

Tuesday 20 March 1945

14 AA Comd

APO 322 Frisco

[87]

Bunny Darling;

Aint [sic] it a hell of a world? Here I am way down on this side of the earth and there you are way up on the topside when we should be together occupying as exactly the same area as is physically possible.

I just drew an Easter card which on fellow wanted me to do for him. I drew a picture of a chapel, jungle style, peopled with worshippers. There was no back ground at all, just the chapel in color and below it the words "Happy Easter" in scroll. It was quite nice looking. I didn't realize that Easter was so very close until this fellow asked me to do the card. I'll have to find out just when it is.

My friend from Oklahoma moved out of the tent tonight. There was a vacancy in the next tent so he moved right out. It's just as well because he was getting on the nerves of all the rest of us in the tent. Another one of the boys from clerk's school is moving in in his place. His name is Beadle and he's a pretty good

2.

skate. He's an Indiana fellow in his early thirties.

We had some fun with Duffy today. He's another member of our tent and hails from New York. He is a private and proud of it. At least he was a private until today. I found out that he was being made a private first class which, after five years in the army, isn't much of a rating. I got some pfc stripes at the supply room and laid them all out on his bunk, then I laid one of his shirts on the bed, tacked one of the stripes on the sleeve with needle and thread and let it lay there for him to discover. We've been having a lot of fun accusing him of having gotten the stripes himself and [scratched out word] starting to sew them on right away. He was called stripe happy and it was really funny listening to him trying to explain to us that he wasn't responsible. He still doesn't know who put them there.

Finally I saw the general. He seems like a darned nice fellow and is about as far from what I expected a general to be as he possibly could be. He's rather stocky and about my height, a little shorter if anything.

3.

He is very pleasant and talks to everyone. The past two days he played [scratched out word] baseball and he has a very nice whip throw – he plays second base. It was slightly muddy this afternoon as the result of a little rainstorm and one of the fellows who saw the first part of the game says that the general went sliding into a base in this mud. Everyone speaks very well of him. I had always pictured generals as being extremely stuffy and [scratched out word] aloof. This one is like one of the boys though.

The Red Cross pulled a fast one on us today and had tea instead of coffee when I went down there for my mid morning snack. They didn't even have anything to eat with it. Yesterday morning they had pumpkin pie and I had a handful – I mean that quite literally too. It had a soggy crust and was the kind of pie made in a large square tine, net result was a very squishy mittful [sic] of pie. This morning they didn't even have that.

Oh, Oh! Here comes that cloud to carry me off to you another night so I'll close and hop on it. Goodnight Sweet Heart.

4.

Wednesday

I hadn't mailed this letter so I thought I'd enlarge on it and make it the letter of two days, instead of one.

Today wasn't a bad day all things considered. It was raining fairly hard this morning so we didn't have to stand reveille. I slept till after 7:00 AM and loved every minute of that extra sleep. Since it had rained, and the sky remained overcast all day, it was much cooler than usual. Almost comfortable.

I just happened to think that today is the first day of fall. Of course up where you are it is now spring but our seasons, if you could say that we had any such thing's here, are reversed. It seems that the only difference between spring and summer, and fall and winter, out here is that the two first mentioned seasons are hot and dry and the last two are hot and wet. It would be nice to be home to see the spring in with you. To see the grass growing green, the trees budding, flowers shooting up,

5.

and you so beautiful that you turn my fancy.

In yesterday's paper "Guinea Gold" there was an article telling why men marry. There were five or six reasons which I will try to recall:

1. Comforts – a man likes to have good meals, and have someone to sew on buttons and darn socks.
2. Sex – he wants an outlet for his passion.
3. Pride – he likes a wife because he can be proud of being seen with her just the same reason he wants a new car or a new house.
4. Respectability – the solid citizen should be a married man.
5. Love – Some men marry because they love the women.

Meet one of the "some men" in that last reason Darling. That comes first if any reasons I may have for marrying you. I believe it's the very best of reasons for marrying you.

I got a new book to read today. It is "Country Lawyer" by Bellamy Partridge. I have not yet started it but [scratched out word] looks as though it would be good from the quick looking through I gave it. Along with it I got Rosemary and

6.

Stephen Vincent Benet's "Book for Americans", a collection of their poems [scratched out word] on American historical characters and occasions. It's rather light but extremely catchy poetry. About the

only one of his works which I didn't care for was a novel of his which I read once, the name of which I have since forgotten. Karth has the Sholem Asch novel "The Apostle" which I have after he finished with it. It's quite long but I think I'll like it and want to read it. How did you like "Forever Amber". I'm very much surprised that Mother lets you read such stuff. From what I hear it is quite Anthony Adversish. It just ain't [sic] decent and proper that's what. There's a copy of it floating around the company somewhere and I'll have to try to snag it one of these days to see just what it's all about.

It has been a couple of days since I received a letter from you. I hope it hit the jackpot tomorrow. It's about time for some of the packages you sent to be catching up to me also.

7.

Duffy has asked me to do a sketch on an envelope for him so I did one which he has not yet seen and which will raise his blood pressure up to its limits. It is a picture of Herman sitting on a chair sewing pfc stripe on his shirt while around him on the floor are the implements essential to sewing: scissors, thread and a thimble. He'll really have a fit when he sees it.

I have to leave you now Honey because it's almost time for lights out be a good girl and go right straight to bed. I'll meet you in our nightly dream date. I love you so terribly much dear Darling Bunny. Always remember that no matter how far away we are I am always thinking of you and loving you. Good night.

Thursday Morn.

Good Morning my lovely,

Ho! Hmm! I am still quite sleepy. I had to get up for reveille this morning because the rain didn't last long enough for reveille to be called off. It was a good thing I did

8.

fall out too because there was a roll call for a change and many of the boys, about half of the battery in fact, were caught with their pants down, or if you would be more literal, with their blankets up. They'll probably be put on a detail after hours or get another reprimand as I did the last time they held a roll call and I wasn't there.

It really rained last night. One of those driving tropical storms which you read about and see in movies. The rainy season is here. The rain work me up once and I am quite thankful for it because, when it wakened me, I was in the process of being led to a stake by a few Indians while others were getting a nice bonfire ready. I'm quite sure that the last poem I read last night in that Book by the Benets was responsible because the poem was titled, "The Indian". I really spent a hectic dream until the rains came to waken me. Perhaps, had the dream lasted longer, you would have appeared Pocahontas – like to snatch me from the flames and force me – as if force would be needed, to wed you.

9.

We played a little rummy this morning, Duffy, Kowalchuk and I, and I broke even. I lost to Kowalchuk and I, and I broke even. I lost to Kowalchuk and then turned around and, in three hands of two handed rummy with Duffy, I won back exactly what I had lost. My luck is always very good when I play Duffy.

My shower clogs have just about seen their last days. The toes of them are all broken up and the wood quite rotten. One of the straps just broke so I had to do a little improvisation with a shoelace. I just hope they last me till I get up to the Philippines where I can get new ones.

Our Navy is up to its old tricks again I see. They went in after the Jap fleet again this week end and from all reports they did a heck of a lot of damage. I hope they can keep those blows coming hard and fast so we can end this war over here very soon and I can get back to you. That last sentence expresses the only ambition I have in the world. Just to get

10.

back to you and start out on our married life. I must leave you now Honey asking you to remember always that

I love you my Darling

Freddie