

Thursday –

My Dear Sweet Darling;

Greetings! This is to inform you that you have been selected by a board composed of your loving husband to be to accompany him home on a furlough on or about the sixth of July. Of course I hate like the devil to miss that three day pass also Sweetheart but I guess I should be quite glad to get the furlough. At least I'll have the furlough before Miss McKinley goes on her vacation. It's so wonderful to just think of your going home with me and to think that I'll be with you almost all the time I am on furlough. I love you so much. I'll have to call you up now and let you know that I will be getting my furlough next week so you can prepare Miss McKinley for your taking a

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leave of absence.

Everyone here is all hepped up now about our getting furloughs so soon. We even got off the hike tomorrow because we have to let them check our clothing to see that we have all that we need. [scratched out word] The next week will particularly all be taken up by such stuff as clothing checks etc.

A group of one of my roommate's friends are in here now trying to convince themselves that they are intellectual giants with their G.C.T.'s of 130 to 136. They are certain that with such high G.C.T.S they must surely be placed in some very nice niche in these general hospitals.

Friday Morning

I tried to call you up – unsuccessfully – last nite [sic] so I guess I'll call you Saturday nite instead. You will be at work tonite [sic] and I'd probably not be able to get you at home when I called. Also, if I wait till Saturday I'll probably find out a little more about just exactly when I will get off on furlough.

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Every time I think that in the near future there is a possibility of my being overseas sometime in the not too distant future I get a sort of blue feeling knowing that I wont [sic] be able to see you at all for the duration of my stay overseas. Of course it will make me appreciate being with you so much more – they say – altho [sic] I doubt that. I love you to the extremest [sic] degree at the present Honey and nothing could ever help if it keeps us apart. Of course I probably will be around here for a while [scratched out word] yet and there's the good possibility that they may just forget all about me and leave me here for quite a while. I do love you Darling you know that don't you? It's such a wonderful feeling too especially when I realize that you love me too. It's just too wonderful Sweetheart.

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I just found out that the CO let five or six fellows leave on three day passes this week in spite of the fact that he told us they were all cancelled. All the boys were orderly room on hangers which makes me very bitter. Any CO who makes a ruling like that and then violates it and lets a few boys who live right here in town with their wives get off on pass – Evers is one of them – gets my goat. I'll probably go overseas with him too. I don't like that thought too well but at least I've gotten rid of Jess I think.

We don't have any hike today and are going to have a clothing check made. It's one of a number of them, the first of which we had last nite. [sic] It's a long and complicated procedure which the army makes long and complicated when it could be simple. We go thru [sic] the same procedure when we hit the port of embarkation. They do it there to pass the time of day.

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Everyone around here wants to know if I'm going to be married on my furlough. Some of the boys from Lansing don't want to be convinced that I am not going to be altho [sic] I wish that the war was over so I could be.

A little later in the day –

I got the last letter in the world I ever expected to get today. Mrs. Tillson wrote me a letter – not only that – but it was a letter in which she apologized for her behavior toward me and for having ever said anything to me about not desiring me as a son in law. She said that it was not for the older generation to tell the younger generation what to do. All this was a terrible surprise but was just about two and a half years too late. As far as I am concerned, the thought of being her son-in-law is something from the far distant past and is much better forgotten. Now that I've

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met you, that letter of hers becomes one of life's very futile gestures that come too late. You know, I love you an awful lot and nothing that ever happened now could ever make any difference. I suppose it was a nice gesture on her part but not thoroughly appreciated on my part. Well, that's that and now it's all over.

I just got paid and am scheduled to just hang around here all afternoon waiting for my clothes to be checked and marked. This is quite a lengthy and complicated procedure and will take the whole of the afternoon. I'll have to try to get off for a while to go to the post office and mail a letter home air mail telling Mom and Dad that I will be home next week so they can expect us. It's just going to be so much fun to conduct - you on a Maurice tour of New England – a rather limited part of New England to be sure but New England all the same. It'll be fun walking along the seashore with you under a nice bright moon, listening to the surf pound against the rocks

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and just generally enjoying nature very thoroughly. It's all I've thought about for quite a while and it will be so much fun Darling. I know you'll enjoy it thoroughly and I will too. I think our furloughs will include [scratched out word] nice days total – five days of furlough, three days travelling time, and a day of grace. That won't be too bad. Of course if it was longer I would hardly complain but I guess this will have to do.

I think I can get a ride to Chicago with a friend of mine here. If I can I'll be able to get away from here at midnite [sic] when our furloughs come of age instead of waiting until the next day to take the furlough train which they have planned for us. That would be very bad because I'd get started a lot later. I'm going to go to work on the CO about that and am quite sure that I'll be able to negotiate the deal. I'll save a lot more time in which I can be with you. Isn't that wonderful.

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Well, Sweetheart, I'll close now because I have to write and prepare the Maurice family for the homecoming of the Prodigal Son.

All my love to you Darling

I love you

Freddie