think of home now and that is an indication that I am getting homesick. I did not think I would be since I usually fit in where I am and home is just a nice memory that I will sooner or later get back to. Now that we have no swimming and the weather just lets us play sports half of the time I have time on my hands and that is why I start to think of home. Well it will soon be more than just thinking and we will be home together.

The boat comes in today and that will be mail and maybe my license for the ham test I took. I hope so since we can't start a station till I get it.

I turned the canteen over to the Chief, I do not think I told you. He still needs help when ordering and stuff but he is mostly taking care of it now. We got a new ET and that means that I stand less watches. I only stand five in a ten day period now and that is real good. I'll finally get a chance to get some sleep. Even though I still wake up early.

Well beautiful I have to get a letter off to Lil since I have not written for quite a while. So be good and take care of Takue. Miss you

Love, Frank RM 2 How about that?

October 17, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well beautiful I just got a letter from Lil today and she seems very happy with married life. She told me about her wedding and also your gift. She said she uses it to serve guest when they come. It was the only gift she told me about so it must rate. She said when I get home I am to bring you and we will be visitors.

Boy this pen is only used about once every three months. I think I have written in ink twice since I have been over here and both times it was to you. At any rate you can see why I don't do it more often. Most of my younger brothers and sisters can write better than I.

Today we went to the Oshima races and I with the other camp boys raced. I won one race and the 8 man relay we lost. They had all kinds of races and all people from Oshima took part. It was quite an event. I got a few pictures but I had black and white film in my camera at the time so I missed a lot of good color photos. The running, to my surprise, does not have me stiff yet and I want to get a race among the rest of the camp to see who is the fastest. I think I might be.

Takue Frank

October 17, 1956

You know what? I think mom wants me to marry you. She keeps telling me how nice you are and I had better not hurt you in anyway. Lil and Charlotte also are giving me reports on you and they all like you a lot. Still I don't think I want to get that involved yet. The idea itself scares me. You still are my number one gal. By the time I take that trip at the end of my tour of duty here I will know a little more and maybe change my mind on a lot of things.

My Spanish is getting slower. I seem to have lost interest. I am still trying to get it in though. I have had my watches reduced and this makes it irregular, so I don't do Spanish every day but about three times a week and it makes it harder. I also have a book on German languages that I had hoped to learn a long time ago but doubt if I will. I was going to night school in Long Island for German. Mainly because a friend of mine taught the class. Which reminds me, I have not written to them since I left Long Island.

Bob just wrote the other day and he is soon getting out of boot camp. He has a gal and some friends near Detroit and that is why he is going to take leave.

I showed your picture to the little gal I bring to the movies every once in a while. She likes you and kids me about my coybeta (girl friend) in America. She is in her last year high school and is

a mighty fine gal. She has taught me much and I have tried to help the family out by buying clothes and a few other things. They are not real poor but not real rich. In knowing her 7 months I have never kissed her or anything along that line. We just held hands, mainly because over here they are strict and not very often let their daughters alone with fellows. (Isn't it a shame she does not know what she is missing. Takue

Well honey, I do miss you and am starting to think of the time when I get home.

I went to have my head examined the other day because of what you told me. (just kidding) also you said "Good night, think of me and be good. That's an order Yoder." Did you mean that was an order to think of you? (I bet you say or think yes) I feel like writing a little something. Got about 15 minutes. Now got 5 left, here it is.

The stars shine big and bright,

And there you are Kathy, closed in my arms.

The moon arrays your hair, to my delight.

Your burning kiss, your gentle sigh, are a few of your

Many charms.

This, yes, this and much more is in store,

For this lucky boy and you, a wonderful girl

When I return, return home, to roam no more.

Frank & Co.

Be good and my beloved and miss me.

