

Wednesday
October 25, 1944

My Darling;

How are you today? I am terribly hot sticky and uncomfortable. Till now I have been putting off washing my clothes because I thought we'd get into port long before this but I fear that now I'll have to hunt up some soap and do my laundry much as I dislike the idea. If I can get some soap I'll just put the clothes and soap in a pail and let them soak. I feel as if I'm melting away just sitting here writing to you.

I didn't write yesterday Honey. I got into a game of 500 Rummy with a couple of the other fellows and the game lasted longer than I thought it would. You're just a rummy widow I guess. As you can see though I am wasting no time today and am getting your letter written at 9:00 A.M.

Already my work is all done. It isn't bad now because a lot of the fellows have left the ship and there isn't an awful lot to carry up. It's still quite a grind to carry cases of canned goods up three flights of stairs and half the length of the ship. I ate three and a half grapefruit this morning and they were very good. They were small and fairly sweet so they could be eaten like oranges. Tonight we are scheduled to have more fresh fruit which I hope will be apples. I'd better get all the fresh fruit I can while I'm on the ship because God knows when I'll get any after I'm off it.

Yesterday the first sergeant came up to me with a letter the censor had returned to me. I thought sure I had been saying too much but was relieved when it was just because I had enclosed a certificate in the letter and was not supposed to have done that. I noticed that when I printed the date on the certificate I had put the year 1942 instead of 44 I guess I'm just anxious to go back to the past before I was in the army. I'll try to correct that when I send it. The envelope I put it in was quite heavy with the certificate in there so I used two air mail stamps so since I can't send them both in the same envelope I'll put a couple more letters in the envelope. The censor will probably get rather burned up at having to read such a long letter but I can't help it. The money I save on stamps can go into the silver fund. How is that coming along anyway?

Gosh, but I miss you Beautiful. You can't know just how much you mean to me because you are such a very necessary and very vital part of my whole life. You are such a very wonderful person Darling, that it's hard for me to realize I am going to be lucky enough to have you with me always, as soon as I get back that is. I'd give anything just to be with you now. I love you an awful lot Sweetheart. Remember that always won't you? It will help a lot. I know the knowledge that you love me is the greatest morale booster I could ever have.

Darling, do you remember this pen I bought in Lansing? I wonder if you would go to the book shop and find out where I could get a new cap for it. I was just sitting here near the rail writing when the cap fell overboard. It is one of the \$15.00 pens. Journal tells me that I can get a new top by writing to the company. I think I'll do that right away so I'll get it as soon as possible. I should have been more careful but the damned thing just hit the deck, bounced once and was over the side. I'll have a heck of a time with it now till I get a new cap.

There is a slight breeze whipping up now and I feel a lot better than I did. It's a little cooler now. That job of mine is hot work and gets me all sweatied up. I never get back to where there are nice fresh water showers I'm going to spend most of my time under them. I know one of them would certainly be welcome now.

I'll leave you now Darling but will be back so don't go away. I send you

All My Love and Kisses

Freddie

Thursday, October 26, 1944

Darling;

Just a few more days and I will have been on this ship a whole month. It's dreadfully monotonous and I wish it would reach our destination soon. Of course I don't imagine will do anything after we do reach our destination but I still would like the feel of ground under my feet and being able to do some laundry and shower in fresh water.

My back has turned unexpectedly tender on me. I think that the wool blankets are causing it. When I sleep on decks the wool scratches and since there is no give to the deck it makes it doubly ~~more~~ bad. To top that off, some fellow burned my back with a lighted cigaret while I was watching the show last night. He didn't do it intentionally but it hurt like the devil all the same. I don't mind smoking but people are usually so inconsiderate of others when they do smoke. I've had ashes flicked all over me and even had one fellow shake out his pipe on my head. It just makes me burn. Did your mother have the table fixed - the one I burned - or is she waiting for me to come back to sand it and refinish it? I thought she'd really get quite angry when I showed it to her but was very relieved when she didn't. It was as much your fault as it was mine because you just looked so beautiful that I ignored the cigaret and had my mind completely occupied with you. You can't blame me though can you? You're much nicer than a cigaret and what's more you've got lips. Did I ever tell you how nice they are and how very wonderful it is to be kissed by you? Remind me to when we're together again because you know they were just made for me to kiss.

