

Wednesday –

My Wonderful Darling;

I'm so awfully sorry and so disappointed. At this time I should by right be on my way to see you once more on a four day pass but instead I sit here alone in the U.S.O. doing the next best thing and writing you a letter. At two o'clock this afternoon, with my pass just three hours away, I was told that there would be no passes at all this week because of the fact that Sunday would be declared open house on the post for civilian visitors and that we would have to put on a parade at 4:30 Sunday afternoon for these same visitors. We were told that our passes would be put off until next Wednesday – if nothing else comes along before then. It just can't tho [sic] Darling because I

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want so much to be with you, I miss you terribly Sweetheart.

I received the scrap book today Honey and think it is wonderful. You did a marvelous job of it. I'll keep it with me always so I can just look in it and in that way still be with you in a way altho [sic] we'll be apart. It'll help an awful lot to make you seem very close to me all the time. You did a good job of depicting our future altho [sic] it will be much more beautiful and wonderful than anyone could ever depict it with words and pictures on paper. I believe we'll be the two happiest people in the world Darling, because we love one another so very much.

I imagine you haven't received any letter from me for a few days. I didn't write because I was so sure I would be with you tomorrow. I'll have a lot of news to get you posted on tho [sic] so this letter should be quite long. I'll start with last Saturday.

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Bob & I left here at about 5:30 to go to Milwaukee and thumbed out from Rockford. Our first ride took us to the outskirts of town where the fellows in the car were stopping at a tavern. They made Bob & I go in & have a couple of beers with them & we had to tear ourselves away from them to continue our odyssey. We then got a ride into Beloit Wisconsin – the first place in Wisconsin on which I set foot – and from there we got a ride to Delavan with a soldier. Delavan was a wonderful little town with a population of 4,000. It reminded me very much of a New England town with its elm trees lining the sides of the street and the small homes tucked away under other trees. We ate dinner here and had a rather tough steaks to eat. A truck driver picked us

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up and rode us to Elkorn from where we got a ride out to a spot seven miles from nowhere. At this point of our trip we were met with tough luck and thumbed in vain for over a half hour, finally we decided that I'd thumb on one side of the road back toward Elkorn and Bob would continue to thumb toward Milwaukee. Bob got the first ride and it took us right into the heart of Milwaukee. We went to the USO and got a room thru [sic] them. It was a large ark of a room in a pretty good hotel and cost us a pretty penny. Saturday nite [sic] we just visited a couple of taverns where I broke down & drank beer which I don't particularly care for. Sunday we went for a nice long walk along the lake shore and had a lot of fun going thru [sic] one of the small docks there. It was a lot like the seashore except for the absence of the

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salt tang in the air. The water was nice and look cool, clear & green. There were some nice boats out on the lake. We finally went back to the USO and got some free tickets to a theater where we saw the picture "A Guy Named Joe" which was fair but not exceptional. After the show we headed over to the bus and came back by bus. It was fun and I added another state to my list of travels. You should have been there and I would've appreciated it much more.

We've been told that the general hospitals are starting to be formed July first and should all be formed by the end of July. Our furloughs should come the last week in July or during the first couple of weeks of August. Since Miss McKinley is getting off the last week of July, I hope I get off the week later because I'd hate

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terribly not to be able to bring you home with [scratched out word] me Sweet. I love you so much. Gosh, I get so lonesome for you and miss you so very much when we're apart. The only good part of having next week off is that I'll have more clothes and cleaner clothes to wear to see you. That was worrying me about leaving tonite. [sic] I think that one of the fellows from here [scratched out word] who has a car is also getting off and is going to Detroit at the same time. If so I'll go along with him and can maybe even arrange to meet him on the way back Sunday nite. [sic] That would be very nice indeed wouldn't it Sweet.

I'm terribly afraid that the visiting civilians will get a rather rude reception from all of us who resent the whole idea very much. As if it wasn't bad enough that we lost our passes & our whole weekend off, we are also losing whatever vestiges of privacy we have left.

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I swear that if any of them come in my tent they'll receive a very curt & abrupt welcome and woe to he who even lays a finger on my foot locker. He'll lost a finger. We have heard that the WCTU is visitting [sic] the camp in a group so all the boys have made up their minds to greet them with a surprise. IT will be a wonder if anyone in the company is entirely sober Sunday morning. My pen just ran out of ink so I'm using a [scratched out word] USO pen. I don't care very much for such a fine pen. I can write well with it.

I want to tell you again how wonderful I think the scrapbook is Sweetheart. It's so unique and everything is so appropriate I especially like the picture of my pin- up girl and the house you picked out for our postwar dreams, and the barn, etc. I like everything about it Darling. Thank you so much.

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To continue with what has happened to me since I last wrote you a long letter.

I had to refill my pen I just couldn't write with that other one.

Monday nite [sic] we had our nite [sic] bivouac and hiked four miles out in the country where we pitched some large ward tents for fun – not my idea of fun – and later pitched our pup tents in which we slept all nite [sic] with nothing under us except the ground, the hard hard ground. Between that and the mosquitos I spent a miserable nite [sic] and got very little sleep. Then we had to get up at 4:30 in the

morning, take our tents down, roll our packs, and hike [scratched out word] four miles back to your own tents – a hell of a way to start out a day. Then to top that off our first hour of class was close order drill and we marched around for a full hour. All this made me extremely bitter. Ah me! I'm very unhappy in the

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Army.

A lot of the fellows here are getting all hopped up about the reopening of Medical Administration Corps OCS. Jess Trowbridge put in his application and was accepted for training. I'll be glad to get rid of him finally. Bob and I discussed the deal pro and con and decided to let well enough alone and not put in applications. We're drawing as much or more money than a second lieutenant draws after he pays all his expenses and [scratched out word] we have no responsibilities such as officers have. I don't care for the idea of going thru [sic] five months of OCS suffering thru [sic] much more nonsense even that I have to take here. It would all be extremely galling to me I know and not worth the trouble. I've lost all interest in anything the army can offer me except

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a discharge and the opportunity to return to your arms once more – forever. Anything else is just so much stuff and time that I have to find the patience to wait out until that wonderful day comes. I love you Darling.

I may get a fairly decent job out of all this because some of the fellows saw the list of jobs in a hospital such as the ones we will be assigned to and there were all sorts of technical jobs such as work in powerhouses, on trucks and ambulances and just about every other kind of job. I think I'd like to get a job working in the hospital power plant and I may got it. One never knows do one? There is a great possibility that soon after my furlough I will be headed overseas because, from all indications, that is where we will get our training. As much as I hate to be so far from you it will at least make me feel that I'm doing something which

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will hasten the end of the war slightly.

It must be rather tough on Sue not knowing exactly when she will be married since he fiancée doesn't know when he'll graduate, to the day. That sounds funny. What were you and Neva planning to do to her on her wedding day anyway? You said you wanted to do some sort of mischief. Tch! Tch! Im surprised Honey. You don't want anyone to do anything like that to us do you? Shame!!! Won't it be wonderful when we are married? It'll be the most wonderful day in the world.

I guess I'll close now my most wonderful Darling. I send you all of my love and a great big hug and kiss from someone who knows that in all this world there is no one

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So nice and so loveable as you are –

Freddie

Goodnite!! [sic] Sweet Dreams!!