Dear Kathy;

I am going to write but not knowing what about. We just got a new captain this morning and he is real young looking. I think he is going to be rough to get along with. Mr. Hall the captain we had is leaving in about a week and I hate to see him go since he was a good man. We got a new cook and soon my roommate will also be leaving and he is from Pa. He is going to give mom and maybe you a call when he gets back. So as you can see we are losing quite a few of the old gang and in about three months will be losing me with the rest of the gang I served with.

For the last three days they have had big races etc. on the island. Each school has them and everyone on the island goes to as many as possible. It is something like our Mayday. The camp boys went to two and took part in them. We ran relay races. The last one yesterday we won second place racing against eight teams. We won two bottles of Japanese beer. The races were a lot of fun and I wish they would have them more often.

I want to get a letter off to you and Bob. Aside from you two I do little or no writing at all. Getting real lazy. Takue

Just figured it up and leave here is about 105 days. Then I go on the trip I hope and it will take about 30 more days then I get home and have 30 days leave which I will take about half. I will spend most of them with you.

I have tried to get a transfer to Okinawa but he does not want to change. Iwo Jima does though but he has not gals down at his station and it is not to good. So I will probably be on this station for the rest of my three months.

Well I had better go and get something to eat since it is near chow. Be good for a few hours and I will try to finish this tonight.

Three days later. I had changed my watch for one of the fellows had the day he was leaving. So I am now on it and feel almost awake. It is 4 am and it is raining out. Some of the fellows went to town last night and they really got drunk. One was having night mares and he kept calling Doc and asking him to help him. My roommate is leaving so he has been up all night and he said that he will be up to shoot the bull with me after a while. Sort of hate to see him go and wonder what kind of roommate I will get to take his place.

The good news; I almost forgot. Starting November 1st I will be second class. That is the fruits of those test and etc.

I got my first Christmas gift from Bob, the fellow that is an artist in N. Y. It was a real expensive wallet. I had hoped to tell everyone not to send anything since it will cost so much for me to send back anything. I have thought better of that though and will be sending stuff home under orders if they ever get here. I will have to cut down on my list though since I need all the money I can get for that trip. Which is now being looked forward to but still a little scared.

Just thinking and I had better get a letter off to the Horns since it has been about two months since I have written and for them that is a long time. Also have to get one off to Mom, Lil and Bob.

Just thought I would look at your letters and see if you ask me any questions. So be good for a few min. while I look. Your first letter had a few questions. The picture was taken in Japan right here on Oshima. We got a big write up in the local Navy paper for Japan. I have two issues that we were in. As to why Bob does not want Ray and Lil to know he is in the Army, I think he wants to surprise them and when I get home he wants he and I to come in uniform at the same time to see them.

That was one letter now on to the next. No that was not me that was calling Dublin. Sort of wish it was. Also I do not know your gal friend or at least I do not remember her. Glad to hear you got two sweaters.

Boy my spelling is really bad and my typing is not much better. You ought to take up something to take the time up. If you want to you could use my bow and Ray will give you everything you would need. He would also show you how to shoot it. So that is something that you can do or if you like to do things inside than you can write me twice a day. Takue I hate to think you are not having a good time while I am not there and hope I am worth waiting for since I am not as far as I am concerned. I would not wait for me that I know. I think I am getting the best of the deal, a pretty gal with lots of love and me. Do not smoke since I do not like gals that smoke. If you want to it is okay but it does not look to good for young gals to be doing it. I still consider you a young gal...my own young gal.

See what happens when I write to you. I do not get any other letters done. Shame on you. Think I will write to Mom next so I had better sign off for now and kiss u good bye.

Kisses by the Takue full

Frank RM2

P. S. RM2 November 1st that is.

A day later

Just got some good news and had to let you in on it. I got my orders today and I will be resigned for duty in the states at the Second District. That is St. Louise which is alright and it is S & Q which means that you live at a hotel or boarding house and just work the eight hours a day. So I am real lucky.

I will be sending all my stuff soon and am not sure what to keep for this trip since I still have not got any word on it from the Head Office. Hope they let me but I am still scared if I do not I will get some clothes and maybe have enough money left over for a down payment on a good car.

