Darling;

Do you recognize the stationery? You should because it is some you bought for me. Yep, that’s right, I got another package from you today. There is a very amusing story concerned with this package though. A story with a moral. When the mail clerk handed it to me he had a knowing twinkle in his eye. I soon found out why. It seems that the package was covered with powder, and smelled very sweet too. I got a kidding about it. When I got back to the tent and opened the package, I discovered what had happened. Do you remember sending me a package in which you had enclosed a box of Johnson’s Baby Powder? Well, this was it!! The only trouble was that, in transit, the metal bottom had been knocked off and everything was powder covered. The stuff permeated everything in the box and some had gotten out through a small opening in the package and was all over the outside of the package as well as inside. The powder was the only thing which was harmed though because everything else was in fine shape. It included the book “Lost In the Horse Latitudes” (which I have been reading just before starting this letter and think that it is every bit as good as his other books), a comb, soap, the stuff for fingernails (the orange wood stick I guess they’re called) which will come in handy because I want to quit chewing my nails, and now I’ll have something to clean them with, the stationery, the India Ink (it’s impossible to get Higgins’ ink there and the Aussie stuff we do have is no good at all), and last, but not least, the drawing paper which you may rest assured is completely welcome. All in all, Darling, it was a very wonderful package and I want to thank you very much Sweetheart. You’re very thoughtful and very sweet you know. Not only because you send me packages either, although that helps. Gosh but I love you Sweetheart. It will be such a happy day when I hold you in my arms once more and kiss you as you so much [scratched out word] deserve to be kissed, and loved.

I think that tomorrow I will get a jeep to go out and do some sketching. I have to do sketches of some anti-aircraft equipment because the new cartoons I have to do are of some of this equipment and I have never seen it. If I am going to sketch it I should be familiar with it. This is a kind of work I have done quite a bit of and like to do. I may be out all day, although I am supposed to go to the medics to have my athlete’s foot treated. There is also another job which has to be done tomorrow. We have to make some models for a sand table. I guess Daley will take care of that though because I talked to him tonight and he said he had an idea of just what should be done and that he was sure the carpenter would take care of it. If I do have to work on it, I shall have to postpone my sketching trip till Thursday or Friday. It should be fun whenever it is. I shall use the paper you sent for the finished work on those illustrations. It has an ideal hard finish for the kind of work I want to do. It couldn’t have arrived at a better time if I had planned it, Honey. I’ll also be able to use the Higgin’s Ink on this work. The rough sketching from the equipment itself can be done with regular ink. I’ll save this new stuff for Sunday best.
It’s quite cool this evening. It is surprising how much of a drop in temperature there is in the evenings. I actually have to wear a jacket at the show in the evening or I am very cold. I never thought I could ever feel cold in these damned tropical climes.

Our new battery commander assembled all sergeants, of all varieties from buck to master, in the day room to have a chat with us. From his speech I gathered that he’s been in the army a long while, that he is very much of a martinet, and that he intends to give preferential treatment to sergeants and above because of our rank. This last is one of the things about the army which I most object to. I do not care for the idea of preferential treatment for any group even if I am benefitted by it. It isn’t fair to the men without ratings because in most cases their lack of ratings is not [scratched out word] due to the fact that they are [scratched out word] less competent than some of us who have ratings, it is just because they have not been here as long as someone else. I think that all should be granted equal privileges and that if some of the men, non coms or privates, goof off in any respect that some privileges should be withheld from them. It may be that my teachers in the States have succeeded too well in their job if instilling a love of democracy in me. Whatever the reason, I am definitely against any kind of caste system such as this officer is trying to set up. I’ll be so very glad to get back to civilian life. I shall never be able to adjust myself to the ways of the army. It’s just mentally impossible for me to do so.

At the present time I am sampling the jelly you sent in that other package I received. I am spreading it on some cookies I bought at the PX and find that it is extremely good Darling. Did you make it? If you did I want you to know that you are a very talented wife, if you didn’t I still want you to know that you’re a very talented wife. A case of “heads” you win, “tails” you win. You’re in, either way. No one else has a chance.

The news is now on and it seems that our fighting on Okinawa is stalemated, but good. We have been unable to make any significant gains since we hit the lines at Naha and Shuri. I guess that the Japs will continue to mass everything right on that line and that, as soon as that line cracks, the Jap defense of the island will be ended. I hope this comes soon and that this war shall be ended soon. The newscaster also announced that the US 1st Army is on its way out here. They aren’t wasting any time at all in getting them here if I do say so. I wonder how Bob Kennedy is making out up on Okinawa. I hope he comes out of it OK. I have written him a letter which I shall mail tomorrow. I’m anxious to hear from him.

Well Darling, I shall give you a goodnight hug and kiss at this point and shall leave you only to meet you again a little later in a dream to give you

All my love and kisses.

Freddie