

[64]

Tuesday 3 July 1945

Hq 14<sup>th</sup> AA Command

APO 75, Frisco

Good morning Beautiful;

And it is a beautiful morning here although we will have rain before the day is over but for the present we are enjoying nice weather, albeit – say, sow's that for a classy word – we shall have our usual rain before tonight. Now go head and tell me that I have misused the word.

I am typing this letter with one of the typewriters which came in yesterday. It came through in fairly good shape but it doesn't spell as well as it used to and I fear it is botching up the letter a little bit. Bob Neumann just put anew ribbon for me so I can at least read what I am writing, Part of it at least, part of it is incomprehensible even to me and I am writing it. I trust in your ability to fathom my thoughts though and am sure that you will piece together the various parts of the letter that make some sense and that you will appreciate it.

Every day I am finding out a little more about where to go to find anything here. One of the fellows found a variety show in town and he says that it is as good as many of them in the States and that the acts were very professional and the chorus very good. It was a sort of semi burlesque show. The seats were \$1.50 in the orchestra and \$1.00 in the balcony. I may take it in one of these nights if I have nothing better to do. I am also thinking of visitting [sic] one of these night clubs around here, such as they are, just to see what they are like. I won't spend much money because I won't have much to spend.

The text book I got for the course I am taking in history is very good. They have cut out most of the extraneous dates which are to be found in most books and have tried to stick more or less to the effect these various civilizations have had on our present day civilization and how they have fit into the patters of world history. Most of these damned history courses stress the year that some obscure battle was fought, or the year that so and so, who was a nonentity as far as importance in world afaairs [sic] are concerned, came into power. That stuff is not important as far as I am concerned and I think that in my case at least it just serves to confuse me by making it harder to judge the carious things. Of course I guess that anyone really interested in delving into the heart of things would have to know all these facts eventually so that he could evaluate them and decide for himself just what value to give to the various things, but in a short course such as this it is foolish to try to cover all the material. I think that I will get along all right in this course and that I will enjoy it.

There is a movie on tonight which I am going to see. I don't know what it is but it will be something to watch and to pass time doing. It is fun to watch these Filipinos at the show. The whole families turn out en masse [sic] to see it and they got the damndest [sic] boot out of it, especially if there is a slapstick comedy on. Some of the GIs have gotten themselves adopted into the families because of an interest in one of the daughters, and they are there too. They have to sit with the family though, and you can see the couple sitting arm in arm with mama on one side of them and papa on the other side. It is almost as if the family though that the GIs had designs on their daughters. Of course you realize that this is the farthest thing from our minds. I really do not have any designs on any of them though Honey. In fact I do not intend to have. I would like to meet some Spanish family and spend some time with them. Some of the fellows who have been here a while have been invited to the homes of some Spanish

people and say that they are very cultured people but tht [sic] in most of their homes they speak Spanish and do not like to speak English. My Spanish is rather rusty to say the least but I suppose that I could brush up on it and learn to speak it so I could be understood.

There was no mail yesterday but I hope to get some today because there is a lot of it on the way [sic] to me. The last letter I received was dated June [sic] 18<sup>th</sup>. As usual, they will undoubtedly come in a bunch.

My Aunt Blanche's address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Elphege Carbonneau

22 ½ Lake Street

Nashua, N.H.

2.

Rather that is the address of her and her husband, because I think the present should go to the two of them. After all they both had a hand in acquiring the child. I will not be able to make up a card for them for a few days but I shall send it to you as soon as I do. You can search around for a present in the meantime.

I was very much surprised to hear that Dr. Honigsheim blew up the way he did when your friend didn't have time to type up that stuff for him. I thought he had more sense than that. Somehow or other I can't imagine him flaring up the way he did. Maybe he is in the menopause period of his life and it is giving him some trouble. I know that that is supposed to be a woman's problem but it sounds like the symptoms I have heard attributed to this time in a person's life. She hasn't had any more trouble with him has she. As you may have noticed, I am now using a different typewriter since one of the other fellows had to use the one I had.

