Thursday 26 April 1945
HQ 14th AA Bomb
APO 322, Suzu

UNITED STATES ARMY

Dearest My Darling,

I got a letter from you today. It was very nice one. They mention that I also received one from Mom.

The past problem will approach in this letter is the one you asked my advice on in this letter. You want to know seriously how I feel about you going to California to work. I'll tell you very truthfully that I don't think it would be a very good idea. I'll now proceed to enumerate the reasons why I think this way. You are displeased with your present job, right? What is to stop you from giving it up and looking for another one in Michigan? You mentioned at least one other job you thought you could get there. There's nothing wrong with your looking into them and picking a job which you'd like. You owe nothing to the people you're working for now. What would you do in California? Get a job as a secretary, or as a worker in an airplane factory, which seems to be the only kind of job one hears of as being plentiful there? If you think the job you have now is monotonous, I can assure you that you would not think so compared to the monotonous of an assembly line job of typing all day long. But I don't think I have to go any further into the typing angle of the thing.

Just what do you intend to do if you do go there? I agree that it seems to have many charms from a distance. Something far away and exciting. From a distance it is nice, but what about the loneliness of being in a big city far from home and from all your
friends. Sure Ginny will be there, but who else? She will undoubtedly want to go out with fellows and that leaves you with the choice of going with her or being left all by yourself. I'd much as I hate to think of you being alone. I hate the thought of your going out with anyone else. I guess it's rather selfish of me and jealous, but I don't like even the thought of your going out with other fellows. I know you won't but still and all under different circumstances even you don't know what would happen. If you found yourself another job somewhere in Michigan, you could still see your family over the weekend— if you are working outside of Lansing, and you'd still be near your friends. That means an awful lot. California has nothing to offer you which you could not get right in Michigan. It's just that the grass here is greener in the other fellow's yard, until you get there and realize that the patch of grass you left wasn't bad after all. You stay there that you want to save money. You would certainly not do it in California where prices are sky high. And don't forget my darling that you'll need every bit of money we can get when we start in on our married life because we'll be starting from scratch. This doesn't mean that I'd want you to keep your present job just because you can. I'd never want you to stay in a job you didn't like for a minute Honey, but I'm sure there are jobs somewhere near home which you couldtolerate. Then even though you had to
find yourself a place to live, your expenses
would not be too high. I don't mean to
sound like a penny pincher, what I really
want is for us to have enough money to do
the things we want to when we get married.
Our vacation and all will have to be paid
for from our savings between now and that
day, because prior to my coming overseas,
you were my only asset. I had a once-vacant
space on the credit side of my ledger. It
seems to me that in asking you not to come
try to be trying to get there, you may be trying to get there, I don't see how a person could
help but feel very lonely and very insignif-
icient in a strange city. There are the
reasons why I think you should not go to
California to look for work, you'd just be try-
ing to run away from a loneliness and
discouragement that is within you and
which you would just carry with you. If
you still think you'd like to go you will find
no further opposition from me because I
have a great respect for your judgment, and
if you're still sure you'd like to go you will
have my very best wishes and I hope that
you will get along all right.
Aren't the last time we talked
this over? It was on a nice Sunday after-
noon in East Lansing. I believe that at
the time I rather hurt your feelings. I hope
I haven't done the same in this letter, too,
because that is the last thing in the world
I want to do. You just asked me for my honest
opinion and I gave it to you. It's based
on what I know of you and I think that
I know quite well just what feelings motivate
most of your fears. I'll be so glad when I can get back to you Darling. Your only worry then shall be that of being my wife, a position you and only you can fill most completely and most charmingly. I love you Darling. I do and always shall, and any advice I ever give you is motivated by this love for you. You are so very sweet Darling. What's this I hear about you starting to write a little book for your old letters from May? David have burned those long ago myself but never got around to it. They die just another example of the Yankee study paper in me. I used to save all the letters I got. I believe there are some more around the house yet, if there I haven't seen a cross them. If there are you and I will build a monstrosity of them when I return. Is it a date? I will write once and ask them if I will add you to the list of subscribers to the "Command Car." I guess you know about as many of the fellows who were living at North Hall as any of us did, and your mother fed a great many of them at that birthday party. With those points in your favor I'm sure that you will be admitted to the Inner Circle and get a copy of the paper whenever it comes out.

Today was a work day for me. Contrary to my plans, I did not have the opportunity to sketch or to write that letter to Paul Katona. I had to do a rush job which was quite tough. It consisted mainly of lettering in old English and was rather exciting work. I didn't finish it but I have to get it done by noon tomorrow. I should be able to do it way before this and am going
to take the afternoon off since I didn't get this afternoon off.

Even though I didn't get the afternoon off I had a sketch to put in the letter so the sketch I did last week which I forgot to enclose in a letter before this. Your mother, with her knack of naming the pictures I draw, as evident in "The Heritage Can," will probably name this one "The Satire," for it is that humble structure which leads its way into the left hand foreground of the sketch. This will give you an idea of what our tents are like. The lower part of the side is a wall of burlap while the upper part is screening. They have screen doors. The tent in the background, however, has no screening whatsoever. It is one of the few exceptions. Beyond the latrine and not visible in this sketch is the shower room from which Bill, one of the fellows in my tent just emerged clad in a towel, to walk right into the sketch.

I seem to have committed another error when I called that card a Christmas card. It was a birthday card. In it was a picture of you. It was the one with the picture of you on the front. It was a valentine. They were both very nice, too.

Did you check upon those magazine subscriptions? I was just thinking of that today and was contemplating writing a letter to the New Yorker to see if they hadn't gotten something crossed up somewhere. I'll wait to see what you send out though I would like to get some copies of it and also some of the packages you have sent me. I can't understand what is taking them so long. I thought surely I'd get one today.
since a lot of packages came in, but there
was no such luck. They'll probably all come
in a Tance.

Dad is getting along fine now and Mom
says he hasn't been bothered at all for several
weeks now and looks much better. I'm
cure your presence had something to do with
it. I know it would cure anything that
ailed me. It seems that as far as the Maur-
riese family is concerned, you excite the same
desire in all of us. Say this because Mom
said that when you were leaving she wanted
to give you a kiss and a hug, exactly what
my impulse would be, only she couldn't get
up enough nerve. Being given a kiss and
hug by Mom when leaving her, or even
having her want to do that, is a sign that you
have been elected a member of the inner circle
and are henceforth, and for all time, one of
the clan. There's no escape. Darling, you'll have
to reconcile yourself to the idea that I shall
love and cherish you as my wife

Forever.

Freddie