

Jan 31, 1943.

Dear Marion.

I just received your letter Thursday night, when I got back to camp, and was glad to hear from you.

When I left here three weeks ago I really thought I was on my way. But it just turned out to be maneuvers after all.

I never will be able to figure out why, in these times, the government will spend so many millions of dollars, for these so called maneuvers. We left Norfolk Va.

with thousands of marines, and sailed as far as Maryland, and there we stayed for almost three weeks. All we did in this time was to have fire drills and abandon ship drills.

Loading all equipment & supplies onto big lighters and landing the same, with troops on the beach. They sure had a lot of ships, of all sizes, as well

as destroyers, sub chasers & cruisers. We had all kinds of planes flying over head, and lots of bomber & torpedo planes. It sure looked real enough, and maybe, they had a reason for doing all this, but if so I still don't know what the score is. Maybe I will be here for some time and then again I might really be on my way shortly. If I am here, by the end of Feb. I am going to try to get four or five days off, and will take a run home.

How has Fuddie and yourself been? And do you ever see Walt? If so remember me to all of them Mardy and I will write again as soon as possible.

Lots of Love
Johnnie.