

Wednesday

Sweetheart;

I miss you terribly and can hardly wait for next weekend to come so I can see you again. You'd better beware when you see me because I'm liable to love you to death, Darling! I never knew I could miss anyone as much as I do you but it is quite possible and since I [scratched out word] find myself missing you more day by day it is quite probable that I will miss you even more than I do now if I don't see you soon. I hope you can make sense out of all this. It is all summed up in the first four words of this letter.

I'm enclosing schedule of trains and buses from Chicago to Rockford. The Trains run rather infrequently but the buses are really coming and going all day long. The buses take quite a while longer to make the trip tho. [sic] One of your letters was the only thing I had to copy the schedules on in case you're curious about the address in the middle of the greyhound schedule. Let me know when you'll get here won't you Honey. I love you.

Today we all had to go thru [sic] the gas chamber to get used to using our gas masks. This consisted of first going into a tent in which tear gas was released. As I had my gas mask on when I went in, and my gas mask is fairly good at keeping out gas, I suffered no ill effects until we were

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told to remove the gas mask, give our name rank and serial number, & then walk to the nearest exit. When I got thru [sic] that procedure my eyes were so blurred with tears and so irritated that for about five minutes I couldn't see a thing. That really is wicked stuff. Next we went into the chlorine chamber [scratched out word] which, altho [sic] a deadly gas, did not bother me at all. We had to go in that chamber without gas masks in the carrier and our hands over our heads. Once in the chamber we had to take our hats off and put on our gas masks. It was rather a weird feeling knowing that there was a lethal gas in the chamber but it was quite easy to do. All in the interest of P.O.M. I'll be glad when it's all over.

I'm about the only one of the AST's left here who isn't a clerk of one kind or other. I wonder what they intend to do with me. I still can't figure out where there's a place for a bombsite mechanic in a hospital, but then I'm from Missouri.

Dave Warren left here today. McMannus went with him. Mac was supposed to be on KP tomorrow so they crossed his name off the list and put on the name of Dave Warren who is also shipping – They are always pulling off some such stunt around here. We've been here a month & they

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still don't know where we're supposed to be.

One of the fellows in my tent is leaving tomorrow. At last they are starting to empty out my tent. I inherited a pack of playing cards from him so I'll have to try to make use of them if I can find someone to play with me. Wouldn't you care to come over and play honeymoon bridge with me? I'd love to have you here.

At last I signed the payroll. Late this afternoon, as I had just about given up hope of ever seeing it, the payroll miraculously appeared and I, just as miraculously, signed it. Now if they'll only pay me.

Saturday I'll be all set. I could get into Chicago and could call you from there and have a nice talk with you. If I don't get paid till [scratched out word] Monday. I'll call you then. In other words, I'll call you as soon as I find that I am in possession of my own little accumulated pile of lucre. It will be nice just to hear your voice again.

We had another nite [sic] class tonite. [sic] With another one due for tomorrow nite [sic] it doesn't look as if we'd have much time off from now on, so you see Darling, I'm really behaving myself. Not that I wouldn't otherwise you know but this is double surely.

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I'll close now and go to bed once more where I hope I'll dream of you. It's the only way I can be near you Sweetheart.

I love you with all my heart

Freddie