

Sunday 22 July 1945

[75]

14th AA Command

APO 15, Frisco

Bunny Darling;

I finally got some mail again, one letter from Mom and two from you. I got some very good news in Mom's letter. Arthur is home at last. I'm so glad to hear this. I wish I were there too. He said, in the note he enclosed in Mom's letter, that he was going into town to buy some civilian clothes and forget all about the army. He was discharged right away. Pauline promptly dragged him off to a night club and I gather that they had a very nice time. Arthur did say that he had to register for the draft to, [sic] but he added that they had better not try to get him back in or they'd have a bit of trouble. It made me very homesick reading his letter. I missed him all around. I got to New Guinea just after he had left for Leyte, then I got up in the Philippines just after he had left for home. Now I hope that I follow him home in as short as time as I followed him up here. That would be nice, very nice.

Sorry I left you honey but since writing the first paragraph of this letter I have played a rubber of bridge and sketched a fellow's portrait. We played with the same partners we had the other night Harry Zeiser and Bob Neumann versus Gomer Van Forsen (Van to you) and I. The last time they beat the devil out of us but tonight we won 1440 to 930. I got the bid quite a few times and made a couple of boners but on the whole. I didn't do too badly and made most of my bids. Where we really piled up points was on the last hand where we bid three hearts, they doubled us and van redoubled them. I played the hand and just made it. I was quite proud of that hand too because I played it just right. I would have heard about it if I hadn't because the hand before that I had pulled a boner.

The portrait I did turned out quite well too. It was one of the fellows here who is from Worcester Mass. I had to tell some of the other fellows, who wanted portraits done, that I couldn't do them because I'll be quite busy

2.

with the cartoons for quite a while. I finally got the master sketches for the ten cartoons and have started production. I did eight of them in a couple of hours this afternoon and think that, after I get into the swing of it, I'll [scratched out words] be able to better than that. I did a few new ones which you will get in the course of the next few days. I think they will make a very good collection. If I can ever get any time off here I'll have to take a trip around to get some new ideas for cartoons. I had planned to go into town, walk around and maybe take another whack at finding Mac and the boys, then we suddenly discovered that we would have to come back this afternoon, one of the officers here seems to have gotten a brainstorm and its result was that we worked Sunday afternoon. I hear that the officer is going on a little trip so maybe we'll have a little peace in here for a while. He is the most descriptive influence in the whole office. Things went very well before he got in here. I don't see why some people have to be so damned downright hateful as that, but it seems some of them are.

It was very good news to me that you had taken that civil service exam for librarians. I did not care particularly about having you take that job in the sanatorium because you would have to commit yourself to work there at least a year after you finished training. After all, I don't expect to be overseas

forever. It would be very nice if you could get the job in the State library so you could ride to and from work with Pop. That would be very handy.

Is Colonel Bergin still in the Army or has he been discharged? I'm glad he could recognize some of the scenes I had drawn at Finsch. In case I didn't label it, the name of that cove, in the beach scene I did while I was at Finsch, is Siki Cove. If you can find the sketch I mean you can label it.

I hope you are successful in getting some film so you can have your picture taken in all your new dresses which I have never seen. And also some

3.

pictures of you out of those dresses and in something brief such as your sun suit. That I want very much, don't forget several – as many as possible – of those Honey.

Monday Noon –

Again I got into a gabfest and decided to go to bed when that ended. It was rather early when I went to bed but I must have been quite sleepy because I went right to sleep and didn't wake up at all when the bugle sounded this morning. So you may journey up into the wilds of Canada with Mom and Pop eh? That should be quite a trip but what do you intend to do there since you don't fish. You could always try sketching, and you could also try to get some film and have your picture taken. I imagine that, if you get near enough to any sizeable town to do any shopping, you will come back loaded down with many things for our household furnishings. The more we can get now, the less we'll have to worry about later.

What kind of work is Neva trying to get in Jackson. There's a prison there but I don't imagine she'd try that would she? Did she major in sociology too?

I guess I told you what the story was on linens here. There just aren't any. Everything here is at a premium, even wood. This kids down town salvage all the wood they can get their hands on and the last cartoon I sent you is hardly an exaggeration because I've seen these little kids carrying loads that would seem impossible to carry. I've also seen some of these little girls carrying still smaller children around. The [sic] put children on their so: [drawing of woman with baby] only I have exaggerated the size of the carrier. Sometimes they just stand for what seems hours carrying these kids. The people are small but wiry as the devil.

This morning I hurried and cleared us all the work I had on hand. I had three sketches to do for a publication and got them out of the way fast. That took all the morning. This afternoon I'll have to take off from work early because I am on guard tonight and have to clean my rifle, get a haircut, and get all cleaned up.

4.

They have changed their minds again and everyone, up to and including back sergeants, walks guard. Staff sergeants and Tec 3s are sergeants of the guard. I'd rather walk guard than be sergeant of the guard because all I'll have to worry about is walking a post for four hours. On the other job I'd have to worry about all three shifts. I'll get it a little more often this way but shouldn't get it more than twice

every three weeks. The drafting department will be very empty in the morning because Daley will be on guard too.

It's time to go back to work my beautiful Darling so ill kiss you goodbye for the time being but I'll be back shortly.

I love you darling

Freddie