

FAVORS FIGHTING ON FOREIGN SOIL

Philippines, January 7, 1945

Editor Press: I am writing this letter through an inspiration I got from reading Private First Class Harold Cramer's letter to Mrs. Graham in the November 21 issue of the Press, which I received yesterday. I didn't see Mrs. Graham's letter, but evidently she was giving our commander in chief a verbal lashing for having us fellows scattered and fighting all over this globe of ours.

I admit that Mr. Roosevelt made the statement that no American boy would fight on foreign soil. He didn't keep that statement, but personally I am glad he didn't and Mrs. Graham, I am a Republican.

When we came to the Philippines it was the first time that we had been in any theatre of war where there is any semblance of civilization, and it wasn't nice. To start off with, the day our ship pulled into the harbor the Nips greeted us very warmly with a bunch of those so called suicide pilots. I think that kind of stuff is a lot more appropriate fire or six thousand miles away than in the harbors of Frisco, Seattle or any other port you would care to name along the coasts of the United States.

We are now beginning to see little children start back to school. Some of them are 9 and 10 years old and in the first grade. I have seen women go to a spot where once they had a few flimsy buildings called home. The buildings aren't there now.

I have seen them dig holes in the ground looking for dishes and other household articles that were buried there when the Nips came. Some find them, others the Nips had found. It wasn't pleasant, but I thank God that I am seeing these women do it, Mrs. Graham, instead of you and my mother.

I am thankful that the little children back there are wearing clothes of their mother's choosing instead of clothes made from coarse material which we call burlap. That is what the Japs gave these people.

Whether Mr. Dewey had got elected or not, I don't think it would have prolonged this war one bit. As long as we ask for unconditional surrender from Germany and Japan they will fight until they can't fight any longer. Unconditional surrender, will be the only kind of armistice that I would be satisfied with.

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