Dear Members of Bryant Div. Club, March 29, 1943

Received your letter of March 17 a few days ago, but waited till tonight to answer it because I'm on C.O. and have plenty of time in my hands.

Believe it or not, I received a package yesterday by you to me at my reception center at Fort Devens a couple of weeks ago. In the package were two boxes of chocolate covered cherries. Here's the route the package took - from R.D. to Mass. To Miami to Colorado to Utah, (military secret) and a long boat to Miami. I regret to say that contents of the package was in pretty bad condition but appreciate your efforts. About sending packages in the future, it is really not practical in the future, it is really not practical in the future. I can't say where I am but will tell a little about the place. The majority of people here are colored and are referred to as "Cooks." There are a couple of towns...
The main attraction is the USO which is a large building containing a ping pong room, pool room, dance floor, lounge and library and outside horseshoe court and cafeteria. There are also some interesting sights to be seen. The native homes are built of clay and straw for the most part and open drawn carts are a common sight. The natives as a whole wear no shoes and those that have them seem to prefer not to wear them. In fact I saw a small boy walking barefooted with shoes in his hands. It seems it is compulsory to wear shoes while in a club room. Although fruit is supposed to be plentiful here, I eat less fruit here than I did in states. The weather is fine for swimming. Some Sunday we go to the beach or to on a sightseeing trip. We have a couple of movie houses on the post besides recreation or day room. Sports such as softball and volleyball take up a good deal of our free time. It's nothing like the states here but there are places much worse so at present I'm not complaining. There is a great difference in non-commissioned officers here in comparison to those in the states. They treat us privates a million times better and that's without exaggeration.

I pity those boys who are only getting a year and a half to complete that accounting course. It was a bit of a struggle in two. That's enough hog wash. Jerry Seibert used to say, for one night.

Ernie Pugliese

PS (not necessary trust me)