Hello Darling:

It is late evening again and here I am once more telling you how very much I love you. Are you beginning to realize now Honey? I hope so because I do want you to realize that very much and to remember it, always. Gosh, I wish we were together right now. I seem to miss you especially much right now.

This evening I indulged in my favorite and almost my only, form of recreation, the movies. I saw “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn”. It wasn’t bad. The picture followed the book fairly well as far as it went. It covered 2/3 of the book and ended just where I had expected it to. Somehow or other I don’t seem to get as much pleasure from movies as I used to. Most of them seem to depress me now. About the only ones I enjoy are out and out comedies. I think I’ll cut out going to them unless I think they are of a type which I can get some enjoyment from.

I received a letter from you and a package from my Aunt Esther. The package was in a very sad state when I received it, and I had to throw it away. It was all gooey candy in plain candy boxes all put in one of these corrugated cardboard boxes they sell as overseas boxes. It looked as though a heavy crate had ridden over on it. That stuff won’t last unless it’s put in cans so it can’t be crushed. It was nice to have a package come through though. It keeps my hopes up for the packages you sent me.

So, you messed up on writing another day did you. Tch! Tch! I told you that you shouldn’t make any resolutions like that because if something comes up that prevents you from writing, you just feel bad because you didn’t keep the resolution. It’s best not to resolve but to just go on doing the best you can. See, Darling. It’s like those resolutions you gave out about quitting the evil weed. It just doesn’t work. Do you feel properly chastised. Here’s a kiss for you then just to show you that I still love you more, than ever.

You did not enclose the sketch of the cups and saucers you bought. They’ll probably come in the next letter. Are they large sized? I imagine they must be some of those large coffee cups. Am I still guessing right?

It sounds as though you had quite an argument with May and the others about the point system for releasing men. Just how did you think it should have been worked. Of course I think it would have been nice if they had given preference to men born on March 11, 1921 who have been in the Army 31 months, but, since they could not do that, I guess the way they are doing it is probably best although I think they are giving too many points for children and that they should have taken dependent parents into consideration. Since neither of these categories includes me I don’t think I can be accused of
prejudice. All I want is for the war to end soon so I can get back home to you Honey. Under the
president point system I have 44 points which places me midway on the ladder. Although I shall not be
the first one home, neither should I be the last, so that is some consolation.

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I just noticed in your letter that you said you and Neva had seen that picture “A Free Etc”. “It
was good, but not too good,” just as you said in your summary of it.

So Mrs. Duff approved of the silverware did she. I am glad you bought the rest of the set
because I did like that pattern better than any of the others. Don’t polish it into nothingness before I
return though.

I don’t think that homesickness will be as much of a problem as you think it may be after we’re
married. I know that you’ve never been away from home before but I feel quite sure that it won’t be too
bad because we will be breaking away gradually. From Lansing to Ann Arbor, and then to wherever our
fortunes take us after that. While at Ann Arbor we won’t be going in to Lansing every week end because
we will want to go into Detroit from time to time to shows or just to take a week end off. Then too, I will
try to see to it that you have little reason to get homesick. I’ll do everything in my power to ward that
off. I know just how you feel though because it’s the way I felt when I just

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went to school. I got over it in in rather short order though.

I’ve got to say goodnight now Honey. It’s time to get to bed. I’ll see you in a dream. Goodnight.

Thursday –

Aaahhh!!!

An afternoon off. This has been quite a nice day. Of course it had rather a bad start
because today was our monthly trip to the dispensary – in raincoats. I have a very slight touch of
athlete’s foot – what did you think I was going to say anyway – so I’ll have to be dropping in on them in
the afternoons to have it taken care of. I don’t know just what is wrong with me but I don’t seem to
react the right way to this tropical climate. Everyone else loses weight over here, I gain weigh; everyone
else is having a hell of a time with skin diseases and athlete’s foot, I have had less trouble with athlete’s
foot since I got here than I ever had in the States. This is the first time I’ve noticed it and it’s starting to
clean up of its’ own accord already. Maybe we should live here after the war. OK! OK! You

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know I was only fooling. Of course I don’t like this place. It’s the hills of the northern provinces of the
States for me. As long as you’re there of course. That is quite essential to the scheme of things that you
be there with me wherever I am to be when this war is over.

Speaking of northern chimes Honey, this New Guinea gets plenty cool at night now. Winter is
almost upon us here and every night is colder than the preceding one. This is especially bad since I have
trouble keeping my feet warm at night, and if my feet are not warm I can’t sleep. To solve this problem, I
have started to wear woolen socks to bed. It helps somewhat. As an added measure I have used the
extra blanket to cover my feet. I’ve had trouble with them getting cold ever since they tied off those veins in my legs, they cut down the circulation and therefore make my feet more susceptible to cold, God knows they are large enough to require very good circulation.