How's that for a paragraph. All the way from a scratchy blanket to a kiss. Ah, me. How one does get around in writing don't you think? As you once said, Darling, writing is the most wonderful invention we've ever had. Without it you and I wouldn't be able to exchange ideas across all this space. I keep so me right beside you wherever I may be.

Oh! I have just found a nice cool hole in which to hide myself. It is a corridor going from one side of the ship to the other and there is usually a nice drafty breeze blowing through it. This is the damndest climate. I sweat just doing nothing. Oh for the good old sub zero temperatures of Michigan and New Hampshire. We never did go up into New Hampshire did we? The next time we go home to Lynn we will surely go on a tour of the state so you can see just what it's like and how you like it. I think it's quite wonderful. Right now the leaves are turning and everything looks very nice in all the different colors, I guess it's cool enough for a top coat but not too cool to go walking nights with a nice cool breeze blowing inland from the ocean. Up in the mountains it would be very nice, just in between the summer and winter tourist seasons and the roads would not be very crowded. It would be ideal for a vacation just touring up through there. Won't you join me? Now that that trip is over I will once more relax on my rolled up jacob's ladder and snap back to reality.

Industry got the best of me yesterday and I drew out a Spanish grammar from the library. I think I'll brush up my Spanish just for the heck of it. It gives me something to do no es verdad? I find that the verb conjugations are almost exactly like the Italian and aren't too difficult to manage. That's ~~too~~ where I had most of my ~~last~~ trouble at U.N.H. I didn't get the conjugations very well. To tell the truth I don't know the names of the various conjugations in English although I am fairly well up on my English. That's something that is never stressed. We just come by it naturally.

Last night we had a double feature here. We saw "A Yank At Eton" with Mickey Rooney, and also "Desperate Journey" with Errol Flynn and Ronald Reagan. Although they were both fairly old, I had seen neither of them before, so I enjoyed myself. I guess all the shows they have here are quite old. I'll probably be seeing pictures I've seen years ago. It will be something to do.

The food is getting much better now. They don't have to cook for as many men and can take more pains with their work. This noon we had spaghetti and meat sauce and I put away a couple of nice big helpings. The chief cook, in charge of the ~~detail~~ detail I work on also got us a couple bars of ice cream apiece. It tasted marvelous. It's a good thing I do some exercise with all this eating or I'd really put on weight.

Yesterday afternoon we were told to throw away some meat that had gone bad. There was a big kettle full of it, I guess the meat and the kettle weighed a good 300 pounds. An other fellow and myself had to carry it upon deck and lifted it up to the rail to throw the meat overboard. It seems that the meat had packed in the kettle quite solidly and would not slide out. The weight of the kettle just pulled it out of our hands and it just dropped kettle and all and really sank fast. I'm certainly glad I ~~didn't~~ didn't get pulled over with it because that was headed for the bottom in nothing flat. The ship will return lighter by one kettle than it should have been.

I got hold of a cap for my pen. It's only temporary till I can write for another to match.

The one I have is quite small but it does fit the threads on mine and makes it possible for me to carry it in my pocket. It will do for now. It was still stupid of me to lose the top to it though.

Again I will tell you not to worry at all about me Darling because I am as safe if not safer here than I was in the States. I am not destined for any great feats of heroism but will probably spend the rest of my military days in a replacement depot somewhere. Once a casual always a casual. They'll probably use us for any odd jobs they happen to have around. A sort of labor battalion you might say. So don't waste any time worrying Sweet, write letters instead nice ones, and don't forget to tell me that you love me because that's something I will always want to be reminded of. Goodbye again Beautiful. I love you. Give yourself a nice big hug and kiss each night before going to bed for me and Remind yourself that ~~is~~

I love you with all my heart

Freddie