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 loveable 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 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 jungle 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 night”.

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

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 copious in duplicate, triplicate, quadruplicate, quintuplicate and on through the night. I’ll have to
start writing my letters in triplicate; one copy for myself one for the censor and one for you. If 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 and the exact place in the letter without any trouble. The correct military form for a
letter from me to you would be:

270th/COMPANY

5th R/DEPOT

APM

13

15 DEC 44

SUBJECT: Love & all allied materia [sic]

TO: My Darling

1. ___________

________________

2. ___________

________________

Alfred P Maurice

ALFRED P MAURICE

SGT, CASUAL

-1-

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 [scratched out word] to the innocent young
maidens. The question of whether or not wolves purr is a most one as far as I’m concerned. Have you
ever heard one purr? Then have you ever heard on 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 wisp 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 volleyball 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.

In our little volleyball game yesterday I nearly crippled myself. Some fellow came charging in from the back court and kneed 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 R/Co 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,” and Andrews Sisters job which was high lighted by some wonderful slaying of the English language by Leo Carillo. An example of this was his introduction

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 issued beer tonight and I’m going to let mine set 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 bottle of nice cool Blue Ribbon right out of the refrigerator. 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 be awake all that time, or the major part of it Bunny, my Darling. We’ll have none of this quaffing a Tom Colling, [scratched out word] 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 though.

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

8.
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 charley horse 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 phobiaic [sic] 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 you 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

10.
as possible. Until then you can consider yourself very thoroughly hugged and kissed and given

All My Love

Freddie