

Good Morning Bunny Honey;

It's a wonderful morning here in New Guinea. That is, it is as nice a morning as one could hope for out here. Today is the first day of December. Tempus is fugitting [sic] right along but could never go too fast to suit me. This makes almost three months since last I saw you, and a very lonely three months it has been too. Another week will mark the first anniversary of that wonderful first date we had. That marked a new and tremendous rearranged my whole future. "Never underestimate the power of woman" as the ads for Good Housekeeping or Ladies' Home Companion say. Speaking of Ladies' Home Companies, you're really going to have one when I return. Don't ever go out of my sight Darling. I want to be with you all the time.

Well, I'm planning on a nice little stay here since I checked and find that I have been left with my bombsight mechanic's spec number. Since they do no transfer men to the air corps, I will probably be here till New Guinea freezes over; since it gets hotter here by the day, that means I'll probably be a casual for a long time. I feel like a duck in the middle of a desert and am just as out of place when I'm out of the air corps. All I can do is just wait and let them have the headache of assigning me and I'm sure it will prove to be a headache to someone, not myself I trust.

This new stationery was acquired at work last night. I finished my work early and typed off a quick letter to Jim Martin, then I took a few extra sheets of paper back to write to you [scratched out word] one. I'll have to get some more since it is pretty good for writing purposes.

My gastronomical ailment is still sticking with me although it's intensity has abated a bit. The end of today should see the end of my trouble. If only they didn't feed me so much bully beef, Spam, and Vienna sausages I'd be all set. Today out diet should be varied with canned salmon. I'm not fooling a bit when I say that this stuff, as a steady diet, raises hell with a persons vitals. Oh to get some of your's [sic]

2.

and Mother's good cooking and some of Mom's spaghetti or Macaroni. It would surely hit the spot right now.

One of the boys gave me a box of Australian matches which kept my opinion of Australian products at it's original low point. One out of every six matches struck will light long enough to inquire a cigarette [sic], while it takes about three or four lighted matches to light a pipe. When you strike one, one of three things usually happens, the stick may break leaving you with the head of the match clenched firmly by your fingernails, the goo on the head of the match may just peel right off leaving fly off the match like a blazing comet lighting everything in its path. It is said that there are more casualties accounted for by Australian matches than by Jap bullets. Their toothpaste is of like caliber and a mouthful of it has the same effect and taste as a good chew of fish glue. It is widely used to stick down the flaps of envelopes or stick on air mail stamps from which the glue has disappeared. They say some people even brush their teeth with it, but of that fact, I am truly skeptical. Nothing will clog a pen as fact as Australian ink well. It is a straight mixture of water and coal dust. The coal dust gathers and plugs the

pen up very effectively. All in all I would say that they have a long way to go in the field of manufacturing.

I think I will send you some Australian money of all denominations through the pound just for the heck of it. I'm not an avid collector of souvenirs but it would be nice for the scrapbook. You can show it to Neva as a reminder that I too am overseas fighting – well not exactly fighting but being available for her safety or whatever it is that we are fighting for. One reason is as good as another as far as I can see. I will send one piece of money at a time. Today's contribution is a three pence. It is worth roughly 4¢ in American money and is quite small so you can see.

One of the fellows in the tent just got in from helping deepen the well. He was covered with mud from head to foot. He had gone down into the well in his birthday suit to dig it out and the mud had splashed as it was hauled

3.

out. He was quite a mess.

A new order, permitting us to go shirtless all day long in the company area, is supposed to be coming out. I hope so because it's so darned warm sitting here with a fatigue shirt on all day long. At present we can only go shirtless from 10:30 AM till 12:30. That's only two hours. All afternoon, when it's hotter than blazes, the shirts must remain on.

Wouldn't it be very nice to be together now in a nice warm house, before a large fireplace, lying on the floor I reading by the light of the fire while you sit there beside me quite close doing some mending or maybe just rumpling my hair. Outside there'd be a [scratched out word] blizzard raging, covering everything with snow. Just the two of us there all alone. Upstairs is a Cherrywood bed turned down just waiting for us to go to bed. It would be so nice there before the fireplace that the bed would go wanting for us till the early hours of the morning Time would mean nothing because we could sleep all the next day if we wanted. I wouldn't want to though if you are there because I'd want to spend as much of my conscious time with you as I could and sleeping would keep one away from you. All that would concern us is one another. We wouldn't be bothered by anything from the outside world. That is a very wonderful picture to me and when I get back we'll have to hurry to put it into the realm of reality. It's very wonderful to think of what our future has in store for us Darling because, as long as we are together, our future, past and present will be the happiest possible. Remind me to tell you once more that I love you extremely and that without you life would be barren indeed.

Later in the day

Gerry and I started to [cut out spot in letter] but were discouraged again and came back. I discovered a nice place to shower where I don't have to haul water. It's a sort of municipal shower near the beer hall where the water is pumped from the creek. Forty men can shower at one time. This saves me an awful lot of work hauling water.

4.

Two more of your letters came today nearly completing my collection of [scratched out word] back letters. I'm glad that you like the Modern Victorian silver pattern and also glad that both our reasons for the choice was the same, the fact that it looks very dignified with a monogram. I do think it's

better than the Lyric. You also mentioned the fact that Mother said you could have the desk. That will be quite nice because it is something we can use very well. If you want to buy some of that cherry bedroom furniture go right ahead Darling. Whatever we get now we'll have for our home. The way you speak of that set you have me liking it without ever having seen it.

I'm glad the kodachromes carve out well. I'll be keeping an eye open for them since you said you'd send me a set. I'm anxious to see how we came out in technicolor. Don't forget to send me any pictures at all which you have taken.

The fellow in charge of my section at personnel said that he would send an order in to the orderly room exempting one from all formations. This means I could sleep in the morning. I hope he gets it over here soon so I can start taking life easy. I won't be missing anything by missing breakfast since these breakfasts are really lousy now. I don't know just what is happening but the quality of our meals at present is at a very low [scratched out word] ebb.

Our PX offered some Australian candy bars for sale today. They sold us four a piece, a fact which should have made me suspicious from the start. I bought them and found them to be up to Australian standards. I bars were of different consistencies a [cut out spot in letter] be made of various types of filling. They are not at all good. I'll know better next time.

I'll close now, my very sweet Darling, sending you all my love and kisses

Always

Freddie