

Sidney Diamond to Estelle Spero

Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, The Philippines, 21 January 1945.

Autograph letter signed, 4 pages.

21 Jan 1945

Darling —

Again — a short note — we've been moving [*illegible strikeout*] so fast, so often, so far — that we just can't squeeze in mail. I'm writing this in the courtyard of some large Filipino commercial house — — They say we'll stop for two hours — so — a letter to you — a little rest for me. There are so many things to say — so many new sights, customs, terrain, emotions — that this little postcard can scarce do justice —

There is one point though that I'd like to bring out — Perhaps you'll understand —

Sometimes, while slapping away in the jungles there arose the great big [2]

"What the hell am I in this for" — Well — I know now — Regulations prohibit atrocity stories in mail but for unmitigated brutality — barbarism — cruelty — the Japanese take the grand prize — Every time we enter a town the Filipinos turn out with tears of joy and a great shout of "Mabachai" which means — "Long Life," Good Luck or something — ~~If yo~~ They won't let you do a thing for yourself — They'll assist in digging holes and unloading troops [*illegible strikeout*] "Victory" with the accompanying V of the fingers is by word—

Sometimes [*illegible strikeout*] I'd pass an old man who still didn't comprehend that there'd been a change — Stelle I'd choke with fury when he'd take off his hat and bow down — as they were [3] forced to do towards Nip officers & men — or when I'd give a kid a piece of candy and ask him his name — he'd reply "Hai" which is nip for "Yes sir" —

So far we've been with the foward elements and on many occasions have been the first American troops into a village — [*illegible strikeout*] "Guerillias" would meet us — then people would come with food — and happy smiles —

Emotions are difficult to transcribe on paper but I'm glad I'm here — I'm glad we've helped these people and hope we [4] can drive the enemy out of the Philippines quickly —

My thoughts are with you constantly — Sometimes I welcome night — so that I can stretch out on my back — feel around for a comfortable position in my hole then look at the stars and think of home and you — I also cuss my feet for burning — — we walk & walk — then ride —

No trouble so far — I think I'll be okay —

I love you — love you — love you —

Your —

Sid