

Wednesday 11 July 1945

[70]

14 AA Command

APO 15, Frisco

Bunny Darling;

I am not going to the show I told you of this evening because we are restricted to the area. There is some work to be done and, even though I am not on one of the work details, I can't get into town. Of course I could just go in anyway and get away with it but they are not running a bus back here tonight because no one is supposed to be in town, and I don't feel quite up to hitching back at about midnight. This battery commander is a pain in the neck as far as I am concerned. If he had his way we would work eight hours a day in the office and then play solder for eight more hours. I guess he thinks the way all these damned old army men do, that everyone should pull guard, shoulder guns, and drill just because they are in the army. I don't feel that way about it at all. If a fellow is in an office I believe that he should do his work and then have off and not have to worry about all this damned chickenshit [sic] [sic] we have. I guess it's rather late for me to try to remodel the army to suit myself but I can squawk about it and am doing so. That was one very nice thing about eh Air Corps, I just did the work assigned to me and the rest of my time was my own. I guess I got used to that and have never been able to readjust myself to this system. We have a new first sergeant the kind who realizes just how exalted a position he has, a very apt running mate for the battery commander. My only consolation is that the way can't last forever and that some day [sic] I will have to take orders from no one, except you. I'm sure that any order you might ever have for me would be very pleasant to carry out. I'll be so damned glad to get away from all this regimentation, This [sic] effort at stereotyping all men and destroying all individualism and initiative. This is one of my pet peeves and I feel like

2.

gripping about it.

Oh, oh, here comes someone calling my name. Yes, it's a detail. That they're putting me on, unloading trucks, goodnight Darling, I must go to work.

Thursday Morning

Good Morning beautiful.

What a night I had last night! I worked, or rather I was on detail until midnight helping to unload trucks. As usual they had about four times as many men as they needed and I had very little to do except to take a break once in a while and go get something to eat. I had two chicken sandwiches, two weiner [sic] sandwiches, a cup of coffee and two cups of coke. It was very good, all of it, and well worth staying up until midnight for. I still wish I could have seen that show. They say it was very good. It's too late to do anything about it now though. Most of the fellows who just got in the other day are still hard at work unloading the ship. I am being kept fairly busy in the office today and have finished two jobs already this morning and am waiting for the typeist [sic], Bob Neumann to finish a piece of work so that I can rule some lines in on it. It feels good to get back to doing some work again even if it has been just straight drafting work lately. I don't mind work if it's something I like to do like drawing. I'm glad I got this job instead of being stuck in office work because this is very much better and gives me a chance to improve

my art work while I work. I guess I am about as well off as I could be overseas, if only the battery commander wouldn't have these damned ideas of his.

My efforts to get hold of my laundry girls the past few days have been rather futile. I don't think they have been around for about three days now and I have to have some laundry done. I hope they show up this evening. I'll have to get some GI soap just in case. Soap is scarce around here so we have to furnish the soap for our laundry. They do a very good job on clothes too, better than you could get in any regular laundry back in the States. They starch all the clothes not too much, just enough so they look quite well.

3.

I received a letter from you today which was the nicest I have received in a long time. You wrote it the day after you went to Betsy's to play bridge. I am very glad to hear that all your qualms regarding Michael's arrival have been quieted. Remember how you used to think you would really be afraid when that time came, I told you you'd change your mind and now it seems that you have and that you are looking forward to the time when he will arrive. It is just as well that he isn't coming before I return though because I want just the two of us on our vacation, no one else. There'll be time enough to think of him after that. Don't you agree? It is very gratifying to know that you feel just as I do about him and that you have gotten rid of the old apprehensions you had. You're a Darling and I love you very much Sweet. How are Betsy and Sue getting along by the way? I hope they are both OK. Are you gathering in pointers from them? You'll need them because I'm a mere novice myself.

