

Tuesday 16 September 45

Hq 14<sup>th</sup> AA Command

[15]

APO 75, Frisco

Bunny Sweetheart;

The third day of my stay here has been rather a dismal one. It has rained all day and all I did was stay in the tent, doing a quick sketch of Mac playing chess with one of the Nisei boys in the company. Incidentally, I am learning to play chess. Mac has been teaching me and I find that it is a very interesting game. I lost the first two but was well on my way to winning the third one when a situation, which Mac called stalemate, arose and the game ended without my winning. I had his King completely surrounded so that no matter which direction he moved in I could jump him. I still think that is a hell of a thing to call a tie. I had him all bottle up. Tell me, is that really what constitutes a stalemate? I am still skeptical.

I was rudely awakened last night by rain pouring in through an opening in the top of the tent right down onto my face. I had to get up and move my bunk a couple of yards away from the leak. It was nice and cool last night and I slept well except for this one incident. The rain is hindering my intentions of getting out to the new prison camp.

One of the Nisei boys in the company gave me a set of Jap postcards and a thousand Stitches Good luck belt. This is a sort of silk belly band into which has been sewed by a thousand people. It is for good luck. The boys get all these things from the prisoners as they come in. I think I'll try my hand at

2.

Selling the belt because it has no value to me. It is rather dirty and torn, but some of the souvenir hunters in the Command will probably buy them. Some people go for that stuff.

I sure hope that I have some mail for you back at the barracks when I get back there tomorrow night. I have to go back tomorrow night so I'll be back in time and won't be awol. That would be bad. I'll be back to the grind of the office work. It really was nice to just lie here all day doing nothing except get up to eat. The food here is very good, particularly the pastries. We never have any at the barracks. They had some rolls which just melted in my mouth.

Speaking of food Honey, Mac was asking me today if you were practicing up on your cooking so this give me an excuse to ask you again. I don't ask you this to inseminate that you can't cook well but you have not done too much cooking in your life and you had better [crossed out words] practise [sic] because you are going to have a very hungry man on your hands when I return. Hungry in more ways than one too. You can practise [sic] cooking to appease my hunger for food, but don't do any practising [sic] for the appeasement of my other hungers. That is something you can practise [sic] only with me, and you will get plenty of practise [sic] too Darling. We'll try everything in the books as a start and go on from there on our own. It will be a guard and glorious, as well as a lifelong experiment. A never ending one which shall reveal new pleasures and joys continually.

3.

There are a lot of collaborators here in the prison. At least that is what they are called. Everyone who didn't run off into the hills is looked on as a collaborator and I guess all that is required is for

someone to point an accusative finger at another person and he immediately is picked up as a collaborator. A lot of the girls here seem to be here for a different reason. They claim that the counter Intelligence men tried to make the girls come across and, when they wouldn't, the girls were arrested as collaborators. I saw pictures of some of them and they are nice. Of course there are a lot of girls who were actively collaborating (what a multitude of things that words covers, in the ETO they called it "fraternizing" but it's all the same, in the end) and they seems to have just extended their collaboration to the Americans as readily as they did the Japs. They now have all the women under lock and key so their collaboration these days has been cut down to a minimum.

While on the subject of "the profession", it is a noteworthy fact that all red light districts and houses in the Manila area have been closed. There was too much venereal disease. The only effect this had was that the places are a little harder to find (don't look for them myself, I just listen to the big boys), and raised the prices tremendously. The girls charge anywhere from ten to twenty five pesos now whereas they only charged five pesos previously. The reason I about the prices is that four or five fellows in the barracks solicit a Spanish girl who soaks them twenty pesos for a light helping of sex, and she does make it light. This kind of love on the fly is not for me. I wouldn't care for the idea of having intercourse with a woman I do not love, just rushing in, finding her all laid out, climbing on,

4.

And then running off. I shall save myself for better things, for our marriage bed. Intercourse of the hit and run variety is something quite vulgar, but, as [crossed out words] a part of the true love of a man and woman, it is something very wonderful and elevating. Darling, I long so for the day when we shall share our marriage bed and all my loneliness will vanish, replaced by the fullness and joy of life that can. Come to one only when I am with you.

The rain has driven all the bugs inside and the damned things are trying to eat me alive. Mac sprayed them but they seem to thrive on the stuff he sprayed them with.

Kaye was telling me of his girl-friend who is going to MSC. Her name is Betty Cherin. I don't know if you know her or not. She's a junior or senior from Maskegon. Kaye and another fellow who knew you were very much surprised to find that you had graduated from College and that you were 21 years old (you are 21 aren't you Honey?) They said they thought you looked to be about sixteen but that they gave you the benefit of the doubt and figured you might be about eighteen. They really thought I was a cradle robber. It wasn't strange that the fellow on the ship I came over on though you were my daughter. It wasn't so much that I looked old, as it was the fact that you look so young. You'll have to carry your birth certificate and our wedding license wherever we go so people will believe us and won't try to pick me up for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile.

Well Darling, it is getting quite late and I shall have to leave you now to go to bed. Take good care of yourself Honey because

I love you with all my heart and soul

Freddie -