Oct 16, 1944

Dear Mother and Dad,

nearing end of journey and 'all time come same way'. Circumstances would have it that I refer only to those 'by gone' periods of my experiences and while my philosophy does not encourage living too much in the past, am forced to carry on our conversation in the past tense. So until I can deal more directly with present will try to bring you up to date. Such impediments do not hinder my style because even now I would never be able to catch up with a description of those past events that have past in review below me.

One of the more interesting places was the Dead Sea and its immediate adjacent surroundings including the biblical cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. I realize now how valuable a knowledge of the Bible would be in the interpretation of this country. I shall read it again, or rather, for the first time, at the earliest possible moment, not only to get the religious picture but to lend interpolation and substantiation to the many cities and ancient ruins clearly in evidence below. I now have that masterplan impression of the entire country and have now only to fill in the details - a most excellent way to study a new country. In fact I could now live the rest of my life in filling in the details of the overall exposures I have made so far. They will come in handy in my old and reclining years when I have to live in memory of past experiences.

This country has been compared with our own dead sea and Jordan River but the comparison can be carried even further, especially in regard to the topographical and structural expression of the mountains and valleys. Formerly this country was all flat and then due to some earthly adjustment it was raised several thousand feet above sea level to a high plateau. You can picture it as being a gradual sloping up