But if I go on the trip I will not have any money left. Getting assigned to the Second I should not go on the trip and get a car since I can use it most of the time. I am not sure what I will end up doing as of yet. I still have three months to think it over and so I will just sit and let all the odd thoughts coast through my mind till I have hit on the answer. At any rate darling I miss you and I am happier than anything about getting the Second District. So I will sign off and drop Ma and Bob a line to let them know. Be good and think of me.

Love, F

R

A

N

K

Takue

October, 1956

November 21, 1956

Dearest Kathy,

I just looked at the letters you have written and there are thirteen of them that I should answer. I will endeavor to do so now. I am playing a lot of cards lately and am not doing to bad. I am about eight dollars ahead for the month. The weather is getting a lot colder now but the other day I saw the Japanese diving for fish. It is to cold for me to try it though.

In a few days it is Thanksgiving and I think I have a lot to be thankful for. When going through Detroit I saw a few of the kids where I lived and more or less grew up with and I am very lucky in comparison.

I am very sorry that your brother feels the way he does but I am even more sorry that you feel the way you do. I know that it must be hard on you and your family and mostly your mom and dad but still you should try to help even if it might be made hard by your brother. This of course is none of my business but it is what I think. So you can tell me to keep quiet. Takue

To the letters, way back to the 21st of October your moms home cooking you like and you sent two stamps so I would have no excuse not to write. October 24th you talked to daddy on the phone, October 26th you are worried about the hayride, by the way who did you take to it and did you have a good time? October 29th you babysat at our place and you want me to surprise you when I come home. Oct 31, you are a bridesmaid very soon and you are getting a dress or gown. November 5th the new Captain is okay and aside for the fact that he is only 23 we get along good. He is a good baseball player and we play a lot in the afternoons. As for my room mate I have not got one yet to take the place of the one that left. I like it that way since I would rather have a room to myself. That is till I get married.

Your letter said that Connie Freed told you I was a brain in school. Boy I don't know where she got that, I was far from a brain and you can take my word for that. Rex is okay and he is still my dog as far as he is concerned. I still wish I could take him back with me but it is quite a lot of trouble and expense so I don't think I will.

At your brother's trial, what judge did he have? Write and let me know. November 7th ; RM2 stands for Radioman Second Class Petty Officer. That is what I am and the name of my rate and job. Your letters say that you are having a lot of trouble with your pen, well I think a ball point is better than pens since there is usually no trouble. November 12th you just got the pictures and they came out good. I will wait till I get home to see them so you will not have to send them. You're also getting a cat.

November 16th your letter starts out: "All this week I have had splits and spent most of my afternoons at home." Well I could not for the life of me figure out what a split was till just reading over your old letters and now I know. But I did not when I first got the letters (A "split" is working for 4 hours than off 4 hours then going back to work for 4 more hours)

So that is the end of the letters and I can now put them in the old file. I am a great one for keeping letters but I might have to throw most of these away since I might not have the room for them. One day last week we got mail in and I only got one letter from you. I knew that there should have been more since it had been about two weeks since we had gotten mail. I felt mighty low till the mail got here. I did not realize how much I miss getting mail till I missed it. I usually get a good share of the mail and since I have been here there has not been a day go by...error...there has not been a mail day go by that when they got mail in I did not get a letter. I am lucky as far as that goes.

Just think it took me two hours to write to you. There are about four others I should have written to but I guess I will do that some other time. We have today off but it is raining so I do not know what I will be doing. Be good and I will try to write again before the boat leaves.
Love, Me

November 25

Well Honey today is Monday and it is four in the morning. I am on watch and I have two fellows on watch with me. One from New Jersey and the other is from Hawaii. They are Boy Scouts and there are 11 of them all together. They are over for the week end and they should be getting back but it has been too rough for them to take the boat back.

