

Tuesday 7 August 1945

Hq 14th AA Command

APO 75, Frisco

Darling;

Here I am again with another days' work behind me. I didn't really do an awful lot of work because I had the morning off and had to leave the office early this afternoon to get ready for guard mount. The futures of war.

Today is an epic day in the history of mankind. Man has finally learned how to harness the atom and used this power today for the first time – to kill his fellow man. Yessir, it's a great little world. If it had not been for the mad race to kill other men, this secret would probably have remained a mystery for many decades at least. It seems such a shame that this much work cannot be done on peacetime enterprises. This bomb, if it is everything the news reports say, is really a terrible weapon. It may be the straw which will break the camels back, at the very least it will be a heavy load of straws added to an already staggering load. They were unable to tell how much damage it did but will probably revel this tomorrow. I hope it does help end the war. Enough of the war though, Ill now go on to other things.

My sketching went very well this morning and I just about completed the sketch I started the other day. There were a lot of distractions to interrupt my work. Felipe and Rodolfo, plus some of the other kids I was surrounded with the other day came along again and watched my work. I wish I could have gotten some candy to give them.

After they left a colored boy come along and started talking with me. He was quite an interesting character and was with an outfit that had been in Italy from the Armio campaign on. His comment on the Italian people was classic. He said of them, "those paesanos, there's a people that really lives, "a very apt summary of the characteristics I have seen exhibited by the paesanos

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I have run across. He said that the black market here is nothing compared to the one in Rome where cigarets bought ten dollars a carton (army brand), and a GI blanket was worth twenty dollars (they made overcoats from them). He got a lot of souvenirs from the homes of the Fascist big shots, including a couple of brass statuettes, some silverware, and two flags, the German and Italian flags taken from a Fascist club in Pisa. He was joined in his conversation by a couple of other fellows from his outfit who reminisced about the places they had been to, and brought out photos to show me what they looked like. They were interesting fellows to speak with.

I just returned from the cinema where I saw the picture "Bewitched", a [scratched out word] picture concerning a girl with a split personality whose worse half talked her into murdering the fellow she loved. They made it sound as though a person with a split personality were a one in a million occurrence. It was definitely "B" grade stuff.

It is now my bedtime so I'll have to leave you again Darling. Bedtime just won't seem right until I am with you again and have you as my bedmate. That is what I want and what I need. Goodnight now Darling.

Wednesday

It is Wednesday afternoon and I am standing CQ waiting for the fellow who is supposed to relieve me. One of the fellows had an afternoon off and had CQ also, so I decided to stay here for a half hour so he won't have to come back. I may want a favor someday so I may as well do this. The ulterior motive, always.

You have probably noted the fact that the ink is now black instead of blue. I am using some of Daley's reserve supply which he invited me to make use of. It is Sheaffer's Skrip but it's just like any other ink, it does not improve my writing a bit. I think my handwriting is getting worse instead of better. I'll have to buy one of the cheap fountain pens they sell at the PX, if and when they

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Get any. I'm getting a case of beer this evening, for a price of course. It is the case I missed out on the last month I was at Finsch. It was considerate of them to make it up. That means I'll have a grand total of 48 bottles of beer for the month. Not bad at all. I am becoming quite a beer drinker.

The weather today has really been bad. It was hot as [scratched out word] blazes at noon and my prickly heat went to town on my arms. The medics put some Calamine lotion on it and I had to work with my sleeves rolled up while it dried. Only it didn't dry. I kept perspiring all the time and the stuff just didn't dry. I finally got a cloth and wiped the biggest part of it off. It is cooling off now and looks as if we're in for a storm. I hope it holds off till I get back to the barracks.

The barracks is quite an evil smelling place right now. They just sprayed it with the new DDT that they use to combat mosquitos. It should make the barracks a little more comfortable by eliminating some of the swarms of the mosquitos who are with us nightly. I guess it will be available for civilians after the war. We'll have to take some along on our vacation because I hate being bothered by mosquitos, especially when I'm doing something interesting. And I do intend to be doing something very interesting on our vacation. Do you?

The big subject of conversation now is the new atomic bomb. Everyone is speculating on the effect it will have on Japanese resistance, and whether Japan will heed our new warning to sue for peace within 48 hours or be totally destroyed. The more stories that come out on it, the more potent a weapon it seems. If we have them in mass, there are no limits to the damage which could be wrought with them in even a 24 hour period. They only weigh 400 pounds and are therefore light enough to be carried by even our fighter planes. With the thousands of

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planes we have, we could drop any number of the bombs that we wanted to. It is really something that staggers the imagination and should be a sharp open for the cause of international peace. It seems that, if man advances much farther on the path of development of war weapons, the next war should see the end of humanity. I suppose this was said many times before, after the invention of the gun, the airplane bomb, the submarine etc, but this is something on such a colossal scale.

Another article of note in the paper was one stating that Congress now seemed to be against the compulsory military training program advocated by the army. It seems that Congress is getting very impatient with the army's policies, this is undoubtedly due in large part to the politicians ability to smell

the currents of public opinion and hasten to follow them. I was, as I believe I told you before, against the idea of compulsory military education. One of the ideas I do support is getting quite a boost now, and that is the establishment of a large research bureau for all sciences sponsored by the government or at least partly supported by the government. To supplement this as a means of national preparedness, I think the government should subsidize education and set up national educational standards instead of the state handled educational programs. These would be much better than compulsory training. Oh yes, another thing that should be done is for the government to set up a health insurance plan to help raise national health standards. I suppose all this is socialism. If we want to raise standards of health and education we must do it through national agencies because they are the best equipped and the only ones who could do it on a country wide basis. There I go, reforming the world again.

