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Thursday, January 18, 1945

Good afternoon Sweet Heart;

You surely look more beautiful every time I see you. Will your beauty ever cease to grow my Darling. Honest in Jim Bunny you're the very most beautiful and thrilling person I have ever met and ever 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 ~~cal~~ calamity it would have been if we never had met. I'm awfully 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 Peggy at your house and you pulled the chair out 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 I 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 I certainly should have.

In one of your letters you said that you'd like to have the pictures of your grandmother and grandfather in our living room. I think that's a very good idea. I see you've already negotiated the acquisition of the pictures to my shrewd and 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. Well have to browbeat them into having their pictures taken.

There's something which I brought up in my letter to Mom and Dad that I'd go over for 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 ink 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 in this, centered in the can, pack sawdust all around and on 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. Some of these packages are way in the bottom of the hold of a ship in 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 important. 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 probably over here, 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 my package to. Maybe it has arrived. The postal clerks ^{over} here are very conscientious about getting the packages to us in the best possible shape. They rewrap those whose ~~packs~~ 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 hell of a while for 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 is an Arno 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 in her arms and is saying, "Well no, he didn't really say in so many words that he wanted to marry me." - Do you like it, or have you also seen that one. I can't help it if we're behind the times out here.

That picture you had taken for the Wolverine is quite a nice one. The more I look at it, the better I like it. Your smile seems very natural in it, your eyes crinkled up the way they always smiled at me. Those lips look good enough to ~~eat~~ kiss as you may rest assured they shall be when I return. I like you an awful lot Darling. Is 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 on two very small mistakes. I typed up about six payroll pages and my only mistakes were putting down a $\$$ for a $\$$ 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. I'd be a clerk yet.

While I am still thinking of the subject of packages, I might add that if ~~I~~ when you send the next package you put in a couple of cans of ~~of~~ some canned food that you can get without wasting any ration points, I'd appreciate it a lot Honey. Sending canned foods or food in air tight containers is one way of insuring its 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 the

postmaster into letting you be coted and sent out here to me. I'd give anything to be with you again, my dearest.

One of the fellows wife is trying to send him a very vivid reminder of herself because he received a letter from her yesterday and on unfolding the letter found a bunch of pubic hairs enclosed. When he 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 operations 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'll have to shave as soon as I finish this letter. I just shave every other day out 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 every day so I don't sandpaper your face with my beard.

Darling I miss you so terribly much, I miss you and love you so 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
Reddie