

Sunday 4, Feb 1945
Hg Btry, 14th AA Command
APO #322 c/o PM, S. Francisco

[53]

Dear Sweet Darling;

My first day here has ended and again it was a day off for me except for the time I spent being interviewed. The interview was rather successful, I guess, and I was informed that I was about to become a proof reader, duties unknown at present. I guess it will be a good deal though, I hope.

Last night was indeed a hectic one. It rained all night long and I got a slight drop or two in the face every so often. When I had finally become accustomed to this and gone to sleep I suddenly felt as if I had suddenly tangled with an octopus and awoke to find myself thoroughly immersed in the folds of my mosquito net which I had put up very insecurely and which had come tumbling down around my ears. It was an extremely stifling sensation. I tried to ignore this too but it proved too much for me so I got up and fastened it

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up again, returning to my warm bed for a couple hours of fitful slumber. I was able to sleep till about seven o'clock before I got up and went to eat a hearty breakfast of fried eggs, two whole eggs count them, with all the bread and butter, real butter too, we wanted. We had fried ~~[crossed out words]~~ ham and pineapple in addition. It was a dejeuner pan excellence. Much of this food and I shall be right back where I was when I started losing weight.

Tomorrow, Monday, morning we are scheduled to arise early to do a little drilling. I never seem to be able to get away from that no matter where I go. It won't be bad though because we shouldn't have much of it.

At the interview this morning I was given a speed test. After they saw the results of the test they assigned me to a job which requires the minimum amount of typing. You don't suppose there's any tie up between the two facts do you Darling. I did try to hurry too much on the typing though and consequently made too many mistakes. I'll

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~~[crossed out words]~~ improve with time I hope.

If you're wondering why that line got at the top of this page cease wondering. I was about to number this letter as I usually do in which case this would be page two and the opposite page would page three. Does that sound complicated? That's the way I was brung ~~[sic]~~ up. Mom does it that way too. I don't know where the idea originated but I do remember that you told me it was quite confusing and bewildering so I shall refrain from using it.

There's a show here tonight which I have already seen and which I can't be sure I should see again. It is "Till We Meet Again" with Ray Millard.

Monday Morn

I'm sorry I left off so abruptly Darling but they lowered the boom on me last night and put out the lights so we could have the show. I would just as soon have written to you, in fact would sooner have

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written you but no light, no write.

This morning we take our weekly constitutional and go out for a little drilling. It shouldn't be bad since it won't last long but it will be irksome nonetheless. As long as we only have to do it once a week I won't complain much though.

Later on Monday

The first days work is ended and I survived it. It was quite an ordeal however. The drilling wasn't bad but afterward we had to march up the hill at attention and that was bad. By the time I get out of here I'll be half mountain goat. The hills around here are really steep.

My first job was a very undramatic one, stapling together sheets of paper. I did that for about an hour or more when finally I did some typing. I did quite a bit of typing, when I could get hold of a typewriter. This afternoon I got a lemon that insisted on skipping spaces at its own pleasure. It was a damned nuisance.

5.

I almost forgot to tell you that I finally saw a wallaby before I left the other place I was at. A wallaby is a small animal of the kangaroo species. It stands between two and three feet high. The one I saw was right at the side of the road and he didn't even blink an eye when our jeep passed him. He just sat on his haunches staring at us. I had heard a lot about them before but had never seen one.

The picture was finally shown last night after a few minor troubles such as discovering that the first reel had not been rewound and running of about thirty feet of it upside down. The next reel proved to harken back to the dear dead days, etc, when it failed to be accompanied by any sound for the first fifteen minutes. Finally a new projector was procured and the show went on. The last incident came at the end of the second reel when we were switched from the convent, where all the action was taking place, to a football stadium where the last three minutes of [crossed out word] one of the

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Army-Notre Dame game unreeled themselves. They had used that for a trailer at the end of the reel.

According to today's news we have entered Manila. I hope we don't have a big fight there and that the city will be intact. I still hope to reach the Philippines some day and would like to have a nice city to go to if ever I got a pass while there. I think I'd forgo the pleasure of seeing Manila if the Army would take Tokyo for my birthday and send me there. I'm just anxious for this was to be finished so I can get back to you.

I suppose I've already told you that I love you and that you're the loveliest girl I ever saw, haven't I? Even if I have already told you that I'll tell you again because I want to impress it upon you. I

want you always to know that Honey and to know that the one thing which really keeps my hopes and spirits up is the fact that you love me too. You're so very wonderful my Darling. Honest!!!

7.

One of the fellows from the 5th Depot got a letter from some gal down in West By God-Virginia which was really unusual. The handwriting wasn't too bad but each sentence was a separate paragraph and the thoughts were all disjointed. Sentences were all broken up. I remember one of them which went like this:

"Do you smoke. Cigaretts!!!!!!!"

This was basic English at its very basest. He didn't know the girl and didn't know how to answer it or whether to answer it so some of his buddies solved the problem and told him they'd compose a letter to her if he wouldn't read it before it was mailed. The fellow very daringly, and also very foolishly, consented. The three heads put together for the composition of this letter turned out one of the most torrid love letters since the demise of the late lamented Casanova. If that letter doesn't make her want to take the first rowboat out of the States for these islands she must be an iceberg. They really laid

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it on, but thick as hell. What a line [~~crossed out word~~]. Maybe I should have tried that line on you when I started to go out with you. No, I think the one I used worked well enough since I think we're both much more in love than anyone ever was.

I must leave you now Sweetheart. Here's a big kiss for you. You're so lovely you just take my breath away making me want to be with you.

Forever

Freddie