18 Aug 1950

Dear Fr. Joseph, (Gorosy)

I received a letter from my parents today saying you had a Mass for me on Monday, so I want to write you + thank you.

this is a fox hole letter. Little did I dream that someday I would be in Korea in a fox-hole. I am right in a soy bean patch with rows of sugar cane about us. this sugar cane is now about 10 or 11 feet high. And it is hot!! Flies by the thousands, and at night mosquitoes by the millions. What a life!! Yet I am right on the front lines. Have been hearing hundreds of Confessions. Gave Extreme Unction many times to the dying. It sure

is a pity to see the terribly wounded bleeding to death. One of my soldiers had both legs and his arm blown off. What a pitiful sight. I used to get sick at the sight of blood & wounds. Recently I was messed up with blood myself. I grabbed a towel to stop my hand from bleeding. That was the only thing I saved as the Reds nearly got us that time. three times now I have had very narrow escapes. I honestly believe that it was the prayers of others which have kept me unscathed so far. Chaplain Mills (Protestant) here with me was not so fortunate. We got hit by a mortar shell and it wounded his leg + arm - the doctor said it will take him at least 4 months to recover in a hospital.

My mother has written me about the new convent for the Sisters. It must be very nice. Surely you were fortunate to build it when you did as I suppose now materials & labor has gone up because of this war.

The big guns are going off as I write this letter and I jump every time one shoots. The airplanes (fighters) are flying around here. Day before yesterday I saw the B 29s bomb the place. They were so high we could not see them but the bombs sure did lift up the mountain where the Reds were digging in.

If the boys ever needed a Catholic priest they sure need one in ~~bat~~ :&

have been able to be at the side of the dying so far without being seriously wounded myself. I am very grateful for that. Both Catholics and non-Catholics have great respect for the Chaplain. Incidentally in this war we have to be armed. The Reds were not taking prisoners, so we resolved to fight them to the finish because we would not have a chance if we chose to surrender in any particular hopeless situation.

Please give my regards to the good Sisters at St. John's this year and to Albina.

As ever in Christ.

Fr. E. K.