



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Somewhere in OKINAWA
April 17, 1945

Dear Sinaly

Few times in my life
am I inclined to write
caustically but this is one of
those times. Who's this clown
you dated who would be
going to Okinawa. I came
in on the assault waves one
of the first G.I.s on the
beach and for 17 hellish
days we've been sweating out
the worst artillery barrage
the damn Japs can throw
at us including their

FORM 539A

rockets, or "flying box cars"
which all but buried me
alive one early morning.
If anyone will lead the road
to Tokyo you can be sure
the 26th division, part of the
XXIV corps, will be there. First
on the Philippines, first in
Japan. This time the battle
is a hell of a lot rougher
than I've ever thought of
being. The snipers here all
carry machine guns and
every G.I. who's been
sweating out their damn
artillery, which is too damn
accurate, is a case of



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combat fatigue. My own
nerves are shot, I can't
light a cigarette right any
more. Once we crack this
island I'm going to need
a long rest. Every Jap
shell that comes into our
area seems to be coming
right into my own little
fox hole. Hell of a war, I'm
a nervous wreck.

You don't mind if I
dispend this once from my
usual corn and write
seriously. I have to tell

some one and get those
nerves I ~~may~~^{mine} back in shape.
I don't want to write to
mother about conditions
here she'd worry to much.

We're sitting in a place
now that we've affectionately
named "mortar gulch" be-
cause of all the mortar
fire the Japs throw in on
us. Our own artillery is
whizzing over our heads,
and even those make
us jump.

We're a sorry looking
bunch of guys, beards,
dirty clothes, shaky nerves
and C rationsitis.

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Bear with me this one
sorry letter, the next will
be written under more
favorable circumstances.

In case you want to
follow our activities in the
papers, I'm in the 96th
"Madeye" division, a part
of the XXIV corps. (Plummer
near spelled that with an
e)

Lack of paper makes
us write on both sides too,
so don't feel badly.

The brush off is in its
infancy and I hope

