

Monday Evening

My Dearest Sweetest Darling,

I thought I would surprise you by typing you another letter it's a lot of fun because I can say what I want to say much faster than I can by writing.

First I will explain how I happen to have access to a typewriter. It seems that this evening we were scheduled to go on a hike ten miles long. Of course I did not want to go on the hike very much but true to my promise to you I decided not to obey my instincts but instead I made elaborate preparations for the hike, even going to the extent of getting some ice from the P.X. to get the water in my, canteen cool and buying a couple of liverwurst sandwiches to put in my pack in place of my raincoat which I knew very well I would not need. All preparations being made, I proceeded to fall out with the company. It seems that in addition to having to march, our platoon had to furnish the guard for tonite. [sic] I had previously looked at the guard roster to be sure I was not on, I wasn't. When the role was called for the hike my name was not called. I inquired to find out why not and was told that I was listed as a guard and that I had better get on the ball. That was all I wanted to hear and in a flash I was back at the tent and the pack was off my back. You see Darling it's the little people I told you about who fixed it up so they thought I was on guard tonight. After that I could hardly stay around the company because if anyone asked me why I wasn't not on the hike I could hardly say that it was because I was on guard. That wouldn't be fair to my conscience. So I did the only thing remaining for me to do and came over here to the thirty sixth battalion where I am using the typewriter. There's nothing wrong in this is there. I kept my promise and did not goof off, this situation was thrust upon me.

Part of the above paragraph was written while I wore a gas mask. Someone pulled off the same stunt that was pulled once before and released some gas in the vicinity and it was wafted into the tent. I ran and got Bob's gas mask and wore it until the danger was past. It was quite a job because Bob has eyepieces fitted into his mask and I had to tilt my head so I could peer over the lenses. I almost went crosseyed [sic] trying to find the right letters to hit.

Roger Thomas came back from his furlough today, a married man

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with a weekend bride. When he got here he found that he had been transferred to the company I' [scratched out word] am in and that he could not go in town nights to see his wife. I feel sorry for the guy because he really is desperate and doesn't know what to do. He did get permission to go in town tonight to bid her farewell until next Monday night, the fateful day on which our sentence is supposed to end, I trust. He still is quite brave in spite of everything and strongly urges me to get m [sic] married as soon as possible. Between he and Art Sadtler I am quite sure I will be influenced into asking you to marry me at the first possible moment, although I can truthfully say that I need less influencing for this than for anything I have ever don't or ever intent to do. I'll call you up as soon as I can get some time to get to a phone to make a long distance call. I'll also ask the C.O. just how soon I can get a three day pass just to try to get something fairly definite. I love you my Darling, terribly.

This afternoon we had an exhibition on the transportation of wounded across rivers. To make it more realistic they set off powder charged and fired guns. Some [scratched out word] of the charges they set off were in the river and the damned fools didn't think that these charges would kill the fish. At

any rate, in very short order the river was white with fish floating belly upward. Some kids from down the river [scratched out words] brought out bags and reaped a harvest of dead fish.

Guess I'd better close now Sweetheart because I've got to get back to the bivouac area since it is getting very late and I do not want to overstay my visit. I love you Darling, and do hope that you will marry me as soon as possible. I want so to have you as Mrs. Maurice. Here's a great big hug and kiss for you, I'll see you in a dream.