

Fort Mills, P. I.
March 21, 1941.

Dear Major Hawley:

By the time this letter reaches its destination you may not be in Austin and the Lord only knows where I will be. We are short handed on Field Officers over here so maybe I will be seeing you, however I hope not for your sake. This would be a grand place if times were normal and things were run as they were in the good old days. Then you had your loved ones and a happy life if you liked the setting. Now, this is like a different world. All is distorted. We have no place to go when we are not working and nothing to do when we get there. The show has just received the news real that President Roosevelt was elected for a third term. We are almost cut off from Manila as passes cannot be had at this time. But who wants to go to Manila anyway. We just sit here with our thoughts and our blackouts and our alerts and defenses.

Major, they have been giving me the works. We are on a large scale maneuver and also in the big middle of really defending this place. My Regiment on this island is the 59th CA(HD). It is commanded by the senior Colonel and really is the poppa regiment of this place.

Here are my duties at present; Commanding HQ Btry with 230 men and a payroll of 120,000.00, Regimental Supply Officer, Camouflage Officer, Gas Officer. Operations Officer for Middle Sector (59th) beach defense and the same for all Seaward Defense. Conmandant of Headquarters for Hardoe Defense. This is in addition to my usual court luck. I am president of the HD special court at present. I am supplying the regiment in the field under war conditions and on the field ration basis. We went off garrison ration yesterday. I am on my own Major as there is no one to call on. Every one has his own big problem so I just do my own. Finally had a green Lieutenant assigned to the battery and he is the only other officer. Can't kick as I have some grand NCO's. As usual the RSO never is informed of the situation until they want something, you know how it is. So far I have stayed just one step ahead of them but don't know how long it will last. You see, in addition to the maneuver, we are really making fast strides in getting ready and the whole darn problem is one of supply so far.

I am just about tuckered out tonight as I have had very little sleep and we had one blackout while I was writing this. It lasted only twenty minutes. Please tell all of my friends hello for me. Sure wish I could drop by and chat for a spell. Write me soon as it will take about two months to get an answer from this letter.

Yours truly