I am going to get a chance to get to Yokosuka to mail my belongings home. I have a trunk and a sea bag plus my suit case. Just to think I only a suitcase and sea bag to start with.

We have been doing a lot of track sports and I did okay. One was the broad jump and I jumped about 16 feet according to the CO measurements. That was the best of the camp. I also hurtled the highest bar but I do not know what it was. I sort of wish that I had a chance to take track in school. I might do it if I go to college. I am not too hot on the college idea right now but maybe I will be when I get out of the service. I am not too hot in the idea of getting a car either now. It will mean I will have to go into debt again and I don't like that. Yet I need one so I will see what I feel like when I get home. I am getting another suit and maybe topcoat. So it will shoot about \$100.00 without any trouble.

Well I had better pay some attention to these Boy Scouts. Be good and miss me.

Love, Frank

Well darling hoping I get another chance to write you before Christmas but if I don't will wish you the most Happiest New Year and a Merry, Merry Christmas. Take good care of yourself and I will soon be home.

Love, Frank

December 5, 1956

Hi Honey,

I have trouble with my scope on the Loran so I will have to sit here and watch it. Thus no typing. How are you? Fine I trust. Not much has happened lately. You know that little gal down town, well she is making me a pair of socks and her mother and father are having a shirt made which they are going to give to me at Christmas. I have been trying to think what to give to them. I might give them that radio I bought since they do not have one that is working. The one trouble with that is it cost quite a bit and I could sell it when I leave. Oh well as I found out a while back money is not everything.

They fixed the old jeep up and now it is working. It has no top or windshield so it is quite cold when we go riding. It is nice to have the old jeep though since we can go just about anywhere with it.

That reminds me of another thing, the weather here has been like fall, with the sun out it is really warm and we spend most of our time playing tennis. It is hard to believe it is December from the paper and news reports on the radio, the weather at home has a lot of snow and I guess plenty cold. By the time I leave here though it will be much colder but no snow. Going through Detroit, Michigan it will be cold since that area is colder than Pennsylvania. So when I get home you will have to thaw me out.

Well honey, I had best sign off for now I must get some code practice. Will finish this later.

December 9, 1956

Well back again. I will be sending my trunk and sea bag in a couple days so I hope it gets home before me. I sort of doubt it though since it really takes a long time. I have everything packed so all I have to carry is a few hand bags and a suit case. It is going to be a hinder some not to have everything with me but when traveling I don't want to have to worry about all that stuff.

We have been actors as of late. They are making a movie about Loran Stations and we have all been it. When I am dead and gone they will be showing this Loran picture to fellows going to Loran Stations for the first time. They took a run of me working a Sked on radio and also me with another fellow working the "ham" shack. I now see what those movie stars have to go through. Boy hot bights glaring down at you and having to practice over and over again. I am quite sure it is not the life for me.

Yesterday we went on a touring trip with the old jeep. It was fun and at times I did not think the jeep was going to make it. We followed one path that was hardly big enough for a jeep and in some places was not big enough. It was the same path we got lost on and I wanted to see where it came out at. We never got to the end. Where we stopped, there was a lot of sand and I don't think we could go any further without getting stuck. The Captain and one

other fellow was with us. They wanted to go back for chow so we had to turn around . Next week I think we will try it again. (when I say we, I mean Rex and myself)

Right now Rex is laying on the floor sleeping. It is getting onto six am and I am on watch. Rex usually come up when I am on watch.

When I told you about giving the little gal downtown the radio, well her father went to Tokyo and bought one so now I will have to sell it. I don't want to send it home since I don't need it and besides it is big. So I hope I can sell it.

That just about covers all the news so I have to get a few letters off now. Elva wrote and she said she really likes college. She sounds real happy. The rest of my list includes Doug, Lil, Mom, Mrs. Horn and you if I get time. Well must start the others now, be good. I miss you and want very much that fire place with you. So much that it will be one of the first things I do when I get home.

P.S. We still have beautiful weather .