So you are having a tough time trying to get used to the fact that this secretary who is your age is married to a man who is in his thirties. How are you managing? At least you do not have to worry about your husband being that much older than you. Of course I am over three years older than you are but that isn't too much although I am told that you look much younger than I do. Sweet young innocence, that's what it is. I should think that she would have had a lot of adjusting to do when she married him because their interests must have been quite different because of the difference in their ages. From what you say about them I gather that they have made [sic] this adjustment all right though. I can't think of any adjustments that we will have to make. I am sure that we are fully prepared for married life and [sic] that we will make a tremendous of it because we know just what we want from it and we both want the same thing. You will be the perfect wife for me Honey, more than I had ever dared to hope for. You are beautiful, intelligent, understanding and have the same likes as I have with the exception of small things which are inevitable because we are two different people. I do love you so very much too Darling and know that you also love me and are as anxious to marry me as I am to be married to you. In addition to all this we shall have no inlaw [sic] trouble because both our families approve of our choice very much. I know Mom and Dad think the world of you, and I am sure that your mother and father do not object to me at all, and I think that they are well.

Duffy just brought in a new issue of LIFE magazine – May 14<sup>th</sup> – and it had a lot of war pictures which were very gruesome. They showed pictures of Mussolini's body after the crowd had gotten through beating it up. It was a very gory mess, but I couldn't help wondering just how many of the people in the crowd which did that to him had been his ardent followers in the days when he was considered the kingpin dictator in all Europe. I honestly believe that the Italian people hate him, not because of the ideas he embodied, but because of the fact that he failed. I know that from speaking with Professor Napoli, and some of those other Italian profs we had, I got the idea that they were dead set against his regime and that at the same time they advocated all the ideas that he stood for. They thought that it was right that Italy should have all the land which Musso had gathered in while he was the conquering lion of Rome. Instead of realizing that the Italians were just as responsible for the war as the Germans, we have let them whitewash themselves with the same alibi that we are refusing to let [sic] the Germans get away with: that the people [sic] could do nothing about it. Show me an Italian and I will show you a man who favors a fascistic type of government for Italy. There was also a rather interesting article in this LIFE which showed in pictures just how Germany could go about getting ready for another war with all the Nazi party underground. I think that this idea is being borne out now in the increased activity of the German underground in the past few days. I don't know what we can do about [sic] it unless [sic] we use the tried and tested methods which the Germans used, the game of exacting tenfold retribution for all offenses. By this process we should have eliminated the entire German population in rather short order and hey [sic] will cease to be a problem. I can't see how they are going to cope with the problem, in fact, I do not think that we know how to cope with the problem and think that we will botch the whole thing up in the end just as they did after the last war. It isn't anything pleasant to look forward to

3.

but we will have to do an awful lot of doing in a short time if we are to do anything to remedy the situation.

The rain has come. It is really pouring outside and looks as if it will for a while yet. I had to bring back Duffy's magazine and I stopped to talk to Kettler who told me of some more places to go in town. He says that there are flights in town once a week and that they are pretty good. There is also a vaudeville show at one of the local theaters, free for GI's, at which some of the local musicians play. He has also discovered a place in town where they serve up some very good shrimp cooked Chinese style. He wants me to accompany him into town some night. I think I will the first time I get a chance, but this guard duty we have to pull is going to cramp my style quite a bit. You notice that all the forms of entertainment that I have mentioned are quite harmless don't you. You needn't worry about me because I will behave myself. It is very strange to see so many women around though.

One thing I have noticed about these Filipino women is the fact that they are very graceful, especially in their walk. The reason for this is that they carry anything they have to transport any distance at all on their heads. It seems strange to see them going along under these tremendous loads and not seeming to mind it at all. As a result of this they walk with a grace which would be the envy of any of the professional model back in the States. They almost invariably carry umbrellas to shade them from the rays of the sun.

One of the other colorful things to be seen around here are the little carriages they ride around in. I will send you a sketch of one of them as [sic] soon as I can do one. They are a narrow affair with a

canopy on top and are pulled by some of the smallest horses I have ever seen. These horses are about the size of a Shetland pony. They can pull a hell of a load though and don't [sic] seem to mind it too much. Of course I didn't bother to ask any of the horses what they thought of having to pull such loads so maybe the looks which I took to be satisfaction with their lot was merely a horse's look of resignation. I must admit that there is definitely something lacking in my knowledge of the psychology of the horse.

