Dear E/z:

The most recent Chinese push has just about spent itself— but it certainly kept us truckers on the run day & night. I have been averaging only 3-hours sleep per nite during the last 10 days. I did get to bed last night at 11:30 PM, but was up again at 12 midnight to prepare a 45-truck convoy for the road. Worked thru the night till daybreak. I got back to bed at 06:00 AM and slept soundly till 08:30 AM. It is now 10:30 AM. I just had to take time out now to eat breakfast & write you at the same time. That’s what I’m doing now—

This is not an unusual
Dear Elz:

The most recent Chinese push has just about spent itself – but it certainly kept us truckers on the run day + night. I have been averaging only 3-hours sleep per nite during the last 10 days. I did get to bed last night at 11:30 PM but was up again at 12 midnight to prepare a 45-Truck convoy for the road. Worked thru the night till daybreak. I got back to bed at 06:00 AM and slept soundly 'till 08:30 AM. It is now 10:30 AM. I just had to take time out now to eat breakfast + write you at the same time. That’s what I’m doing now.

This is not an unusual
situation. This is war. But the
most surprising thing about it is
how I have been able to withstand
the strain & loss of sleep and
still keep going. You'd be surprised
as I was at how restful I
felt with on last night's
half hour's sleep. I'm not
an iron man, of course, and
I hope I don't crack up all at once. I'm
going to bed (I hope) just as
soon as I finish this letter.

We moved to Wonsu four
days ago. This is in the central
sector where the Chinese tried
to desperately to break this. More
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(naturally it had to be us) we were alerted
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This town of Wonsu has changed
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in and around Wonsan. The result, of course, is that Wonsan has no buildings in sight as far as the eye can see. It may have been purely coincidental, but as soon as we arrived the U.N. forces began to take things in hand. The communist offensive grew into a defensive, which ultimately gave way to a complete withdrawal and full scale retreat with minor rear guard action. Wonsan is now safe but is the hub around which any future attack will likely be concentrated.

Later

I was a half hour trying to finish that last sentence, because sleep kept closing in on me. I determined to finish this letter before going to bed. Sleep won out. I had to quit. The sandman completely knocked me out. It is now 10-hours later—same day. Sleep and more work have been accomplished in the meantime.

The 28th Tuck Co. is located
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nearly. Two of their Officers were by last night: Capt. (from C.) Sexton and Lt. Brown, husband of your friend at Camp Kilmer and later Plainfield. Capt. (from C.) Armstrong of New Brunswick was in the company but was transferred a few days before our arrival. Capt. Sexton is passing out cigars—it was a boy.

Our Company completely sub-merged all others in Battalion Competition last week. Of the eleven first places to be had, the 49th took nine and tied for the tenth; (The 42nd tied us for their only show) the 43rd T.T. won the other 1st. Our motor section was by far the most outstanding. We had 47 trucks in the company... and everyday of the past week I kept the entire 47 trucks on the road.
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There was no deadline. Transportation section in Corps headquarters wanted to know how we could actually keep 47 trucks rolling when the normal rate is 46 out of 48, and also when so many other companies had as many as 17 trucks either in Ordnance or on the deadline. I could tell them—and did give them some of the answers—but a good business man never tells all of his trade secrets. I admit that committing 47 truck out of 47 in the company surpassed my expectations and even amazed me somewhat; but it was an experiment in motor maintenance which worked out under these adverse conditions here in Korea—and will work for me hereafter whenever I feel the necessity (and when competition gets close). Right now we dominate the field... and if I'm a bit cocky about it, it...
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(6) May be caused in part by the fact that I had long advocated many of these experiments as being sound and workable — and finally found that they paid off when I got the opportunity to put them into test and practice. I have two more big theories that I'm conducting experiments in now. If they work out, no outfit in Korea (or for that matter in the U.S.) will be able to keep pace with the 49th. Our unit has come up the ladder from the permanent cellar rung, where it was before, to completely dominate the field.

We have at this moment a 45 truck convoy out hauling combat troops. It will be gone a minimum of four days. I don't know of any other unit that can put 45 trucks on the road at one time. We could have put three more out, making ...
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7) It a 48-Vehicle Convoy that (we just received our 48th Vehicle), but I held back for good reasons.

If I never get promoted, I know that it will not be because of efficiency. It will be for other reasons unknown to me at this time. I'm quite proud of the fact that my efficiency has met the war-time test under circumstances and terrain abnormal even for war - and was not found wanting. I know beyond all reasonable doubt that the War Department has been grossly misinformed about my officer efficiency. But whether or not the Dept. of Army (D.A.) ever rectifies that error, I will walk out of the Army into civilian life full of that self-confidence that a successful man displays. For I know again and have been reassured by tough war conditions
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that I can compete with the best... and come out ahead of most.

This knowledge makes me happy and wipes away the cobwebs of gloom and disappointment which descended upon me (and remained with me despite efforts to throw it off) until when I was passed over by the DA in its selection of 1st 5 for Captain. From now on out, what the DA does about me will matter little and affect me less. For the saying of one of the ancients runs thus: He who knows... and knows that he knows... is wise... Follow him. I know not what others may think but as for myself, I know my job and have been more than reassured over here in Korea. And what is gratifying all the more is the knowledge that all others within our sphere of contact and activity... know that I know. So now, instead of maintaining...
8)
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This knowledge makes me happy and wipes away the cobwebs of gloom and disappointment which descended upon me (and remained with me despite efforts to throw it off) until when I was passed over by the DA in its selection of Lts for Captain. From now on out, what the DA does about me will matter little and affect me less. For the quote of a wise man saying of one of the ancients runs thus: He who knows... and knows that he knows.... is wise.... Follow him. I know not what others may think but as for myself, I know my job and have been more than reassured over here in Korea. And what is gratifying all the more is the knowledge that all others within our sphere of contact and activity, know that I know. So now, instead of maintaining
a hushed up attitude whenever the subject of promotions comes up in normal conversation, others are beginning to ask out loud why wasn't I promoted ... and why is it that so many less qualified persons by comparison have been promoted and I remain a Lt. Now, I rest my case.

Incidently, Capt Johnson has been restored to command of his company. He hod a close phone. He and Lt. Johnson shook hands and agreed to forget the causes of the flare up. I pity Lt. Johnson if he remains with the Capt. Capt. Johnson's character & past are such that he never forgets. Knowing him as I do, I would not remain with him if I had the choice Lt. Johnson had to either remain or be transferred. That's all for now - Love your Happy Hubby

NOTE: Did my drivers license check come? I mailed long ago.
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Your Happy Hubby
Ivorey Cobb

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