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My darling Wanda

Have at this moment been withdrawn from the Kangaw battle area, after a very successful landing 7 days ago, from the 1st day until the conclusion of our part in the operation we have had to fight hard and often, beating off many savage and suicidal counter attacks by the Japs, and being continually subjected to heavy shelling... In one instance I took part in a battle on top of a hill in which 2000 enemy attacked and attempted to take it at all cost, it commenced at dawn and didn't stop until sunset, it developed at times into hand to hand, however although he was determined, we were more so, and after a hard days terrible fighting he was forced to withdraw, and although managing to evacuate many of his casualties, we counted 320 odd dead and left behind... Myself, I cannot realise nor understand how I came out in one whole piece, nicked very slightly with grenade splinters, and under constant machine gun fire, I yet cannot see how it was, I know of many like me, purely a case of luck or providence, or perhaps belief, I hardly know.... Buddy was wounded in the shoulder in the first hour, "not seriously" and was on board a hospital ship in less than an hour from the unfortunate incident... Individual feats of courage were a very frequent and common occurrence, I have never seen nor read of such a heavy action in such a confined space in this theatre of war, the Commando Commander DSO and bar, MC and bar, informs us that although having been on raids on France, Norway and North Africa, he has never seen a more bloodier battle.... So as you can see we have more or less been in the thick of things... in five weeks we have spear headed 3 major landings, first Akyab, then Myebon, and finally Kangaw, not counting small recce raids after information.... I have no idea what happens next, probably a short test and another task, time will tell.... I no longer find it easy to sleep, reaction I guess, but suppose a few days rest will straighten me out and put me back on the map... Physically I am okay have no health worries, and in general am still comparatively fit... Quite truthfully honey! I have to admit that for once (since Marriage) I spent a day entirely free of thoughts of my beloved Wanda, and again I admit, and sincerely hope it never happens again your mail arriving slow but sure, received a parcel of cigarettes too, which were a God send under such circumstances. I love you brown eyes how strange that sounds when a mind is obsessed with hate and savage thoughts, I would give anything to actually feel tender, seems as though one becomes engulfed in a hard artificial shell, in which feelings cannot penetrate, you will have to teach me all kinds of things if and when I eventually reach the warm arms of our civilization.... Give my affectionate love to Philip junior and send me some more photographs of him, My regards to all. Remember always I love you deeply. Philip x