Love, Frank

Dear Kathy,

How is my gal? Your boy is afraid that letter writing is getting harder to do. At any rate it will not be long before I will not have to write letters for a while. I just came back from the mainland and I spent quite a bit of money. I took over one hundred dollars with the intension of getting a suit, top coat and some gifts and I got those things but I still owe \$55.00 on the suit and coat and I came back with hardly anything. At this rate I will not be doing much buying when I get home. I am not sure about that car yet since I am not sure how much money I am going to have. I will not be sure till get home. It will cost me about \$130.00 to get across the country by plane and I will get that back sometime. (from the government) but I will be just about out money so I am not sure what I am going to do. Time will take care of it though and that is what I will let happen.

When I was over on the mainland I looked up a lady that Pearl Buck told me about. She runs a home for kids of the G. I.s and it is really something. It reminded me a lot of the home I was in when I was a kid and I wish I could do something for them. They had about 110 and most of them ranged from babies to ten years old. They have their own school and teachers, nurses and preacher. In the chapel they have a cross and inside of it are the ashes of ten children that have died since they started the home. Someday they hope to have a place to bury them. The kids are all sizes and colors and for the most part seem happy. They can only speak Japanese but are taking English courses. I played with them for an hour or so when I was there and they liked to have someone to play with them as I did. When I got back to the base I sent some money and thanked the leader for taking her time showing me the home. I think I will write a little article about the home and keep it for reference later on.

Well we (Dick, Rex and myself) are the first ones to go around the whole island in a jeep. We worked our way up through the rugged horse paths and finally came out on the flats leading to the big volcano. From there it was a matter of following the road back. Right in the middle of nowhere we got a flat with the old jeep and so we started to use a wrench to get the lugs off but they would not come. So we worked the flat tire off and then drove the rest of the way on the rim of the tire. Finally we got to a place where we got a lug wrench than it was ok. Boy the trouble we had I thought that we were going to get lost again at the same place.

The camp usually has a Christmas party for the kids so this year we are having one and we got the idea to ask the preacher to do the inviting so that it helps him out a little bit. He will be bringing 64 kids and we will have movies and ice cream, cake and stuff like that then we will go up to the church and have another party that they are fixing. All in all it seems like it is going to turn out to be an enjoyable Christmas and I am looking forward to it.

When we were up on the mountain with the flat I saw for the first time a good view of Mt. Fuji. The snow covered mountain that is so famous. You might have known it I did not have any film left so I only got it in my mind to remember. Maybe I will get another chance to get up there and I might if lucky get a good shot of it.

The car I had before was a Dodge and I had quite a little trouble with it. At any rate it kept me broke. But I recall it had plenty of room in it.

To bad the ice was not what you wanted but when I get home it will be okay and we will do some ice skating.

I just went down to wake the cook up. This watch has to every morning. He is quite a guy to wake up and every now and then he said I did not wake him at all so now I pull him out of bed and if he likes cold floors to sleep on I let him sleep. Usually he gets up but would like to murder me. I out rate him so I get away with it.

Reading the part about basic pay, you get more than me right now. (more money) I get room, board, food and stuff like that so I guess I earn more than you do if it is all taken into account. At any rate, \$45.00 is a good pay for a young gal. If you don't watch it I might marry you for your money. Takue Speaking of money I made \$2.20 last night in poker and so I am about ten ahead for this month. That is not bad but I can assure you as soon as I start losing I will quit. I don't know if that is good or not but as long as I am winning and playing with my winnings I play but when I start to play with my own money then I quit. So far I am lucky and win most of the time. As a matter of fact there has not been a night that I have come out losing. I am lucky in cards and love. Takue Well I will sign off for now since it is time for me to take a few readings and catch upon my logs. Be good and will try to finish this later. Love me, Frank

December 20 This is about a week later and I will finish up this letter. Yesterday the weather was really beautiful and the temperature was 82 in the sun. It was the warmest it has been for a while. We played tennis and mostly fooled around outside.

