Dear sweetheart;

I am here in Camp Beale. It's a very desolate place out in the middle of nowhere and although it's nearest approaches to town it is five miles from Marysville, it is a twenty mile trip from where my barracks is to the center of town. That's one heck of a way.

I met Bob Kennedy right off the bat. He got here last Wednesday and this Wednesday he leaves for a staging area and overseas. That's really fast work. I'll probably be here longer though. Bob says that they really are very nice here. There's no reefer or retreat. At 6:30 they put the lights on in the barracks and if you want to eat they have breakfast at 7:00 a.m. During the day he says that they are kept alone unless there is something they really have to do. They give other physical exams and give us all new clothing also. Tomorrow we will probably all get be interviewed and will have the opportunity of having all our personal affairs put in order. The spec numbers which we received at Camp Grant will remain with us. I still don't know what mine is but I hope it's something good.

God, but it's hot here. We have mountains on three sides of us and on the fourth side is desert. The mountains cut off all cool
Breezes from the ocean very effectively. There isn't a tree or shrub for miles around and lawns are unknown. All there is is sand and stones.
The food here is quite nice, we have nice barbecues on the interior that is, the outside is olive drab. There are many PX's and there's also a Service Club - a very luxurious place. The movie theater is a block away and the bus stop four blocks away where I can get buses for Marysville. We may go into Marysville today to see what it's like.
I slept all nite without blankets and felt very comfortable, it doesn't cool off very much at nite. All I felt like doing after I got in here was drink.
Last nite I drank a beer, 2 PepsiColas, and a quart of milk in quick succession, washed it all down with about a quart of water, went to bed and slept like a baby. I should lose a lot of weight here if I do any exercising at all. They give three day passes to some of the men to help with the peach harvest and they also let men off to help fight some of the forest fires around here. I'm going to try to get in on that fruit picking detail if I can. The pay either 75¢ or 85¢ an hour for this work. That would be a swell deal. Things like that never happen to me though.
Everyone is speaking about going out to get something to drink and it's barely 10:30 in the morning. It's quite warm already and I damn near can't stand it. One of the sergeants who was overseas all through the Orient and South Pacific said that if we could stand this we could stand anything. I do have the damnest thirst the Gosh, this is the farthest I've been away from you since I've known you. Southeast and I don't like it at all. It's altogether too far from you for my liking. I love you and want to be with you all the time so this separation is not at all welcome. I really miss you. Just how very very much I love you and always will. I love you.

Bob said that last Thursday the temperature was over 115°. Yesterday was relatively cool and the temperature wasn't over 110°. I touched some metal on one of the cars in the train and just about burned my hand badly. It was molten hot. That's the way everything is around here.

The A.S.F.P.R.D. stands for Army Service Forces Personnel Replacement Depot, which is what this place is. From here we go to a staging area and from there to a Port of Embarkation, and if going to remain in the service as you can keep an eye peeled for any fellow wearing a red
Cross on his arm in the newscast and if you find
me inside it you can show him.

I'll get some airmail stamps tomorrow
and send my letters airmail from here so you'll
be sure of getting it as fast as possible. I sent one
first class yesterday because I wanted to get it in
the mail fast. Let me know when you get it. This
may get to you before that one does. I'll try to send
a telegram today to let you know what my address
is so I'll be able to get letters soon.

Those pants your mother washed were
guessed very nicely in my duffle bag. I just folded
them nicely and put them in, then when I took
them out again there was a beautiful crease in
them. Almost as good as if I could've done with a
flatiron. It was really amazing. I'm glad they
have laundry service here. That'll save me much
work. There's hardly anyone here now so they
should get it back fast.

One of the P.V.'s here sells beer in
growlers - if you don't know what that is your
father probably would remember. They have large
number ten cans and sell these filled with beer.
It seems funny to see fellows off in a corner
sometimes drinking out of one of these huge cans.

Quite colorful, like an old time saloon.
Since I started this letter the whole day has passed. Bob, Gold and I went swimming this morning. There's a swimming pool here on the post which is limited to servicemen. A bus picks us up at regular intervals, takes us out there and then comes back regularly to take back anyone wanting to go back. Since the place is reserved for servicemen there is no need for bathing suits as we swim in the raw. It's the first time the purum outdoors in the raw in years. It was fun. There were a lot of kids there and we had fun fooling around on them. When we got back to the barracks we dressed and went to Maryville. It isn't a big place but is fairly nice. We had a couple of beers then found a place to eat where we had a wonderful steak dinner. We walked about a mile out and a mile back to where we ate but it was well worth it.

As I said, the town is quite nice. The architecture is what you'd expect of California with Spanish architecture quite prevalent and date palms before quite a few houses. The business section is quite small and quite inadequate to take care of all these soldiers as far as I can see. Most of the fellows here are transient though and aren't here more
than a couple of weeks. I forgot to send you a telegram though. I was back in camp and the camp telegraph office was closed. I'll tell what I can do to-morrow. I wish I'd thought of it in Marysville though, but I guess that the spell of seeing everything there was to see was too much and I just didn't remember.

I wish I were leaving with Bob because now that I know I'm out here and can't see you anymore I'd just as soon go overseas as fast as possible and cut out this waiting. It would be nice to leave with him but there's no chance of that, he's practically on the boat. I guess I'll spend most of my time from now until I leave here in the Service Club. They have quite a nice Service Club with a wonderful library where I'll be able to spend much of my time.

Before I go to bed to-night I'm going to shave and shower. It has cooled off quite a bit to-night and I should sleep quite well. I hope that the spell of terrific heat is over because I sure as heck don't care for it at all. It makes me too thirsty and the warm water we have to drink doesn't help.
Bob Kennedy got himself a pipe to smoke in case he ever ran up against a tobacco shortage anywhere and he tried to talk me into getting one. I think I'll wait a while though. Maybe I'll get one after my next pay. Who knows? What do you think of the idea? Then you could take Nova to see the new reel of me standing on the beach or maybe smoking my pipe quite peacefully. Wouldn't that be sweet? Especially with my hair cut off and a beautiful beard growing just like that. I'll be a very cute little bear though you can depend on that.

I think I'm going to have an argument with Jamma, Thomas and Ludwig before long. They don't like Gold very well and don't think I should play around with he and Bob Kennedy. If one of them mentions it to me he's going to be told off because I reserve the privilege of selecting my own friends without anyone's aid and want to let them know so. Anyone who tries to tell me what to do in this respect really bums me up.

Guess I'll have to leave you for tonight, Sweetheart. Send you all my love and as you lie there sleeping I give you a great big kiss and whisper in your ear.
that you are the one person I love and shall always love more than anyone or anything else and reminding you that every smile that were apart merely makes me realize more than ever my love for you and just how very much you mean to me.

All My love and Kisses and a goodnight.

[Signature]

Freddie