

Sunday 9 September 1945

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Hq 14th AA Command

APO 75, Frisco.

Sweetheart;

Wow! I should not have spoken so soon about not burning in the sun. I do, definitely. It all came about when I went to see Mac and the boys today. Gene Goldfader and another fellow who was at MSC – his name is Ed Ryan – were there also, they had thumbed their way you. We had a nice bull session till time to eat, then, after we ate, we went out and played a couple of hours of volleyball. I played on the team opposite Gene and Mac and our team won 6 games to their one. I gave them quite a riding too. It was a lot of fun, but between the sun and the wind – there was a big wind blowing all through the game – I managed to get pretty well burned. A few more days like this and I will have a darned good tan. As soon as I'm able to get out and play volleyball regularly I will get in good shape to go back to you. I will have to do some exercise to get in condition. I'll have to develop my endurance in preparation for our vacation.

After that we had a can of beer, cooled off a little, and then went down for a swim. We showered and went in the water and were having a very good time when I got another example of the disturbingly contradictory code of morals around here. Three girls came down with three Filipino boys, all with their bathing suits in hand and fully dressed. They got out on the grass and very nonchalantly disrobed completely and donned their bathing suits. I was running a fever, and that was not all that was up either. It was the first time in quite a while that I have run up against the FIGURE, FEMALE, NUDE and it was disturbing as hell. Well, to get on with my story about the con-

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tradictory nature of their morals, after they had had their fill of swimming they got out of the pool and went over to the showers, outdoor affairs with no screen around them at all, and they took showers soaping themselves well – only, here the question of morals came up and it seems that their moral code specifies that they must take showers with their clothing on, because so help me they soaped and showered without taking the bathing suits off. Then they walked over to their clothes, took off the bathing suits, dried themselves with towels and dressed. By this time I think the water around me must have been coming to a slow boil.

Another illustration of the mores here was evidences when some boys came down to the pool to swim just before the girls decided to leave the pool. I guess the ages of the boys ranged from eight to fifteen. All those from eight to about twelve went in the water mother – naked, but the 12 to 15 group wore trunks. It seems that here, instead of the boys looking forward to being old enough to wear long pants, they just look forward to wearing pants period.

With it all though, these people are very happy with their lot, something which can rarely be said of anyone in civilized America. They don't have very much but they enjoy what they have got. That is one great trouble with most people, they are so busy acquiring things that they never have time to enjoy them. We want to live a life of being happy and not one of racing ourselves as fast as we can toward the end of our lives. I just want to do some kind of work that I like and which you can share in

with me, as an art critic and aide de camp in our case, it does not matter whether we make a lot of money or not, as long as we get along and are happy. I want to find the secret of happiness and want you to be with me in the experiment. You are the only one who will do for the part. That will

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be one priceless gift we can hand on to our children. It is worth much more than money or any other things of the world which constitute material wealth. I think the only way to find true happiness is to just be happy and to the things you like to do. You can't find it by hunting for it. Darling, Darling, you don't know how very much you made me realize how dear you are to me when you told me in one of your last letters that you wanted me to do the kind of work I like best no matter how little money I made. Darling, if I had not already decided to marry you, that would have cinched the deal. I have always had an overpowering fear of marrying an ambitious woman who would want me to make a lot of money regardless of whether I liked the work I was doing. A serial climber. You are just the type of girl I had always hoped for but feared I would never find. Now that I have found you, sweet Darling, you can be sure that you shall never escape me now. You are much too precious to me.

I'll have to go to bed now Honey because I'm so sleepy I can hardly hold my head up. I got hardly any sleep last night because of guard, and the exercise just about woke me up. As tired as I am, I don't think I shall have such a dream as that of last night, but I hope at least to be able to keep my nightly dream date with you on our favorite cloud.

Monday Morning-

Good morning Darling! I don't know why I say good morning because it is raining, has been raining all night, and I have had very little sleep. My shoulders are just tender enough to give me a hard time and I couldn't really get to sleep all night. I'm awfully sorry I kidded you about your burn and told you that I never burned. At least I do not blister – here I am knocking wood.

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I am thinking very seriously of trying to be sent up to San Marcelino on temporary duty for a few days. I could just loaf around and do a lot of sketching up there. It would be a nice vacation. That part of the island is much more picturesque than this. It would do me good to get away from here for a while. If I am not successful at this, I shall try to get a three day pass and spend it at the prison with Mac. There's a small village right near there which would be ideal for sketching – and there is Lagime de Bai right nearby which is a large lake about five feet deep at its deepest point. It seems that it should be very deep because it covers so much territory, but it can almost be walked across from what the natives say. I will have to get out and do a lot of sketching though because I'm getting rusty as the devil. I may settle for the pass to be spent with Mac because I know that neck of the woods and have seen many things there which I'd like to sketch.

Mac is supposed to come into town this Thursday to go to the Symphony with Gene, Ryan and I. I hope he can make it. He hasn't been into Manila in about two months. I can see his point but I hope he does get in this week. I've got to try to get some tickets for the thing.