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Back to the blue ink again. I'm in the barracks now and am going to finish this letter and then go to bed. I had thought to do to the show this evening but it rained a little and I didn't want to chance getting caught in a downpour again. I have had enough of tropical rainstorms for a while. They are all right if you are inside when they chance past but are not all right if you are caught outside in them.

Tomorrow is my afternoon off and if I can, and the weather is nice, I'm going to take a stab at getting down to Mac and the other boys. I think Maynard is there with him. I hope [I] can get there. I'll have to see if I can get off a little early in the morning because it's a long trip.

This evening I got myself a fan from the PX. It is a small straw fan which should come in handy at work because there isn't breath of air stirring in the office, especially since they started walling off sections to make rooms. That damned office is the worst hot box I ever worked in. I ruin my freshly starched shirts just sitting there doing nothing. It's very discouraging.

I noticed today that the Philippine Institute is offering courses free to GIs. There are a lot of courses offered and I'm going to investigate. There are courses in photography and in art which should be interesting. I'd have to go into town a couple of nights a week for the classes but it should be well worth it. I'm going to check up on it tomorrow morning and get a list of the courses offered. The next semester doesn't start for over a week yet. Back to school once more. It won't do me any harm to keep up the habit of studying because when I get back I'll be doing a lot of studying for a couple of years. It won't be all work though, I can assure you of that. There will be a lot of play. We can't afford to let Jack become a dull boy, but will have to give them a lot of play.

Your scheme of getting matched shorts and shirts for us on our vacation sounds good to me. People might think we were twins though, or don't you think we look enough alike; or they may think, as one fellow did when I showed him

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your picture, that you are my daughter. Seriously though Sweetheart, I think it would be very nice. Mmmm!! You'd look lovely in a T shirt or even in a sweat shirt. In fact you'd look lovely in or out of anything you ever chose to wear. Do you still think you'd like to have a suit made for yourself to match one of mine? It will be so very nice to get back to civilian life, be with you, and be able to wear civilian clothes again. Whether you wanted to or not, you'd still have to help me pick out my clothes because that is one thing I cannot do very well. I have poor color taste because I can't distinguish between the

grays, greens, and blues that usually go to make up the male animals' wardrobe. I always end up by buying a dark blue suit. On the other hand, I know what I like you in so I want a hand in the selection of your wardrobe.

While I'm on the subject of clothes for our vacation, I want to bring up another subject which has to do with our vacation. The more I think of it, the better an idea I think it is for us to buy the car from your mother and father. By the time I get back there'll be new cars but the prices will probably be quite high and they'll be the pre war model cars. It would be practically impossible to get one and that goes for used cars too because the returning GIs will all be grabbing them up and the prices there will be sky high. If we buy the car from your mother and father, we can get it at a reasonable price and we can keep it a few years until the post war boom dies down and can then get another car. My friend Hoppy says that he'll teach me to drive in one of the jeeps we have here. Of course there's a lot of difference between a jeep and a regular car but at least I'll have the rudiments of driving and will have little trouble with a regular car – I hope.

I told you didn't I that Harry Zeiser went to the hospital yesterday. He had dysentery and, I believe, a touch of dysentery. He had a fever of 102+ the day before yesterday and they confined him to quarters. He had to go back to the medics yesterday morning and they sent him right to the hospital.
Bob Neumann

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and I are going up to see him tomorrow night if I get back from visitting [sic] Mac in time.

There was no letter from you today. I had rather expected one but we only had one mail call and so - no letter today. The days without letters are very blue ones always. You won't forget to send me those pictures you took as soon as you can will you Honey. I'm very anxious to get them and to see how they came out. And remember, I want all of them. Don't omit any because you don't think you like them too well. It shouldn't take more than a week to get them back I hope. I know that, if the film shortage is as acute as they say, the people who develop and print them should be able to give very rapid service since they have very little work.

It seems that I am about the last person up in the barracks. All the others have retired. About four of the fellows in here have dysentery and several have a mild touch of diaorrhoea. [sic] I don't know what is the matter but I just thank my lucky stars that it has not bothered me. I knock wood as I say this.

It isn't quite 10:00 o'clock yet but I think I'll leave you to shower and then go to a lonely bed which I hope you shall help me fill in a dream. I'll be waiting for you Darling.

I love you,

Freddie

Thursday Morn

Don't you dare take a job at which you have to commit yourself to work for any period of time. At the rate the war is moving now I may be home much sooner than I had ever anticipated, in fact it may be that my 25th birthday next March may be celebrated with you as my wife. We just got the news of

Russia's declaration of war against Japan. This, coming as it does, on the heels of the revelation of the atomic bomb may be the final straw I mentioned at the [scratched out word] beginning

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of the letter which will break the camels' back and bring about a surrender. If not, I still don't see how Japan can last out the year. Isn't it wonderful Darling. Hope with me that I can be back with you soon and rest assured that I love you with all my heart and shall

Always.

Freddie