

Friday

Darling;

I got two wonderful letter from you today and it was really [scratched out word] very very nice to receive them. This weather is very depressing & I need something like your letters to drag me out of the doldrums.

We had another extremely hot day today but didn't have to do any hard work so I weathered it O.K. I took life easy and even goofed off the last hour today to take a shower and shave.

It's too bad I can't come to Lansing next week end but from the view point of your studies it probably is better that I should not see you --- I try vainly to convince myself. I'll have to take a jaunt into Chicago instead then, I'll try to find someone to go in with me. At least we do have a wonderful week end to look forward to the week after that. It will be wonderful too Sweetheart – rain or shine – just being with you again will be all the sunshine I'll need.

Tomorrow my mustache must be trimmed. It has reached the shaggy stage now and really needs a good trimming. As far as my hair goes, I imagine I could fairly well double for a Belgian Sheep Dog as I am now. The barber will certainly earn his money on me when I get my hair cut again. It will have been a month.

The little flower beds around our

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company area are in full blown now and are quite an awe-inspiring sight. All the flowers are petunias with very large blossoms. They don't stand any more than eight inches high and have huge purple & white blossoms. A very queer sight for a soldier's barracks.

My mother is continuing her campaign in your favor. She wants to know just how tall you are, what color your hair and eyes are, and heaps a lot of praise on you and your mother & father for the good care you have taken of me. She said that I must like you an awful lot to make the jaunt from here to Lansing to see you, and that you must think an awful lot of me to be coming out here to see me. I think she's playing match-maker. If she only knew it tho, [sic] she's doing all in vain because I fell for you very hard quite a while ago and I love you so that anything she could say in your favor couldn't make me love you more. Mom also mentioned the fact that she didn't think much of Mary because of the way she just couldn't ever make a decision and stick to it. So, you see you've got the wholehearted support of the family Darling. They love you already and haven't even met you yet. I know they'll love you even a lot more once they have met you.

Our officers here are colorful characters. One of them had us do some bandaging and told us that we should all leave

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the bandages on until he had “suspected” them. Tom Nevin tells of a first sergeant he once had who tried to high pressure the boys into buying some more war insurance. His closing words were “And if you guys don’t buy more insurance you’ll live to regret it some day.”

Along the lines of bring remarks comes one from a quite devout bay in our company who frowns on dancing and refers to it as “a vertical attempt to realize a horizontal desire.” He is quite a character and was studying for the ministry before he got in the army. He got a letter from his brother who was rejected by the draft board. It seems that the brother passed his physical examination with flying colors but when he was examined by the psychiatrist he was asked what he wanted to follow as a career. He answered that he wanted to be a missionary so the draft doctor rejected him as a religious fanatic. Ain’t people funny?

I saw a picture tonite [sic] which wasn’t too good but had some good scenes in it. In one of them the young couple are getting things ready for a duck dinner so the fellow decides that he will pluck the ducks only his version of removing feathers is by lathering the duck well with a shaving brush and shaving the feathers off.

I am glad to hear that you are very industrious this term and are getting all your work done way ahead of time.

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Doesn’t it feel good to be caught up for a change instead of being way behind. I hope you made out all right on your budgets and diets, you make it sound as if budgeting is hard. Do you mean to say you’re going to run our home without a budget and that my meals may not be planned & may be all unbalanced. Don’t forget that I’m used to a delicate diet here in the Army.

Yesterday, at the doctors, I asked if he could do anything about a couple of sore spots I have on the instep of my foot and which are caused by the rubbing of my shoe. He told me that, as it was caused by my shoes, the only way to fix it up was not to wear shoes. He said, however, that while I was a soldier I’d have to wear shoes but that when I became a civilian again, if I just gave up wearing shoes for awhile my feet would be all right. He was in earnest about the whole thing too which made it even more funny. It’s me for the open road without shoes when I get out of the army kid. It may be embarrassing for a while to have people stare at me as I walk down the streets of Boston, but I’d get used to it I’m sure. I could always tell them I had gotten into the habit of going barefooted in the jungles of New Guinea and couldn’t get used to wearing shoes any more. I never did like shoes anyway.

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Everyone else complains about laundry shortages [scratched out word] around here but I always get back an extra item or two. This time it was a handkerchief. Poor Bob has to wait two weeks for his laundry for some strange reason. It is never in on time.

Incidentally, one of Bob’s tentmates has a wonderful scheme worked out. He is going to write letter [scratched out word] to ten different people, borrowing two dollars from each of them. Since he is only borrowing two dollars from each one, he is quite sure that they’ll let him get by without repaying the loan so he’ll be \$20 to the good.

They pulled a dirty trick off on Domergue and Amann, the fellows who are shipping to Camp Ritchie, Md. They didn't notify them of the shipping orders until four o'clock this afternoon and told them they were leaving at six thirty in the morning. That isn't giving them very much time.

Once again Darling I have to leave you for a little while. It won't be long tho [sic] and I'll be back again to let you know any further news about the world I live in which is separated from the world I want to live in with you by the whole distance of a war. Each day brings that other world just one day nearer Sweetheart so until all that distance is wiped out

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I'll continue to send you all my love in these letters.

I do love you an awful lot Darling

Honest, cross my heart!

Freddie