

Friday, Dec. 15, 44

Bunny Darling;

It's very nice to be with you again even if it is only in a letter. I can't think of anyone I'd rather be with and can assure you that my feelings on this score grow stronger daily. You are the most wonderful and lovable creature in the world and I love you and long very much to be with you to show just how very much I do love you. You're very sweet you know!

Each day here is very much like the one before it was and the one after it will be. The only variation comes in the evening when I am able to get back to the 5th Replacement Depot. Last night Hop and I didn't go to the Depot as we had planned. We learned that a colored outfit right near here had a show also, so we saw that instead. The picture turned out to be "This Gun For Hire" with Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake. This made the fifth time I had seen that same picture. I know the dialogue by heart now. It was a good picture though and I still enjoyed it the fifth time. Tonight we're going to try the Depot to see "Hail the Conquering Hero". I've only seen that

once before. It's just a choice of seeing the pictures over or sitting around and going jingle happy - so, since I can ill afford to take any further chances of a mental strain, I choose the lesser of the two evils. I'm quite sure that when I return to you I'll never want to see another movie though, so you'd better get your fill of them now because the Maurice's will be staying in of a night when that day comes, except for sorties to take in an occasional dance and for dining out from time to time. We'll undoubtedly be able to work out some form of amusement to pass away the time in the evening. I might quote a poem by Thomas Craven here:

"The summer hath his joys
And winter his delights.
Though love and all his pleasures
are but toys,
They shorten tedious nights."

Amen

See we have to go to play with Sweetheart, the poem says so. I think that is a very good thought and could not have been better expressed. Agreed?

Our classes on military correspondence are still making progress

3.

in their own ponderous manner. It seems that wars are won and lost on the turn of a comma and the correct parenthesizing of letters and we're learning just how it should be done. It's great fun. They talk about copies in duplicate, triplicate, quadruplicate, quintuplicate and on through the night. I have to start writing my letters in triplicate; one copy for myself, one for the censor and one for you. I number the paragraphs as per Army Regulation you'll be able to make reference to the exact letter and the exact place in the letter without any trouble. The correct military form for a letter from me to you would be:

270th R / COMPANY
5th R / DEPOT

APM

13

15 DEC 44

SUBJECT: Love & all allied materia

TO: My Darling

1. _____

2. _____

Alfred P Maurice
ALFRED P MAURICE
SGT, CASUAL

One of our officers tells us that a fellow he ran across once used to write all his letters to his girl friend using that form. Their interest in one another must have been much more platonic than my interest in you is, he purred as he bared his fangs and claws ~~to~~ to the innocent young maiden. The question of whether or not wolves purr is a moot one as far as I'm concerned. Have you ever heard one purr? Then have you ever heard one not purr? Since you cannot state positively whether or not wolves purr we must go under the assumption that my statement may be correct and that I, or rather the wolf, can purr. You don't really think of me as a wolf do you Darling? And if you did would it make a great deal of difference to you? I'd try to be the nicest wolf you ever knew. Jungle happy? Me? I should say not.

There's a faint whisp of a breeze soothing my bared back at present and it's as welcome as rain in the desert, & as rare. I shudder at the thought that New Guinea summer is just starting, although even if it does get hotter than this it won't make any difference because

5.

after it gets so hot it just doesn't matter any more.

If I continue to play volley ball every afternoon I'll return to you quite bronzed. I'll have to get some shorts though because if not I'll have the appearance of a colored boy dipped in flour to the waist. If I wear the shorts I shall probably look like Taki the Tiger Boy, black above and black below but through the hips a solid band of white. Bring the kiddies, it only costs a nickel to see Taki the Tiger Boy, etc. The atabrine will probably make that a solid band of yellow and make my tan the color of yellow gold, or possibly even leave a mottled appearance. This would be good for camouflage purposes. If sunlight makes me healthy, I should be healthy any way.

Saturday Morning

Good Morning Darling.

Your husband is very stiff and lame this morning and feel as if I'd gotten out the wrong side of several beds.

On our little volley ball game yesterday I nearly crippled myself. Some fellow came charging in from the back court and kned me on the thigh. As a consequence I have a beautiful charley horse which is giving me a very hard

time. I'll probably get over it though and trust that I will soon be back in as good health as anyone on New Guinea could consider himself to be in.

The 270th A.C. and the Depot Post Office have irked me to the point where if I must fight anyone in this war I'd just as soon start in here. In a week and a half the 270th hasn't sent a solitary letter over to us. And all we did was move across the road. I'd gladly go over there to get my mail but when I broached the matter to them I was told in a very aloof tone of voice that that was the post office's work & until I replaced them they'd thank me to go back to where I came from and let them send me my mail. There's absolutely no way to win.

It would seem that I am destined to see every picture in creation before I finally get to see "Hail the Conquering Hero." Last night it turned out that the picture was "Moonlight and Cactus," an Andrews Sisters job which was high lighted by some wonderful playing of the English language by Leo Carillo. An example of this was his introduction

7.

of his right hand man" Chief Ogalla,
famous Indian crapper and scrouch."
in place of trapper and scout. He is always
good for a few laughs.

We are going to be raised beer tonight
and I'm going to let mine sit in a helmet
full of water while I go to the show. This
should cool it off somewhat. I could
really go for a couple bottles of nice
cool Blue Ribbon right out of the refriger-
erator. That or a nice Canadian Club
with ginger ale. We'll have to dispense with
all alcoholic beverages on our honeymoon
because they make you too sleepy to suit
me. You'll have to lie awake all that time,
or the major part of it Bunny, my Darling. We'll
have none of this quaffing a Tom Collins,
~~and~~ thereby giving Morpheus the high
sign to take over. My plans call for
the maximum waking hours since we
have our whole lives to sleep. I'm going
to be an awfully lazy fellow when I get back
home Honey. All I'll ever really want to do
is make love to you, which is a very
praiseworthy thought.

This morning we had a typing
test in which we typed one paragraph
for five minutes to see how much

speed and accuracy we had. I did twenty words a minute and had five errors. This isn't bad for the first week's work I guess. What is starting to screw me up is the fact that we now have to learn the numbers and they require quite a bit of concentration. So far I have 3, 4, 7 & 8 down fairly well. It's a tough fight. At times I feel like St. George with a typewriter dragon and at those times the typewriter must feel right in role because I really pound hell out of it. I'll learn though. Just you wait and see.

My charleyhorse is functioning fairly rationally now, although at times it causes my leg to collapse under me and sends me reeling through a mild version of a d.t. victim pursued by phobic snakes. It is much more limber than it was last night though. All it needs is a little more exercise. I'll try some volleyball this afternoon but god

9.

Bless the guy who runs into me today.

Have you heard any more from Harper about those jobs he thought you could get when you graduated? The only trouble is that if you do get a job you're going to have to give it up when I get back to you because no job is going to interfere with our vacation, Sweet.

Then when I start school again you can get yourself a small job. It wouldn't have to pay much just so we could get a little money saved. We may be able to work it so that you won't have to work at all the last year while I'm working for my master's degree. You could probably help me in gathering my material so we could save still more time. I'm sure it will all work out very nicely.

Have you gotten any further ideas about a car for us to use on our vacation. If you have would you let me know. If you see anything or think of anything that would fill our needs let me know also.

Well, Sweetheart, I'll leave you once again but will be back as soon

as possible. Until then you can con-
sider yourself very thoroughly hugged
and kissed and given

All My Love
Freddie