I can hardly believe it is so close to Christmas but it is and we are getting ready for it as well as we can. The other day they went out and got a tree and it looked like it had been in a dust storm so I got the jeep and went out to get one and finally found a beautiful one so we used the other one for trimmings. The party for the kids is all planned and we were invited up to the church for a few parties they are having there. So it should be a busy Christmas. I also have eight hours of Loran Watches plus my Skeds so I will be quite busy. Of course I have New Years off so I will make up for it then. I am not sure what I am going to do since I don't drink yet and that will be what is mostly done here. We are choosing names for presents on the base and it will be more or less a little something for a joke. I am not sure yet how long we are going to have off but it should be about three or four days. Of course the Loran Watches and Radio Skeds have to be met but aside from that it should be a good time to get a good rest.

I am now the one on the base that has the shortest time to go before I go home. I get kidded about it and if it was not for that and wanting to see you I would not even want to go home yet. But I guess it will be good to be back and I am looking forward to it. I have about 40 days left and then I start my trip home. I will be home in the middle of February, I think, but might get hung up somewhere. Maybe Hawaii since it is hard to get out of there. Then again I might not even go that way and might head straight for the states. But I will be spending a little time at

friends in Detroit and then come home. I have already asked for a job when I get home working at a factory, but I am not sure that I can get it since I will only be able to work about one or maybe one and one half months. But I have at least tried.

You know that little gal I told you about? Well she has made me a pair of socks and her mom has made a shirt for me for Christmas. I will be getting them something but I do not know what yet. I meant to get her something when I was over in Tokyo but did not have time enough. So now I am going to have a heck of a time getting anything for her.

The fellows have just set up a developing outfit and now are developing their own pictures. I did not get into it since I thought that I would be gone before it was set up but they only took three days and now it is set up so I will have to learn how to do it and it should be a little fun.

Well I have some work to do now so be good and think of me. I will be thinking of you on Christmas. I have your picture on my desk in my room and it is just you and I there now. I will give you a kiss at Christmas. Bye for now. Love, Frank

Takue

December 20, 1956

Dear Kathy,

Well Honey, you were right about the Coast Guard giving me a change of orders, but it does not affect my leave. I just received the change and it has me going to North Carolina (something like that) I am to attend school for Aviation Electronicman. I had put in for that school and passed the test that made me available for it. I am not sure how long the course is but it is supposed to be a little hard. It will be good since I will be working with planes and it will mean the end of my sea duty. That is of course if I get through the school. Now I might have a chance to learn to fly. There are a lot of opportunities that it presents and I am looking forward to it also. I sort of wish I could have spent some time in St. Louis but I can't have everything. Right now I am studying all the theory I ca since I am behind in it. If I can get most of it down pat now I will not have to worry about it when I am at the school. By the way it will mean I'll have to ship over for a half a year or so since I have to have two years to serve after I am finished with the school. But I think the experience is well worth it. I might even stay in since it might be the work I enjoy. At any rate I will be setting out on another adventure of life.

How is my second best gal (granny being first) It should have frozen the ice I mean and you should be ice skating your hearts content. I am looking forward to doing some skating myself. I fell down more than once last year.

A number of things have been going on since I last wrote to you. One is that I have written an article for a monthly publication about Welcome House. There is that home here in Japan that I went to see. I am not sure that I told you about it or no. At any rate the woman in charge ask me to write so I did and just sent it in the other day. Since I am far from a writer I think she will revise most of it before it is printed if it is printed at all.

I guess I told you about the fires and what happened there. I don't think I told you about the last one we had. It was at the next town. Only one house was burned there in comparison to the 32 in the town next to ours.

I also have a job for the time I am home. I will be working at Fisher and Porter, the factory that I used to work at when I was in school. It will be good since I can earn money at the same time I am spending it and might be about to keep ahead of the game a little.