I just got [sic] back from chow where we had spaghetti, much to my delight. It was good but I could have stood some more. Every day at meal times we have a bunch of little Filipino kids out back of the mess hall waiting for the food that is left and for any good food that we throw away. It gives a person quite a funny feeling to see these people waiting for the food that we do not eat. It is the first time in my life that I have seen this. They do get [sic] quite a bit of food from the mess hall and I believe that they [sic] draw some sort of ration from the quartermaster, a fish and rice ration. I feel sorry for them but there really is very little that you can do for them. It makes a person feel so damned helpless. They are eating better now than they were under the Japs though so that is something [sic]. I hope that the government is able to get the monetary situation straightened out so that this will be alleviated a little. Of course, as it is everywhere else, there is money here and, as it is everywhere else, it is concentrated in the hands of a very few people who can get anything they want because they can pay the price. This will be a big problem in all countries that have been hit by the war, and will be one of the leading problems to be faced by this new United Nations setup. I hope they find some sort of situation to solve this.

After chow I went to mail call and got three letters, two from Mom and one from you. I also was fortunate enough to get some stamps. I got eight of them and will be able to use them as soon as I use up the two stamped envelopes I have left. I borrowed those from one of the fellows here. I'll be able to use the decorated envelopes with the stamps. Those were the last eight stamps the fellow had there.

Tomorrow is the Fourth of July. That day has very little significance out here except that there will be a football game here and that the Filipino army band will give a concert. Since I expect to be on guard, I will just be out of luck all around. I really don't feel like doing much of anything for a few days though because the walking I have done the past few days should take care of my exercise for a while. Pauline is quite burned up about the fact that she can't get down to the beach every day to get herself a nice sun tan. The only day she has off is Sunday and it always seems to be cloudy then. This year she gets a two week vacation with pay and she

4.

plans on taking the last weeks of both July and August. Next year we will be taking our vacation but it won't be for only two weeks. I intend to mke [sic] it the start of a lifelong vacation for both of us. I can just see us now, doing nothing except enjoying ourselves and making love all the time. For variety we can go to a dance or go bowling. It will be nice just to lie on the beach all day with you, the beach of some lake where we can have some privacy, not the seashore. I wil [sic] be able to sketch you whenever I feel like drawing, such a pretty model I never dreamed that I would have but there you will be. That will help make up for all these days I have spent away from you. All this damned wasted time.

Mom said that Dad is getting along quite well and that he likes his new job very much. He still have to go to the hospital every once in a while to have them check up on him but he is much better and is putting on weight. I am glad to hear that because he has lost quite a bit of weight. He used to weigh as

much as I do now and has gone down to 160 or less. He and Mom get into Boston every once in a while and go out to the Gardens and the Common. They like to walk around there. I can't say that I blame them because the Gardens hold a very pleasant memory for me too. Do you remember the day I mean? We went to see the show "THREE'S A FAMILY" that night and celebrated further by your taking a couple of Tom Gollinses. If your mother only knew. Tch! Tch! I guess that I am just a bad influence on you.

There is a conference going on here and the place is cluttered up with officers. You can hardly find a place to sit down because they are using all the chairs. I hope this does not last too much longer because I am anxious to get set up so we can find out just what is what and get established in some sort of order. As it is, we don't know just what to do and have very little to work with.

I wish Kowalchuk would hurry up and get here. He is coming up by boat and I guess it is pretty much of a rough trip that way. I am glad that we came up by plane. I wish that when I get to go home that I will have the opportunity [sic] to fly. It is much quicker and, since I am beginning to feel like a veteran aerial traveler, it is much more comfortable than a ship is. The main thing is that it would get me back to you much sooner than would be possible any other way.

I will end this letter now Honey, hoping that you will excuse the errors and that you can read this. I have to write Mom and let her know where her wandering boy is now. I guess she is probably worried because she has not heard from me for quite a while. Goodbye Sweetheart.

I love you with all my heart

Freddie