Thursday, January 31, 1945

Good afternoon Sweet Heart;

You surely look more beautiful every time I see you. Will your beauty never cease to grow my darling. Honestly I think you’re the very most beautiful and thrilling person I have ever met and even shall meet. There’s something about your beauty that’s always fresh, new and constantly surprising. I’m a very lucky fellow to have found you. Just think what a calamity it would have been if we never had met. Thankfully glad we did meet and fell in love because now I know my life will be very full when I return to you.

I was just thinking this afternoon of the night we played bridge with John and Peg. At your house and you pulled the right card from under me. You did make me quite angry then but when I looked at you with that black look my mother tells me I flash when I’m mad and when I spoke sharply to you felt sorry right afterward when I looked into your eyes and saw start to fill with tears. You looked just like a very little girl who has just been scolded and is about to lose a flood of tears. I’m not sure whether I kissed you then or not but if I didn’t certainly should have.

In one of your letters you said that you’d like to have the pictures of your grandmother and great grandfather in our living room. I think that’s a very good idea. See your already negotiated the acquisition of the pictures to my Shrewsbury lovely lady. It’s too bad you couldn’t acquire possession of that wedding band while you were about it. Another thing I’d like to have is pictures of your and my mother and father. We’ll have to browbeat them into having their pictures taken.

There’s something which I thought up in my letter to Mom and Dad that I’ll never forget you. Darling, that is the matter of mailing packages out here. I guess you probably
have a good idea of how to do it but here are some suggestions.
Do not use the boxes made of corrugated cardboard, which are
sold especially for overseas mailing, unless you can get nothing
else to pack things in. Tin cans and boxes are nice because they
don’t crush easily. Plywood boxes are also very good although
they’d be hard to get and would probably have to be made. Things should
be packed well with all spaces filled. If you send wine or any other
liquid, it’s a good idea to try to get a screw top can fill the
bottom with a generous layer of sawdust, put the bottle on this,
centered in the can, pack sawdust all around and in top of it and
then screw the top on tight. There should always be a label inside
the package in case the outside label is washed or worn off.
One of these packages are way in the bottom of the hold of a ship
via a mail bag on top of which are piled thousands of other mail bags.
That’s a lot of pressure for a cardboard box to take. Add to
that the fact that there is probably some water on the floor of
the hold and you can see that the packing is quite import-
ant. One of the fellows in my tent happened to mention the subject
of packages from States so I thought I’d give out with some tips.
My packages still have not arrived. They are prob-
ably over there, but judging from the backlog of packages that have
accumulated, I’d say it will be a year before they get them all run
through. Hanson told me that a lot of the APO 11043 packages had
come into the post office today. That’s the one you addressed
over my package to. Maybe it has arrived. The postal clerks are
ever conscientious about getting the packages to us in the best
possible shape. They unwrap those whose paper wrappings
are torn and really do a thorough job of hunting for the least clue
to the identity of the person it is going to in case the address
is lost or obliterated. The percentage of lost packages is just
about negligible although in some cases, as in mine, it takes a
hug of a while get the packages to come through.
There was a cartoon in a New Yorker magazine I saw today which struck me as being quite funny. It's an Annie cartoon. The setting is a lawyer's office. Behind the desk is a lawyer who is leaning toward a voluptuous blonde seated beside his desk. He has an attentive look, she has a baby's arms and is saying, "Well, he didn't really say in so many words that he wanted to marry me." Do you like it, or have you also seen it at one. I can't help it if we're behind the times out here.

That picture you had taken for the Wolverine was quite a nice one. The more I look at it, the better I like it. Your smile seems very natural in it, your eyes creased up the way they always smiled at me. Those eyes look good enough to kiss as you may rest assured they shall be when I return. I like you an awful lot, Darling. Tell that a new blouse you have on in the picture? It reminds me of that dress I like so much on you.

Last night I did a whole lot of work with only two very small mistakes. I typed up about six payroll pages and my only mistake was putting down a 3 for a 5 in one place making a difference of ten cents. In the other I put a number in the wrong column. Both of these errors were easily corrected. Tell the clerk you.

While I am still thinking of the subject of packages, I might add that if when you send the next package you put a couple of cases of some canned food so that you can get without wasting any ration points, I'd appreciate it a lot. Honey, including canned foods or food in airtight containers is one way of ensuring it's safe arrival. Every time I write you it seems that I'm asking you to send me something. If you really want to make me happy you could try to talk th
Postmaster's note letting you be created and sent out here to me. I'd give anything to be with you again, my dearest.

One of the fellows up here is trying to send him a very welcome reminder of himself because he received a letter from her yesterday and on unfolding the letter found a bunch of pubic hairs enclosed. When the first saw them he just exclaimed, "What the hell!" causing the fellows in his tent to look up and see them. One of them recognized what they were almost immediately and the fellow has been taking some good natured kidding since then. He seems rather to enjoy the kidding.

Our shower system resumed normal operation this morning and I was able to go down and just stand under there soaking for about a half hour. It felt very good. In the morning the water is very cool and refreshing. I'd have to shave as soon as I finish this letter. I just shave every other day here. I may look slightly shaggy the second day but I don't think it's too noticeable. Of course when I return to you I promise to shave everyday.

Darling Ernie, I miss you so terribly much. I miss you and love you as much that it actually hurts. The happiest day of my life will be the day when I return to you and have you to hold and to love.

Forever,
Freddie.