Some of our stuff is starting to come in so I guess they'll put us to work bringing it in and uncrating it this afternoon. I think the wires were crossed somewhere and the drawing boards are not yet on their way up. I hope they are but fear the worst. That means I'll have to work on this damned stamp sized table for [crossed out word] awhile longer.

If Mom forgot to thank you for the birthday present you sent her, I can assure you that it was just because of her excitement about Arthur because she mentioned it in one of her letters to me and told me how nice it was and how pleased she was that you had thought of her. She also reemphasized the fact that I could not have selected a better daughter in law for her. I know that I could never have selected a better wife for myself. If I haven't told you that before, Consider yourself told Darling.

While you are reminding me that I had my hair washed at my own request I'd like to remind you that this was not quite so. I will admit that I gave you the idea but only because I happened to mention the fact that I had just washed my hair. When I told you that, you promptly decided that it should be washed over again, and rinsed thoroughly. You backed me up to the

4.

wall and, by your belligerent attitude alone, forced me to agree to let you wash my hair. Don't deny it because your mother was a witness to the whole gruesome ordeal, even to the washing of my hair in the "Torture chamber", which is the name by which I shall always remember the basement of the Robson home.

I had read about the Jap balloons landing near Lansing. It was in Guinea Gold so I guess it couldn't have been too much of a secret. I also read a story of how several children were killed when

they played with one which they had found while on a picnic. They are of no military value but I guess they're quite a nuisance. Just don't go kicking any strange looking objects.

The mystery of the sealed can is now explained. I had an idea you had probably acquired some kind of canning machine to have done that. It was thoughtful of you to send the funnies and the Kleenex along with it. I enjoyed reading the funnies; it reminded me of reading them with you every Sunday morning as we were sprawled out on the living room rug, and how we sometime cheated and bought them the night before. Those were wonderful days Honey and I realized it at the time too. They are only a small preview of things to come though.

So you too think that you would make a better artists than Peggy eh? I am sure of it. If only you'll give it a go – as they say in Aussieland. [sic] I'd be more than glad to criticize your work if you sent it along to me, then I could be taking a correspondence course, and giving one at the same time. Working as your instructor is one which appeals to me very much, I'll be glad to get back to you where I can be your instructor, and be instructed by you, in more things than this. I'm sure that, assisting one another, we'll become really expert in anything at all we may every try. Only I'm damned anxious to get started now. I miss you so damned much now Honey that it seems I just can't be away from you very much longer, I need you so very much. I wish it were possible for you to be over here with me. Everything would be ideal then. I would enjoy being anywhere just as long as you were there with me my Darling. You can never know just how very much you mean to me and how much I do miss you. I'll make up for all this time when I am back with you Darling, and that will be wonderful.

5.

As to what kind of wedding we have Sweetheart, I will leave that entirely up to you. You can plan exactly the kind of wedding you'd like best and you can be sure that it will be what I want. The only stipulation I make is that you must be there. That isn't an unreasonable request is it Honey? You can get your dress or I should say gown, and make tentative arrangements as soon as I am on my way home and we will save that much time. I'd like to have a hand in selecting the clothes you will wear on our vacation though. I understand it will be hard for returning GIs to get clothes because of the shortage and of the number of men going back to the States. I hope I have no trouble because I need a complete new wardrobe. I don't have a single thing left at home. I'll have to start anew. Since I am not too good at selecting clothes you can rest assured that you shall be called upon to help me in my selection.

Now all I ask is to be sent home to you so I can get started on this very nice program.

Evening—

They were looking for a work detail again tonight so the fellows in our section all took off, me included, and are up here at the office to do work here uncrating our own crates. I did not want to get stuck on the same detail I was on last night which is what would have happened had I not come up here. Practically all our drafting equipment got up here safely and is all set up. We still have to find a stand to put the drafting box on. I'm glad it got here all right. Now I'll be able to do some work.

I think I'll close this letter and go to the show to see "The Affairs of Susan", which, I understand, is a very good comedy. It has already started but I'll still get in on the main part of the picture. Goodnight now my darling

I love you with all heart,

Freddie