It was very kind of you to send me a copy of the photograph. Please understand I am sorry you lost your camera. I wish I had known at the time I might have asked at once that it be returned to you, but it might have been
returned. Now that I am no longer in touch I would carry no weight.

With many
Chambas
Photo #69-134 withdrawn
Sec: ER Photo Tmd, TDSW
Pacific, Aug 13 - Sept 23, 1946

Leonard W. Caverly
Box 15
Carrington, North Dakota
August 23, 1946

It was very kind of you to send me a copy of the photograph taken on Fiji. I am sorry you lost your camera. I wish I had known at the time I might have acted in time to return it. It might have been
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Hyde Park, New York  

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:  

Attached you will find a photo of yourself accompanied by Generals Hodge and McGuillough and the Chief of Staff of the American Division. This photo was taken during your visit on the Island of Fiji and holds a personal story as concerns your presence and myself.  

The photograph of you was accomplished by a member of the American Division's photographic section then under the command of Lieutenant Lewis. At the time of your visit I was a clerk in the office of the Adjutant General. The greater share of the enlisted men, like myself, were quite enthused as concerned your visit to our perimeter. It so happened that your tour of the American Division Headquarters brought you within only a few feet of my office. At the time my contact 35 millimeter camera was loaded with a fresh film so I boldly made my way towards you, snapped my picture of you and began my retreat back to the office.  

As I began my return, I was ordered to halt and as I turned about I was face to face with a lieutenant colonel. The lieutenant colonel asked for my camera and explained that such pictures could not be taken and that my act of taking the picture would likely mean a reduction in grade. I did not, however, have to suffer the reduction in grade but the officer did retain the camera which I valued highly. Truthfully it is still very much missed.  

Having chalked up a few years of newspaper experience prior to my entry into the service, I realized that there was always another means of gaining one's objective. Several days later after much talking I managed to secure two of these pictures. I did gain my objective but it cost the loss of the valuable camera for I never could get it back.  

With all of this in mind, I thought you would like to know just what can happen to an enlisted member of the U. S. Army in grade of sergeant and I would like very much for you to have one of the two pictures which were almost impossible to get by reason that you were the First Lady of the Land. At least I can still boast of being within three feet of the President's wife.  

Sincerely,  

Leonard W. Caverly  

[Handwritten notes on the page, possibly mentioning personal details or reflections.]