

Wednesday 15 August 1945

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Hq 14th AA Command

APO 75, Frisco

Good Morning Darling;

It is my turn to say that I am sorry that I did not write last night. Instead, I held a little V-J day celebration of my own, in the company of several other fellows of course. We went to the – how did you know we went to the Esmeralda – yes to the Esmeralda. I got rather tight so if you too can hear the little men pounding out their anvil chorus on my occipital lobe, do not be alarmed and think that you are hearing things which are not there because I can assure you that the little b-----s are there all right. I suppose I should be thankful that I did get slightly ill last night and got some of that horrible liquor (?) out of my system. I am on the wagon once more though Honey so you needn't worry about having to nurse me through a case of the DTs when I get back. I just couldn't resist celebrating when I had something that good to celebrate about.

Of course the news has not been corroborated by any US or Allied sources but I took Radio Tokyo's announcement as being authentic. After all, they should know what they are doing. That is the best news ever. I feel very civilianish already as if the yoke of oppression is already starting to lift itself from off my shoulders. It is a wonderful feeling.

It is raining to beat the devil here right now. I am on CQ today and got here early and escaped the heavy part of the storm which is beating down on us now. The rood still leaks as much as ever and everything is wet and messy. What a place. Better I should be home in a nice warm bed with you as I shall be as soon as I can get home, which I hope will be very soon. There is where I belong, curled up right beside you, with your head on my shoulder. It is very nice to think about Honey, especially now that the war is over and I know that it will not be years before these dreams come true. I hope that I am home in March so we can celebrate my birthday married. Then the honeymoon to last until school starts. Mmm – mmm!

2.

I am embarked on one of the most ambitious projects of my stay here. It is an aerial perspective of a land area, a picture which is to illustrate one of the things the officers are working on. So far it is coming along fine and I hope nothing happens to it. It did almost get soaked this morning but I managed to salvage it in time.

Noontime

This is it Darling! It is authentic this time and it is all over but the shouting, and of course the sweating it out until I can get home again. That is the important thing. I din't [sic] know just where the rumor started, but one of the fellows said that he heard that the critical point score would be lowered to 44 points. If he is right, and I hope he is, that will be one of the nicest things that ever happened to me because I have exactly that number of points. The fellow who told me that did not know how many points I had before he told me either so it was not a story fabricated merely for myself. I just can't get myself to believe that it is really true and that I won't wake up to find that I have just dreamed the whole thing. It is true though and we are once more at peace.

No mail from you again today. I hope that I get some tonight because I do so want to hear from you. I thought it would be a little while before I got any more letters from you because the last two got here in just six days.

No overhanging malady is on the wane now thank god. For a while this morning I was not feeling at all well. I had to leave early to go eat so I left just a little earlier than usual so I could lie down and rest a few minutes before going to eat, this did me a world of good.

The band was over to serenade us this morning and played quite a few selections. There was a general festive mood in the air and everybody was very happy. We heard the news just after I finished the first part of this letter and started to work, that would be yesterday afternoon your time. There is thirteen hours difference in the time here and in Lansing. We are always a day ahead of you.

3.

I bought you some shoes this morning Honey. I will send them to you as soon as I can find something to pack them in. I think they are rather nice. They are the only ones I have seen that I did like. I take that back because I did see some that I liked but they were all too [sic] small. The ones I got were a size five but I was assured by Hoppy that they would fit you all right if you wore a size six. It seems that they are all slightly larger than the size marked on them. I am going to check up on those luncheon sets I told you about and will get one of them if they have the ones I saw the last time I was in town. They are very nice and as I told you, the patterns are all very nice. I am not going to bother getting any outwork because we will be able to get that in the States after the war much more reasonably than I can get it now. I haven't seen any of these luncheon sets in the States though and like them so I shall get one.

MSC made the news today. There was an article about the freshman swim team which won the NAAU title. They must have a very good team. It seemed good to see something about the old place. There was quite a reunion of all MSC men here before I got here. Mac and the boys were busy moving when the party was thrown and could not go. Gene Goldfader and one of the other fellows who are here with another outfit, were able to go and they said that it was a very gals affair and that everyone had a very good time. It seems that one of the fellows, a Filipino, here in Manila, is a graduate of MSC and he was the one who made the arrangements. I wish I could have gotten in on that.

Kowalchuk and I are going down tonight to register for courses in the Philippine Institute. I think that instead of taking the art course I shall settle for courses in photography and possibly Tagalog. I do enough art work during the day and am afraid that, if I started to take classes in it at night, it would be too much. The photography course will be a good one because I want to be able to take some good photos on our honeymoon and if I find out how to go about it they should turn out much better. The course will probably be one which is concerned mainly with the theory and the mechanics of the job. It will be fun taking our own pictures and developing them. We will have so many things to do when we are together

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and we will have a whole lifetime to do them in. Of course a lifetime is all too short but we will make the most of it and crowd just as much happiness into it as we can, and that will be an awful lot Darling.

I saw something which amused me yesterday. There were a lot of little kids playing around here and they all seemed to have balloons. I was curious to find out where they got them because I did not think there were any to be had around here when I discovered that what they had were some "rubbers" some of the fellows must have given them to play with. They made very good substitutes for the real thing.

One of the fellows here in the office is having a hell of a time. He has been on a job in here for about eight months and all that time he has handled all the work by himself. At the present time he has two officers on the work with him and they are driving him crazy. He has most of the stuff down to the point where he needs a minimum of paper work to his job and still he knows it inside out. The trouble comes in because the officers are trying to get everything down an [sic] paper and are worrying the devil out of him wanting him to make graphs, charts, etc. They are trying to revise the whole thing. The poor guy comes over to our drafting section tearing his hair out.

I am going to end this now Sweetheart because I want to get it in the afternoon mail. I guess that in a few days there will be no more censorship. It will seem strange not to have anyone reading my letters to you. Goodbye now Darling. I love you with all my heart and am looking forward only to the day when we shall be together again for

Always.