Lil just had a baby and it sounds like it is a big fellow. She and Charlie are very happy and I am also for their sake. It makes me an uncle and I feel proud about that. At any rate things will really have changed by the time I get back and I wonder if so much could have happened over a period of one year.

I got my first letter from Ray and he even sent me two pictures of himself. One for me and one for Bob. Ray is a good boy and I am looking forward to seeing how he turns out. I also got a letter from Bob and he is enjoying himself. He said that he thinks that he will be going over seas soon and I might not get a chance to see him since he thinks it will be in February and I will be coming home then. I so much want to see him before he goes over seas.

Well Darling I must sign off for now since I am trying to go through a theory book in 20 days and it is a years book. I also have so many letters to write. Well love you still. Take

Yours, Frank

January 1957

Dear Kathy,

I just got your letters today and was of course happy to hear from you. I am glad that the telegram pleased you so much. That is one habit I want to get into: pleasing you. Takue You have not got the letter concerning the school yet since I wrote it about a week ago but the mail has not gone out yet. It still has me excited that I am going and I am looking forward to it even more. I just wrote and told Uncle Kermit thanks for the job and that of course will take up most of my time when I am home for one month. (You will take up most of the rest of it.) I don't know for sure if I am going to get that car but I think I will have to so I will try to get a new one. The thing is that when I have a car I can't save money and since I have saved a few hundred while being over here I like the idea of having the money on hand. Well that is life.

Right now we are having a war with Cap Pistols and I have two of them. Sometimes I wonder if I am grounded up or not. I am also standing a Sked so if things do not sound right it is because I am listening to what is going on the circuit too.

The weather is still mighty warm and we do a lot of hunting, and tennis. But it will soon begin to be colder all the time and then I will wish for the time to go faster. Right now I have less than thirty days till I leave here and it will be about a week or so before I get home. I will stop off in Detroit just for a few days. I must drop them off some king of gift for the kindness they showed me when I came out. Well I had better sign off for now. Be good.

Love you, Frank

January 1957

January 8, 1957

Dear Kathy,

Well darling, I am writing this letter in bed. It is the first one in bed since I came here. I just gave your picture a kiss. I am trying to picture what you would be doing tonight. Maybe work.

I have not much to say and might not send this for a few weeks. I might send it at all depending how it turns out. Tomorrow the supply boat comes and that means mail. I hope I receive some from you.

I have been thinking of a few problems I have, so I will tell you them just to see them put down on paper. Maybe it will help. One is the radio I bought. I gave the guy \$30.00 and now I don't know if I will be able to sell it. If I can't get \$20.00 for it then I will give it away to some friends in town. Some of the guys will try to give a little something for it thinking I will have to sell it because I have to leave. That is one thing I hate and that is the main reason I took it off the other fellows hands. He was just about forced to sell it for \$20.00 and he was married and needed the money. But me, I am in the position where I do not need the money so I will give it away before I have to sell it for a fraction of what it is worth.

Well I am tired so I will finish this later. Be good darling. I miss you and good night.

Here it is the next morning. I could not sleep. The time is about 6:20 am but I have been awake for about 3 hours. I like to get to bed early so I usually wake up that time.

So now I am in another mood from the one I was in last night. I don't feel like letting all the problems that are bothering me. They probably bore you anyway

Yesterday 2 of the fellows got cycles. I wish I had got one before but now it is too late. I lent the one fellow 55.00 in yen to pay for half of it. Of course it is cold now and it will not be as much fun as in the summer but they are something to take up the time with.

I guess I have not told you we are out of water and that presents a funny problem. We have been for about two weeks. We have water in a tank from down town but there is not much so we have to use a bucket to take a bath or use the Japanese baths. I prefer the latter and that is where the funny part comes in. When you go in to take a bath it is a public place and everyone goes. The gals are in a different place though but the person that takes the money sits on a high platform and can see everything that goes on in the place. I think that you have guessed by now; it is a young woman. She can't seem to take her eyes off us and especially me since I get a kick out of suddenly turning and catching her. I kid her about it and that is that. I also go to the hotel for baths sometimes but that is an hours ride and I don't usually have that much time. At any rate it is quite funny and I am sure I will look back on it all with many amusing memories. I think I will get up now. Be good.

