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ATOMIC BOMB TESTS

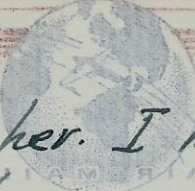
CROSS BIKINI ROADS

KWAJALEIN  
MARSHALL ISLANDS



VIA AIR MAIL

Keenan Family  
512 Chester Ave  
N. S. Pgh. 14, Pa.



ages returned to her. I hope that didn't happen to the rest of them.

Sorry to hear about Fr. Kennedy. That certainly was a shock. I'll remember him in my prayers.

Thanks for that cute valentine card Helen and I'll be waiting for your letters each day.

Thanks also for the valentine wish Dot and about that birthday question, there's nothing at all I need right now but I'll need a couple of things when I get home. Especially clothes. So you can wait for them if you wish.

People are starting to "pour" in here for the crossroads project already. It will be like stateside it keeps up. But it's also going to mean more work for me. That will be the main news subject from here from now on.

Well folks, that's it once again so I'll say so long for now. Good health and be good.

God. Bless the Veerans

Love & Luck

Dick



Kwajalein Atoll  
Sat. Feb. 16, 1946

Dear Folks,

Received three letters the past two days, one from Louise yesterday, one from Dot today and Helen's super-duper six page job also today. I think the mail service will be better here from now on because the Army's ATC has moved in with NATS to make room for the planes coming in for the Atom Bomb Tests. It has been better already.

I found out <sup>that</sup> while I was on that trip to Saipan all seaman second class in our Division were advanced to seaman first class. I sure like that as it means about 15 dollars more per month in pay. The pay won't start until next month but my address starts as S'1c from now on.

You can get that other info about college for me Dad at the Vets Administration office. I don't know what you'll be able to do but look into it for me. It might save me some time when I get back.

Thanks for Frank Klingensmith's address Mom. I'll dr. him a line. Now how about that other info.



Kwajalein Atoll  
Sun. Mar. 3, 1946

Dear Folks,

No mail the past two days, but it's probably because we haven't had many planes coming in due to bad weather. It will probably come in tomorrow or the day after.

We really had a swell time yesterday over on the recreation island. We spent the whole day swimming, playing ball, eating ice cream, drinking coke and having an all-round good time. It almost ended disastrously though because we missed the boat back to Kwaj. Lucky enough there was another boat there from one of the ships and we hitched a ride back. The cheese & crackers topped it off.

The commodore who commands this area held a little talk after inspection yesterday and he told us a few things that sounded mighty good. He said that they were trying to discharge all reserves here by June, and that to help them do that, this command had #1 priorities on any replacements coming from the states because of the Atomic bomb test being held here. He



Also said the A bomb test would not stop  
 the demobilization program in any way.  
 So with a little luck and a few prayers  
 Dicky Boy might get the hell out of here  
 in about twelve or fifteen weeks. I can  
 only hope and pray, but I'll be doing plenty  
 of that.

I hope Dad has been able to get  
 a little into from the Vets office on that  
 college deal for me. I'd like to find out as  
 much as I can about that.

Well folks, it's just about show time  
 here so I'm going to close for now, hoping  
 to get that mail either tomorrow or Tues.

Good health & be good.  
 God Bless the Keenan's  
 Love & Luck

Dick

'til Feb of '47 when I'll be officialy discharged.  
So I'll be needing some "readjustment" money.

I'm also enclosing one of the pictures  
we took. It's a shot of the gas farm where I work.  
We're having trouble getting the rest of the pic-  
tures developed and printed but I'll send them as  
soon as we do.

About 2500 Army boys are coming here on  
the 19th of this month in connection with the A bomb  
test. By the time the test takes place, May 15<sup>th</sup>,  
there will be more than 20,000 people out here.  
There will also be a lot of "brass hats" and "big  
shots" which will mean better living conditions,  
food, water, mail service, <sup>etc.</sup> for us. That's o.k. by me.

Well folks, I've just about "run out" a-  
gain, so I'm going to close for now. Take good  
care of things for me, and here's hoping it isn't  
too long before I can take care of them myself.  
'Til next time then, Good health & be good.

God Bless the Keenans

Love & Luck

Dick.

P.S.

Hope to hear from Mary from her new home  
soon.

Kwajalein Atoll  
Mar. 18, 1946 Mon.

Dear Folks,

Those letters I was hoping for came through today in grand style. I received nine letters, 8 of them from the Keenan Klan, and the sports paper Mom had sent. Four of the letters were from Helen and one each from Mom, Dot, Louise and Eileen.

I haven't received your pen and pencil gift as yet Mom but I'll let you know as soon as I do.

Sure was glad to hear that N.C. beat Central. Be sure and let me know how they make out in the final's for the state championship.

