

NAME: Howard

RANK: Corporal

ORGANIZATION: 1st Marine Division

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime period letters written by Howard. These are the only letters from Howard in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Howard writes a relative in the United States after Howard's return from overseas:

“Feb. 7, 1945

Well hello at last. One of these days I am going to get caught up on my letter writing.

Things are O.K. down this way. The usual thing day after day and not much excitement. I got myself into a little trouble yesterday but the skipper let me off with a warning. It seems I reported a fellow present for roll call and come to find out the guy is over the hill. Not a nice mistake to make very often...

...No I didn't get up to see the President sworn in, so far I have seen very little of Washington. It cost too darn much money to get around that place. Everybody up there is out to stick us for all they can. Talk about crazy laws, that city is full of them...

...They are expecting race riots in Washington before long that's why we are going through this riot training. They have each company organized into platoons, and half of us stand by one week and the other half the next week. The negroes seem to be taking over some of the larger cities, it is bound to lead to some trouble. Yes, the south is full of blacks and I believe a lot of them are better than some of the white people I have met. The way they treat the negro down here is really nothing to laugh at. As far as I can see they are doing as much for this country at the present as anyone else.

Well it's early in the morning and it's about time for my day to start so I must knock off for now.

Take care of yourselves up there

So-long

Howard.”

Howard writes a relative in the United States after Howard's return from overseas:

“Nov. 22, 1945

Well, its the day when everyone should have a great deal to be thankful for. But, I wonder how many people do appreciate the condition of life today. It’s hard to realize, but there are some who arent as happy today as they were a year ago. Many who were making so much money a year ago arent really happy this day. They dont come out and say they are sorry the war is over but many are thinking it. Especially those who had no one to worry about.

I have heard some say the Atomic bomb never should have been used. They say we should have continued to fight even if it did mean we would loose more men. Yes this should be a day of great rejoicing and thanksgiving, but it isnt in many homes...

...It’s eleven o’clock so I suppose the house is a noisy place right now...

...Well, so-long for now. I’ll see you all in a couple weeks, I hope.

Dont eat too much.

Howard.”

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- Howard made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers Howard’s final battle, the struggle for Peleliu (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/MN-5051J>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Howard’s wartime organization, the 1st Marine Division (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Marine_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Marine_Division_(United_States))