I spent an afternoon off cleaning my rifle. This sounds like a very humdrum job but not the way Maurice does it. First I got all the required stuff and then settled down to work. I got a piece of copper wire about two feet long to pull the cloth through some inaccessible spots in the gun. I pulled the cloth through and reached for the wire – but the wire wasn’t there. A fellow was watching me and helped me look for it but it was nowhere to be found. I then got myself another piece of wire and went on with my work. Duffy came along and worked with me. I put the wire down on my knee and washed off a piece of the rifle, then Duffy asked for the wire. It was gone!! Don’t look at me like that, Duffy had seen me lay it on my knee but it just disappeared. This time we went all over the area around the tent and looked everywhere with no more success than I had in searching for the first piece of wire. We finally gave it up. The pay off came as I was assembling the gun. The [scratched out word] blot was gone. All the little screws and pins were there but the blot wasn’t. This time I turned the whole area upside down looking for it but it is still lost. I hadn’t had thing to drink either, and Duffy was there with me as a witness. I’m quite sure I’ve done nothing to turn Gremlins against me, and I am past the stage where I believe in the little men my grandmother placed her faith in, but the fact remains that I now have a bottles gun and the problem of finding some way of appropriating another without paying for a damned used gun. The first gun I am issued in the Army and see what happens. I’ve told them they should keep firearms away from me. I’ll have to see if I can swing some kind of deal with one of the fellows in the supply room. This is embarrassing because when Duffy tells anyone what happened they look at me as if they feared I lacked a major portion of the marbles [scratched out word] with which I was provided to play this game of life.

They finally got in some Hershey bars here at the PX so I’ve been gorging myself with them all day. I can afford to because I have lost seven pounds in the past month, due to my volleyball playing. I weighed 183 last month and weigh 176 this. See what exercise does. It just wears a person down.

I just stepped outside to get some water and found a skyful [sic] of stars out tonight. They are very nice really. It made me think again of that hill I told you I used to like to sit on and watch the sky and the [scratched out word] lights of the towns, like reflections of the starts in pools of water. We’ll have to visit that hill on our honeymoon because I see you fitting into the picture perfectly and providing the one thing the [scratched out word] picture needs to make it complete. In the summer there’s the very nice smell of the grass with perhaps just a hint of salt air to temper it. The hilltop is smooth and grassy and ideal for stargazing with someone like you. You can consider this a formal invitation to join me on that hilltop on our honeymoon. Is it a date?
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I have not heard the news for several days but just need Monday’s issue of Guinea Gold. In it here was an article which disclosed that German Prisoners of War were to be shown pictures of German atrocities photographed in prison camps inside Germany and narrated in German. The [scratched out word] are also to be deprived of the privilege of buying [scratched out word] beer, candy, and cigarettes, [sic] and of having choice meats, they will be limited to kidneys, livers, and hearts. The food and supplies saved in this way are to go to our troops in Europe, a plan with which I am in agreement. There was also an article which disclosed that Gen Eisenhower had been made [scratched out word] secretary of the Four-Power Council in Berlin. I am glad of that because he is a man who is respected by Russian as a great fighting man, and is very likely to see eye to eye with the Russians on the question of administering German affairs [scratched out word] now. I still can’t seem to realize that the European war is all over. It just doesn’t seem quite possible that it could be

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ended after all the years of fighting. It has though, Thank God! Now if this one would only [scratched out word] end. This is rather a queer situation out here. The war could end tomorrow or it could drag out for several years, depending on whether the Japanese people choose to fight to the death or surrender, and whether the Russian come into the war or not. There are so very many factors to figure in a war such as this one that it’s just anybody’s guess. My hope is for an early end to all this and that this next Christmas find us once more at peace.

We had pork chops for supper tonight – that is what we call changing a mood abruptly and leaving the reader in a daze. Duffy being on [scratched out word] KP today, we had a few extra ones for a late snack. I just polished mine off. It really hit the spot and would be very nice if this happened more often. I’m going to be quite sorry to see Duffy and Kowalchuk get their ratings because then there will be no more such privileges for our tents since they won’t be

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able to pull KP. Rather jealous of me I know, but where food is concerned that’s pardonable isn’t it? By the way Darling, has Mother made a cook of you yet? Remember you told me that when I get back you’ll be able to whip up a very appetizing meal for me. You’re not forgetting are you?

It’s time to leave you again Bunny so I say goodnight very reluctantly and go to bed to dream of happier days to come when I shall not have to retire to such a lonely bed as my present one.

I love you Darling

Freddie