It was good to hear that Johnny finally got home. I know he's plenty glad also. I hope I can join him damn soon. The news today says the points will drop to 24 on June 1st and to 20 on July 1st or 4 points a month. That would make me eligible sometime early in July. But I'm still banking on commodore Wyatt's statement about having us out of here by June. That sounds better to me.

Kwajalein Atoll

Thur. Mar. 21, 1946

Dear Folks,

Another month fast coming to a close and yours truly getting more impatient every day. I sure hope the next three months don't hang around very long. The sooner I get back to civilization again the better I'll like it. Ask somebody who knows.

Preperations for the crossroads operation are pretty well under way here. They're building special ramps on the air strip which will be used for loading the A-bomb on the 29, which will carry it.

They've got gyrenes all over the place quaranting restricted areas and before long they'll probably have all sorts of restrictions such as no cameras, censored mail, etc. It'll probably be a month or so yet before they really get busy. But once they do start, things will really be pppping.

As far as I'm concerned though there's not much doing. We only play ball about once a week anymore and that's on Sundays. Outside of that there is very little to do. I do all my letter writing, washing, etc., while I'm on duty at the gas farm, and that is 8 hours out of every 32. The other 24 hours I sleep, play pinochelle or read. Once in a while a good show



Kwajalein Atoll

Sun. Mar. 24, 1946

Dear Folks,

Well the biggest event that took place here the past two days was the completion of our washing machine. It really works swell and looks even better. It was a good bit of work but well worth it. No more scrubbing days now.

A good many  marines have come in here the past week to take over the disciplinary duties such as M.P.'s, guarding the brig and restricted areas, keeping order at the shows, etc., and they're really making things nasty for us. I hope I don't have to take too much stuff from those babies.

Today about four shiploads of army boys came in, about 2500 of them I believe. They're here to work on the crossroads project but I'm also hoping they take over this rock so  we can get out of here. That would suit me to a 'T'.

I pitched for our ball club today and we won 2 to 1. Mabey with all these qyrenes & doggies coming here we'll get to play a few more games — I hope.

I received my pen and pencil yester-

sack of soap powder and a can of powdered bleach for us. So we can really do a thorough job of washing now-a-days. I'll really make somebody a good wife.

I won't be sending anymore pictures to you folks from now on because cameras are "taboo" here after April first because of the A bomb. I guess the ones I've already sent take care of everything though. They include everything of intrest that is out here. But I'm waiting for the ones Mil took back there. Don't forget.

Well folks, that's just about "it" once again, so I'll be signing off for now. 'Til next time then — so long, be good & good health.

God Bless the Keenans

Love & Luck

Dick

P.S.

Say hellos to Chuck Kelly for me. He should be home by now.

which will be quite a break, as it's pretty hard to get three chaplains in the same place at one time. We also had one on Christmas which was one of the few that were celebrated anywhere in the Pacific. And also, on the 24<sup>th</sup> there will be ~~the~~ the wedding mass for the couple who are getting married out here. At that rate this place will be like a state-side parish. But I'll still take Annunciation.

Still very little going on out here. The date for the A-bomb test isn't far away now so I imagine things will start picking up here, soon. I sure hope so. This place is like a graveyard right now.

Well folks, I guess that just about takes care of things for now, so I'll be signing off 'til later. 'Til next time then, so long, good health & good luck.

God Bless the Heenans

Love & Luck

Dick

Kwajalein Atoll  
Wed. May 15, 1946

Dear Folks,

Guess I was a little hasty when I told you we might leave here this month. The way things look now we'll be lucky to leave here by the end of June. Operations Crossroads has everything tied up. The fellows leaving now have to fly to Pearl to catch a ship because the harbor here is closed while they unload some secret material connected with the A-bomb. There won't be another ship leaving here 'til sometime in June. What an outfit! I hope they kick me to hell out pretty soon.

As long as I won't be leaving as soon as I expected I'm going to send my souvenirs home by mail. I got the grass skirts for Helen & Eileen yesterday and I built a box to send the stuff in today. As soon as I get it packed and checked it will be on it's way.

I hope Dad has been able to get me lined up pretty well on that college deal. I won't have to much time to work on it myself when I get there and I sore as hell wouldn't like to wait 'til next year to get in Pitt. So please do what you can for me Dad so that I can get started this fall. It's pretty hard to get in to any college now.

Received two letters from you folks the past

Kwajalein Atoll

Tue. May 28, 1946

Dear Folks,

Well peoples, I finally got some definite info as to when I get out of here. The island commander, Commodore Wyatt, gave us the good word in his speech, which he delivered Sunday night before the movie. He told us that all the fellows eligible for discharge by June 15<sup>th</sup> would leave here tomorrow on the President Jackson. It came in tonight so they will be on their way tomorrow. After tomorrow, there will be two more transports come in to take back all the remaining reserves, and that the fellows with the most overseas time would go on the first ship. And I'm fairly certain that I'm one of those. Today I learned from the Port Director's office that the first of those transports left the states yesterday and is due here on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. So now, if things go accordingly, I should be leaving here in about 2 weeks. And I hope you get that money I asked for to me by that time.

