

Shanghai, China
Feb. 10, 1941

Hello Ed,

Well, after a long time you finally made up your mind to write me a letter. You son of a so and so I could break your neck, that is if I was any where around Dallas. I wrote and wrote and you never even as much took a little time to write me a word or two, man, I'll take care of you when I come home.

What are you doing for yourself these days? I know you are a drunkard and everything else, but all jokes aside you say you lost your job at the lumber company last Christmas? Was that in thirty-nine, and then you went to work in the Haggar Pants Company, is that place on Jackson street or down that way by the bus station? Then you lost that job last Christmas? I'm really sorry to hear about hard luck but you stay right in there and pitch, you'll find something worth while yet. You say your dad been trying to get you on the fire department in Brownwood, I thought he didn't want you to be a fireman? I always wanted to be a fireman, I think I'll try to get on the department when I come home.

Whats this you tell me about getting married? Edward, are you telling me the right dope? I don't think I remember Ruth Carisle, thats not the one that lived on Bryan street is it? Well boy, thats a very serious step in life to take. I'm sure you have made up your mind. And when you ever make up your mind to do something, well, I know you you'll do it. I wish you would do me a great faver and wait until I come home so I can be first man at your wedding. You know Ed, I should have married Marie when I started to. I have a pretty nice girl friend over in Shanghai, now don't the idea that she is chinese just because I'm in China. I wouldn't go with a chinese girl if you paid me for it. Of course they are some that are okay but I just don't care to go with them. But what ever you do Ed, I wish you all the luck in the world.(I really mean that too).

So a lot of the old word street boys have join the service? I guess you know about Lucille brother joining the Marines? Owen sent me a picture of him they had in the paper when he was home on leave. I think he made a mistake when he took up the job as a rifle instructor at the range. He will stay at there for a while and then they will ship him out somewhere in a company, maybe the sixth Marines or they might send him out to some asiatic station and he won't know a thing when he goes up for a rating. It was nine months before I could go up for promotion. And when I did go up for it I really took an examination. I am about to go up for corporal in a month or so. You say there not going to get you in the Army? Well take this from me and I know what I'm saying, the service is a good place for a guy who likes it, it teaches you a lot, your around a lot of people all the time you learn how to take of yourself and you don't take anything off of anybody. Boy, the sooner you learn that the better off you will be, I found that out when I hit the Marine Corps. I have had only five fight since Iv'e been in this outfit. I hope you my Christmas card I sent you and if by any chance you didn't I want wish you and everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know it is a little late to say that but the old saying is, it's better late than never.

How is old George Turrill getting along? Iv'e gotten one letter from him since I left Dallas. He wrote me when I was at Mare Island and thats the last time I heard from him. If you see him tell him to write me a letter sometime, I'd like very much to hear from him.

Now listen, you be careful with all this fire-water your swimming around in. You know you can drown in it too. Remember when I was home I wouldn't touch much beer or whiskey, well boy, I have learn to drink it with the greatest of ease. Now don't the idea that I'm a drunkard but I do a little drinking once in a while, you can tell capt. that when I come home I'll drink him under the table.

Don't you worry about me getting big headed because the Greek are giving the Italians hell. The Greek can take care of themselves. The men over here really tease me about the war the Greek are having. But it won't be long before the Italians will be back in Italy.

I see you read about the little fight we had over here last Christmas. I'll tell you that was a fight. It all happen at the Majectic Club on Christmas Eve night, about nine o'clock in the evening I went up to the club and was drinking and enjoying myself when all of a sudden two Italian began to fight. Outside the military police came up and broke it up, these two men went out and that was all. Then about ten o'clock they came back and sat down. Then they started to fight again and by this time a Marine went over and told them to stop. One of these guys hit this Marine and started the whole thing. Every Marine and Italians met on the dance floor, table and chairs met too. The kid I was with got hit with a chair right on the head and cut it bad. I was swinging at every Italian I could see. I'd hit one and then I would get up and I would hit another one and get up. I look like I went through a meat grinder. The girls that worked in the place got beat up as well, I saw one Italian take one and throw her across the dance floor and she landed in the band stand. About that time a sailor from the U.S.S. Luzone grab him and bang his face on the panio keys. Boy, it was a terrible fight. It lasted about hour and a half I think. About this Italian Warrant-officer, nobody knows what happen to him but I think what happen was he pull a gun on some sailor and this sailor threw him out the window, this place is about two or three stories high and he died of injuries from that fall. But it was about a hundred people that fought alright. The military police couldn't do a thing, finally the Marine officers came and stop the brawl. From then on the Marines and the Italian don't get along so well, they always go on liberty in fours or fives. Thats about all of that and all quite in the far east????????

Owen was telling me about a girl he was going with. Say, whats the matter with everybody in the states they all want to get married. Is it the draft or is it love, Owen has been wanted to get married for a long time. You know if Owen was to break down and used his sense he would alright in the world.

Whats the matter with Lyons, can't he write a letter? He hasn't wrote me a letter since I left Dallas. Tell him to write if it's not to much trouble for him.

What kind of weather have you been having in Dallas? Lucille wrote me and said it has been pretty cold. It rains toomuch in Dallas and as for snow I haven't seen any snow in a long time. We have been having some cold weather out here in Shanghai. I wish you could be out here for a while with me. Boy, I'll tell you we could have a lot of fun together. There is only the International Settlement that we could go around in. You can't go but in a certin area which is the American Sector and if you go out of that sector your a dead Marine. There is a saying that if a Marine is caught in Hongkew that across the Soochow Creek that the Japanese will pay anyone a thousand dollors in mex, thats about a hundred dollors gold or more, for your head and boy I want to keep my head. Now thats just what they say but I wouldn't put it past them. You know they don't like us any to much and I'm not in love with them. They have about ten thousand japs over in Hongke and we have about one thousand Marine here in Shanghai and a few up in Peking. So you see what kind of a fix were in if we go to war with Japan, so you see we are in a hot place right now. The British troops evacuated last year and that leaves us the S.M.P. and the S.V.C. to take care of this place. The first battalion has "A" sector and the second battalion has "C" sector, the S.V.C. and S.M.P. has "B" sector. Japan wants "B" sector and if they take that will take our only escape from the settlement. They said two or three times that they were going to take that sector by force. I'll tell you one thing they can have this place all of it.

Well Ed, old pal, Iv'e about played out of words and can't think of any-thing to say. It's about time for me to go on duty. Now come on and break down and write me soon if not sooner.

Your best pal,

PETE

P.S. Tell everybody hello for me. Take care of yourself and don't drink to much. So long pal.