

8 February 1945

Hq Btry 14th AA Comd

APO 322, S Francisco

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My Sweet Darling;

I finally decided to try my hand at typing another letter to you. As usual it is hotter than the devil here and I am uncomfortable as hell. What I wouldn't give to be up in New Hampshire now with the temperature about twenty below and snow all over the ground. Of course we'd have to be on that vacation of ours or it wouldn't be so much fun, in fact nothing I do without you is ever any fun. You're such wonderful company Darling.

I had quite a dream last tonight, I dreamt that we were on the start of our vacation after the way and that we were at my house, everything was fine except that I could not get you alone. The family just wouldn't let us by ourselves. It was a very grueling experience especially since just at the time in the dream when I finally was alone with you, I awoke! That was a dirty trick on the part [sic] of the dream [sic] because you can well imagine that I was very much interested in the outcome of the dream. Oh well! There'll be others I hope.

One of the fellows I know just came down with scrub typhus, this is a nasty fever which lasts for quite a while. The mortality rate used to be very high because no one knew just what it was or how to treat it. At the present time they still don't know what it is but they do know that it is caused by a tick and that the best way to treat it is by letting the fever run its course and give the patient what relief you can for the fever. Since they have started treating it this way the causalities have been cut down to practically nothing. It is still bad though. One of the other nice things about this South Sea paradise. The medics have done a swell job of controlling most of these tropical diseases but it's one hell of a job. One of the most prevalent afflictions is ringworm, usually contracted by the men when they have to wear the same clothing for extended periods of time. These are not the everyday variety of ringworm either because some of them grow to a diameter of over one foot. That's a fact because I've seen some myself. All you can do is just put on the medics vegetable dyes and sweat it out. I've been careful and fortunate and have been bothered by nothing except my prickly heat which at present is quite negligible. A little care goes a long way in avoiding these tropical diseases, and here's one careful boy who intends to do a maximum of avoiding while he's over here.

These Japanese are getting rather personal about this whole thing and are beginning to rile me up. Here I have planned for so long to some day get up to the Philip-

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pinos and, if possible, visit the city of Manila, and what do those damned Japs do but go and set fire to the whole downtown district of Manila, my current Mecca to which I had so longingly looked forward to making a pilgrimage to at some near date. When they start stepping on the toes of my aspirations (how's that for a metaphor? I've got a million of them, all as good, or as bad if you insist, as that one.) they'd better watch out so far they have had me looking at this whole fiasco in a rather impersonal light, but at the rate they're going they are merely asking me to really get burned up at them. This should give

them something to think about. Against the United Nations they have a chance but against the United Nations plus an irate Maurice, well, all I can say is if they know what's good for them they'll cease this stuff. I can always look forward to sojourning in Tokyo I suppose. I hope they take that soon and wind up the war of the Pacific so I can get back where I belong, in you loving arms, such beautiful arms too. And so soft and inviting. How can I think of anything to write with you sitting there looking so seductive. Anyone might think you were deliberately trying to fluster me so I couldn't write. And stop rolling those blue eyes at me or you'll have a kiss for your troubles. There, don't say you didn't ask for it. Mmm!!! That was quite nice. I may be back for more so don't go too far away.

I told you didn't I that I now am the very proud possessor of a half bottle of india ink obtained by "midnight requisition" from the orderly room of the 282nd Repl. Co. It wasn't being put to any good use there and I most certainly can use it for my sketching. If I get the chance to do a sketch tonight I'll enclose it in this letter. There's a quiz show here tonight between the Wacs and gis so I guess I'll have something to sketch. If I can find a seat in the back of the room somewhere where I can work unobtrusively. I wish there was some job I could get where I'd be able to make use of my art work instead of working in the office. I'd feel much more at home with a drawing pen or pencil in my hand than I do seated at that damned typewriter.

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Something else I'll have to do before Saturday is put some coast artillery braid on my hat. I have hats with air corps braid, military police braid, medic braid, and now I have to get Coast Artillery braid. It's a nice solid red braid and in my opinion looks like hell, but I suppose I shouldn't be disloyal to the branch of service which finally make it possible for me to cease being a g.i. orphan and be assigned. I still don't care for their braid though.

Our tent was inspected yesterday and was found to be unworthy of praise, In a word, I was informed that "the police was bad of course that wasn't so bad considering that some of the tents were classed as being "very bad." It seems that a tent in "bad" condition results in a little black mark going down in the book for us and enough little black marks result in an unsatisfactory mark on our report cards. On the other hand, if we pass with flying colors, I guess we get a gold star pasted on our cards in the order of that blue star I received in AST. Do you still have that, Darling? You did a very good job of sewing that on, so good that if I hadn't been engaged to you then I would have decided to marry you anyways. I think I made up my mind that I was going to marry you quite a while I before I actually asked you. Probably even earlier than the time you decided I was going to marry you. It couldn't have been a better decision on either of our parts. I think we both showed excellent judgement.

See what a good boy I am. There are Wacs in the main room of the Red Cross building and still I sit here not even casting a glance in their direction. Of course, when I finish this letter I'll go out to watch the quiz show. I'm only doing this so I can sketch you understand. Purely an impersonal action. I'll bet for a minute you thought I just wanted to see the Wacs. Suspicious girl! You should know me better than that. Oh,

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you do know me better than that. Huh! Well, all I can say is that things have come to a pretty pass when I am suspected of being interested in other women merely because I haven't seen one up close for five

months and there happen to be a few of them around. Why don't you come out here Darling? I only wish we could be together. My, my, but you're certainly going to be a very demonstratively loved young lady once I get my tentacles on you- me [sic] proud and fair beauty. Oh, that that that [sic] day should come soon Sweetheart, I miss you so very much, and you are so very nice and I do love you an awful lot. More than you can ever realize.

The work here is quite exacting and I really have to be on the ball in order not to make any mistakes. I [sic] a mistake is made, the work has to be done over and over and over until it is just so. For most of us 30 day clerks this is quite a big order. I imagine a lot of the officers and regular clerks feel like tearing their hair out at our apparent ignorance of the arts and wiles of the job of an army clerk. I guess we'll learn in time though, if we just don't disrupt the whole structure of the 14th AA Command Headquarters in the process of learning. I just hope that none of these people hold our ignorance of clerking against us because after all, the army assigned us here and we had nothing to do with it. I would be happier about the whole thing if they just gave me some tools and let me work on some machinery. As long as they have made me a clerk, however, I'll give them the best job of clerking that I can and that's all I can do.

Well my Sweet, now that I have unburdened my troubles on you I will close this letter giving you a nice big goodnight kiss to remind you how very much I shall love you

Always

Freddie