Received two letters today, one from Dot and one from Mil. Mil's letter was a couple of days late because she forgot to put my box number in the address and it had to go through the directory before it

Kwajalein Atoll  
Mon. Morn. June 17, '46

Dear Folks,

Well peoples, another week gone by and still no relief in sight. In fact that other draft is still here and nobody seems to know when we'll be leaving. Each time a ship comes in and we think we'll be leaving they send the damn thing up to Bikini and leave us high and dry. But this outfit never does do anything **sensible**. They couldn't! They don't have good sense. I sure hope something goes wrong this week and they get us the hell out of here. But we can't do anything except hope and pray Mabey they'll find a spare row-boat for us, — I hope.

Received a letter from Dot and one from Louise the past week. From what they say Al has been fouled up the same as us. I hope he is home by this time. One of us should get there anyway. We're bound to get a break ~~some time~~.

Louise tells me the swimming pool is now open. I hope I get back in time to get in a few days down there. Say hellos to any of the old gang who are there this year for me Louise, and if Ray is still head guard, tell him to reserve a chair for me. I might get to use it. You never can tell.

From what they tell me about the "interior decorating" being done to the ranch, I'm afraid I won't know the old place. But I'd be very glad to reacquaint myself if I get there. In fact It'll be a pleasure.

I guess all the graduations are over and done with by now. It was good to hear that Bones was able to make his at N.C. That's something I have yet to see. Maybe someday -----

There's nothing new going on out here except a little painting we're doing at the gas farm. A good many brass hats and big shot civilians connected with Crossroads are starting to come in but I'm still hoping to be out of here before they start playing around with their A-bombs. But by the looks of things now I'm very liable to be around. Just have to wait and see.

Well folks, that's about all once again, so I'll be signing off ~~for now~~ for now. 'Til next time then, so long, good health & be good.

God Bless the Keenans

Love & Luck

Dick

Kwajalein Atoll  
Mon. Morn. June 24, '46

Dear Folks,

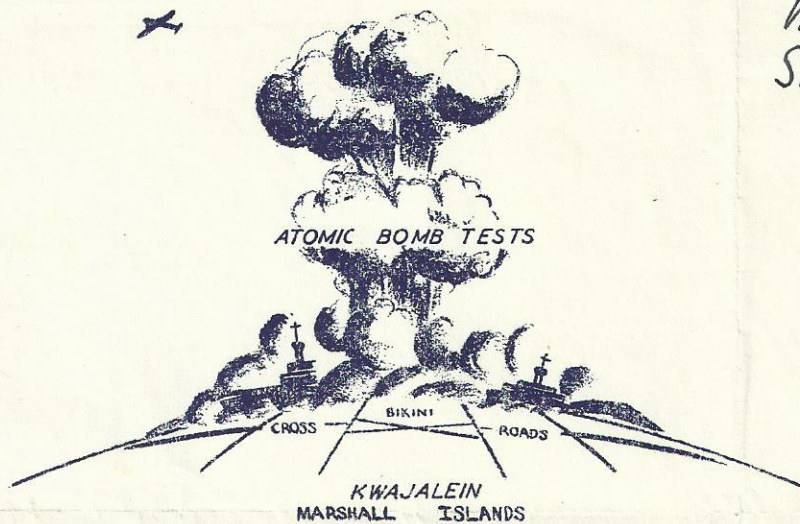
Finally received the good word. The Commo-dore gave another of his talks last Sat. evening and told us the fellows who were on that last draft and didn't get going yet, would leave here this coming Fri., and those of us still here after that will leave next Sun. So unless anything goes wrong we'll leave here June 30 and I'll be a civilian 1st class about July 21. I'll probably get to the west coast about July 12 and I'll call on the phone when I do. So polish up the jeep, dig out my swimming trunks, notify the base-ball team and make ready to raise hell - 'cause the prodigal son is returning. I'll write again about Sat. and let you know for sure if we're leaving. You folks can forget about writing anymore.

Say hello to Al for me since he's home now and keep the home fires burning. Take good care of everything & hope to see you soon. 'Til later then, so long, be good & good health.

God Bless the Keenans  
Love & Luck  
Dick  
H



Kwajalein Atoll  
Sun. June. 30, 1946



Dear Folks,

We're on our way people and should be home in about three weeks. I'll call from the west coast. Break out the band & bunting ----- the prodigal son is returning. Be good and keep things humming. So long and hope to be seeing you soon.

God Bless the Keenans  
Love & Luck  
Dick