Frank

Dear Kathy,

Well how is my gal today? I have been passing time and more or less counting the days. There about 17 days left. I have just sold my radio and sort of makes the room bare. I got the price I wanted so I am happy on that account.

The weather is still not so stable. It is warm most of the time but today we got a few snowflakes. We have not had any rain for quite a while now and we have trouble with water but it should start to rain soon, at least I hope so.

I have been riding the motor cycles of the other fellows quite a bit and I might try to get one next summer. They are dangerous but fun. Sometimes when the routine gets dull I have to keep life alive in me. I am getting close to coming home but I am also going to miss Japan. It makes me sad that I am leaving on one hand but on the other I am looking forward to getting home.

Yesterday we< Tex and I, went up to the best hotel on the island. We got a bath and Tex insisted I have a drink with him so I had a gin fest. Then we had some dinner and got a few minutes rest. Then it was getting late so we started back. I could paid a hundred dollars in the states at the best hotel for a night and not get as good service as we got for a few bucks. They have a golf course and the caddies are girls. Beautiful ones and I was tempted to learn golf. But decided against it. The bath was what we really came for and it is really worthwhile. You get into water hotter than you can stand and then out to soap up. Then rinse and get back in. I really enjoy these baths and they will be one thing I miss

It is about time for the movie so I had best go over and try to beat the fellows at ping pong till the movie starts. Be good and I will try to be.

Well honey, next day and I am back. Today is the 14th and I have quite a bit of work to do if I get ambitious. Yesterday I went to see some Japanese friends and they had me stay for dinner. I am afraid to say I did not like it. Their food is so much different than ours. I had them down to camp for one of our eat outside and they did not like our food. They did not say so but I knew. But it is fun to try out different things and see how other people live and work and then die. Do you know that they burn their dead in Japan? Even the Christians do. I would hate to be the one who had to do it. One day a while back one of the yard boys that work for us came and asked to use some gas to burn his grandmother. Well that is life.

I can see where it is necessary though. If they tried burying all the people the way we do they would not have room, Japan is small.

I have learned an address in Japanese. Here it is:

I want to try it out when I get home to see if it will work. That is the only Japanese I know though, I think I will have to learn my name. Well best be going now. Miss you and am looking forward to seeing you. Be true my love, you are in my constant thought and part of my every prayer.

Frank

January 1957

This is Franks last letter before we were married probably late February or March 1957 after he came home from Japan. He is stationed at school in Elizabeth City, N.C.

Dear Kathy,

Well honey, it has been 3 days since I have seen you and this feeling I have is terrible. Last night I lay there thinking of you and me and I did not know how much I would miss you till I actually did miss you. Now it is real bad and I am thinking marriage might not be to bad after all. I think I will get off that subject for a while.

I flew to Newark and got grounded because of bad weather so I had to take a bus the rest of the way. When I got here the base impressed me as being nice but they are real strict. I start school on Monday and right now I have duty in the control room. I have Saturday and Sunday off and I am wondering if I should call you and then drop in at Washington. It would be a run through and I am quite tired. It is going to rain soon. A day has not passed that it hasnot. They say for the last month it has been raining.

I had to leave you for a while. Now it is raining cats and dogs. I am almost sure where I am going to get a car. Tomorrow I think I will go in and see what they have in town. But I think I will end up coming home to get one. I do need one bad now so I will have to get it sooner than I thought.

As for me being assigned to duty, I am not sure where just yet. By the way, I am section leader, our class only has 6 in it and I am the only second class just like I figured. Your boy has to say good night darling. Miss me half as much as I do you. Love and more love.

Frank