

Ried, Austria
3 June 1945
Sunday

My Darling Wife,

Hello, sweetheart. I haven't had a letter from you since the 28th and am getting quite anxious for a letter. Last night I got the envelope of newspaper clippings, but it is not like a letter from you. The last few letters I received from you were very short, too, and the last one was not too pleasant because you had not received any mail from me and you had a number of questions still unanswered. The last question bothered me a bit, too. I never want to feel that there is any doubt in your mind or in your heart ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ that I do not love you as much as ever.

Sweetheart, love such as ours cannot fail. We had everything that one can dream of in the way of companionship, understanding, devotion, and love, and we were truly happy. Just the memory of the love and happiness we had is enough to keep me faithful and true to you the rest of my life, but knowing that you are waiting for me to come back for an even happier life together gives me hope, strength, and courage to face the future with vigor and ambition to give you the life that you so justly deserve. Do not ever doubt me, darling. I want to feel that you trust me as explicitly as I trust you, that you love me as I love you, and that you are as proud of being my wife as I am of being your husband. I do love you so, Shirley -- more than life itself.

I have been reading a book entitled "Call Her Rosie" during spare moments during noon hour and in the evening and got quite interested in it last night and spent all my time except while at the movie reading it so that I could find out how it ended. I finally finished it tonight and have my mind clear now to write a letter for last night and tonight, both. The show was "Tall in the Saddle" with John Wayne. Not bad for a Western.

A good deal of my time lately has been taken up with study for the examination for Warrant Officer, but I am through with the study tonight. Tomorrow morning I am to take the exam. I either pass or fail, so here is hoping for the best. Wish me luck, honey. I have been doing a good deal of studying while at work because I have time to do some reading and reference work while the typists are doing jobs for me, but I can only get a few moments at a time and it is not too good. Everything will turn out ok, though, I am sure of that.

Lt Turner had me up to his room yesterday and gave me some pointers for the exam. He and the Captain have done a great deal for me in recommending me for the appointment and they both are very much interested in helping me. I appreciate that a lot and am pleased that they feel me capable and like my work in the unit.

(next sheet)

Yesterday, also, Lt Turner had me type up the recommendation for the Bronze Star Medal, which the Captain signed and sent in to the Commanding General of XX Corps to try to get me the Bronze Star Medal. Lt Turner wrote up the recommendation, and ~~XXX~~ they gave me a copy of the recommendation, as prepared. I am enclosing the copy so that you can read just what was sent to the General about your husband. It is pretty flowery, honey, but I cannot help feeling quite proud over the whole thing. I hope that the recommendation is approved, and believe that it will be. Remember though, honey, that I have not been awarded the medal yet, so do not become excited and tell too many people until it is definite. If and when the award is made I will let you know by all means. To my knowledge, only two men in our unit are recommended for this medal, so there is a great deal of honor in the award, if I do get it.

Oh yes, in reading this recommendation you will note that it mentions previous decorations and indicates that I was awarded the Good Conduct Medal. A number of us in the unit were awarded the Good Conduct Medal about three weeks ago, but I do not believe that I mentioned the fact in a previous letter. The Good Conduct Medal does not carry very much prestige with it and does not count for points in discharge or increase in pay or the like. It is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity for one continuous year of service. As I said before, nearly everyone in the unit was awarded the Good Conduct Medal if they had been in the unit a year.

I received the roll of 116 A film you sent, today. Thanks, honey. Now to borrow a camera from one of the fellows and get some pictures taken. I still do not have the other two rolls developed, but have hopes. The fellow I gave them to has so many ahead of me that it may be some time yet, but he does good work and some of the other fellows have ruined some rolls. I would rather wait a few weeks and get good prints.

I would like you to show the recommendation for the medal to Mother and Dad and to Mother and Dad C., but do not let it become too public until I know whether I have received the award or not. Let me know what you think about the whole thing, honey.

Have you received the doll I sent Laura? I am quite anxious to know whether it got there in one piece or not and what you think about both the doll and the fur jackets. Let me know what Laura thinks about the doll, too.

That is all the news for tonight, darling. Wish me luck on the exam. Give my love to Laura and also a kiss. I love you both, honey, more than you can ever know. I am devoted to you forever.

Your loving husband,

Cliff