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France

11 March 1945

Sunday.

My Darling Wife,

Hello, honey. Hope and pray that you and Lavoura are well and ok. I am fine.

Sorry I haven't written the last two nights, honey, but will try to do better.

Friday night was IBM class night, and was an interesting class, too. When I got back to the room it was after 9:00 o'clock and I went to bed even though it was early.

Last night I worked until seven o'clock, then four of us had an exciting game of Euchre. We played until ten and went to bed.

This morning, being Sunday and a day off, we had no  
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calisthenics and I didn't get up until after 8:00 o'clock.

When I did get up I cleaned our room, as it was my day for cleanup detail.

Then I read a story in the Saturday Evening Post and three of us made plans for a short excursion this afternoon.

We ate as early as we could and left for town. In town we caught an interurban streetcar (about like the Tonerville Trolley) and rode to a nearby town. We got there about two o'clock and immediately got in a line (or mob) going to a show. After being pushed and jostled about and doing some pushing ourselves we finally got to the ticket (next sheet)

office and got our tickets.

We saw some news, a French travelogue, and the main feature. I can't even tell you the name of the show, but I think I figured out most of the plot. At least the three of us agreed on a feasible story. I enjoyed it and it held my interest even though I didn't understand a word of the dialogue.

After the show we rode the "Toonerville Trolley" back to our home town and caught a ride to camp. We got back just in time for a good fried chicken dinner.

It did me good to go out on pass again for a change. And the whole afternoon cost the three of  
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us about a dollar.

I don't know whether I ever described our steel beds to you or not, but they were steel frame beds with steel springs about the width and thickness of the leaves in auto springs. Each spring ran the full length of the bed and they were spaced about two or three inches apart. Without a mattress the springs got pretty hard and several of us did not have mattresses. A number of times I got my arm or shoulder wedged part way between two springs and awoke to find my arm numb and asleep. A few nights ago I didn't wake up ~~until~~ until my shoulder was numb and stiff. I could hardly do the  
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calisthenics the next morning. However, we who did not have mattresses were issued army cots yesterday and I won't have that trouble anymore.

It is really amazing what one can get used to, though. I can remember when I thought an army cot to be hard and uncomfortable, but it now seems like a luxury after the steel spring bed.

I even wonder if I could sleep in a bed with a soft mattress, but I am sure willing to come home and try it.

I got a V-Mail from Anne Maglio two days ago but have had no other mail since I wrote you last. Anne said that Barbara had been very sick with an attack of the croup  
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but that she was almost  
normal again.

Darling, that's all the news.  
The weather here is just cloudy  
but we haven't had any real  
storm for some time.

Honey, remember that I wrote  
I had a small parcel to send to  
you. I haven't had a chance to  
wrap it yet. It is up at the office  
and I have been so busy at  
work since the Sgt went on  
furlough that I never got it wrapped.  
I'll send it as soon as I can,  
though. It is a box with two small  
bottles of perfume. I hope that it  
is good stuff.

Well, my darling, that is all  
for tonight. I send you my love  
from the bottom of my heart. Always  
be mine, darling.

Yours forever,

Cliff.

Honey, I believe 12 March 1945  
for me to submit Monday.

My Darling Wife,

Hello, Shirley. How are you and  
Laura tonight? I am feeling fine.  
Today was a very nice day, but a  
little hazy. are beginning to get

caught. Today, being Monday, we started  
our week of morning catisthenics.  
The lieutenant who leads the catisthenics  
can really tire us out.

Well, the week got started off  
with a bang. Sundays off are  
really appreciated. We had to  
work last Sunday, so this was  
the first day off in two weeks.

I got a letter from Helva  
today written March 1st and  
postmarked the 3rd. It made  
good time. Haven't had any  
mail from you for four days  
again.

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Honey, I believe it is time for me to submit my regular request for candy and cookies. So, whenever you can send another box, it will be appreciated. Thanks, honey.

We are beginning to get caught up a little on the work at the office after the month-end rush. We also have one of the new men in the Administration section now to help keep the work up to date so we shouldn't get so far behind again.

Not much other news, honey. So, I'll bid you goodnight and pleasant dreams. Give Laura a kiss for me & tell her that Daddy is thinking of her, too.

I love you, Shirley.

Your adoring husband,  
Cliff