Gene is going to work trying to get me some education manuals to study. He is in I+E work and can get the things. I can do some studying on my own that way. I'm going to get a collection of English

literature "From Beowulf to Thomas Hardy" as a starter. It is a four volume job which covers the subject of English literature quite thoroughly. I have perused several copies so far and it is very complete.

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I think there is going to be one more, a final, issue of the "Command Car". The fellows were talking about it yesterday. If we do, I'm going to do some cartoons for it. It should be fun. Shades of MSC.

While on the subject of MSC yesterday someone brought up the subject of some of the stories one of the people used to tell – Prof. Mariotti was his name. There was one which was brought to mind; it concerned the young maid who worked in an art connoisseur's home. She was dusting the bric a brac and came to a statue of a nude David who had been endowed with the apparatus in repose – i.e. [drawing of male parts] She accidentally broke off the penis in her dusting and became quite alarmed, afraid that she would be fired if it was discovered by the boss. She decided that she would glue it back on and the boss would never know the difference so she stuck it back on. She made a mistake, however and stuck it on upside down thusly: [drawing of male parts]. The minute the boss came in, he noticed this and immediately called her in. She came in and very tearfully told him what had happened. He told her he could understand why she would try to hide the breakage but asked her why she ever glued the penis on that way. She answered, "Do you mean it goes on another way? All those I have seen were as I glued it on. Rather crude I'll admit but I thought it was amusing.

It was darned nice to have that get together Sunday. We managed to drink up a lot of Mac's beer and play a little bridge too. Ryan and I were partners but did not do too well. Gene and Mac got one 5 no trump hand which really knocked us for a loop. Ryan and I each had one face card, both of them jacks.

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I was just payed and find that they are getting closer all the time. This month they only overpaid me 15 pesos. I think I know where the discrepancy came in though, I think they forgot to take out two \$7.50 allotments for bonds. All it means is that I shan't get the bond – the government is not losing money, and I'm not. It's just that I have the money here instead of at home in a war bond. I have paid off all my debts and still have 38 pesos left. That will last out the month very easily, especially since I have outstanding orders for about 50 pesos worth of cartoons and envelopes. That should carry me through very well with enough left over to get some things such as a purse and a luncheon set.

Congratulate me Sweetheart! I finally made it! This evening, I and about fifty other fellows assembled in very solemn conclave in the mess hall, there was a hush over the whole crowd when the battery commander strode in, drawing everyone to his feet and to attention. Curtly permitting us to be seated he got right to the business at hand – the awarding of the good Conduct medal. He told us how sorry he was that it could not be awarded with the ceremony that it deserved but he had not found out in time to award it to us Saturday at the grand ceremony which was held to award a Purple Heart and a dozen good conduct medals. He then went on to tell us that Commands Relly had just about every decoration in the books – except the good conduct medal which he was not entitled to since he Snafued at Camp Edwards and went AWOL. (I'll bet the poor guy is eating his heart out because he didn't get the

good conduct medal). After all the speech making, we were called up one by one, had our hand shaken by the battery commander, and were handed the little red and white ribbon.

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I don't know what I'll do with the damned thing. I could follow that fellow's advice and wear it on my fly, because I have certainly earned it there. I've been a good boy. A painfully good boy Darling, but you can rest assured that I will make up for it when I return to you. [scratched out word] You are the only reason I have been a good boy. I just think forward to the time when we shall be together and decide that it is well worth waiting, and that I should wait if I expect you too – "what's sauce for the goose, etc." I don't imagine you want me getting into other women any more than I'd want any man fooling around with you, and Darling, I just can't bear to even think of that ever happening. I know it won't and am glad that I have a wife whom I don't have to have any qualms about. I know that there are many men who would undoubtedly like to make a very beautiful girl like you, but I also know that you love me very much and will be waiting for me when I return. I wish I could tell you adequately what it means to a fellow to have a girl like you to love and be loved by. Loving you, there are no worlds I couldn't conquer, no dragons I could not slay, and nothing I couldn't do for you. It's a wonderfully uplifting feeling Darling; it boosts me miles up into the clouds, the only thing that holds me down to earth now is the realization that I am, and shall be for some time to come, away from you. When we're together Darling we'll have to dust off our cloud because it shall be our permanent residence for our lifetime.

How are they coming along on our prospective home at MSC? I hope they have it ready for next year so we will be able to move in there. It would be very nice if they had a cafeteria right in the building. That would save you a lot of work cooking meals. We could have an occasional

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home cooked meal but, if you are going to work while I go to school, it would be nice to have a cafeteria right there for us to eat at. Just in case it isn't finished by then, you want to keep an eye out for a regular apartment that we could get, either furnished or unfurnished. We could furnish a [scratched out word] two or three room apartment quite easily. It will be very nice to have a nice place of our own.

It's time to go to bed once more my Darling so I shall give you a nice big hug and kiss and leave you for now to dream of when I shall be with you

Forever.

Freddie