

France
12 February
Monday.

Dearest Shirley,

Today has been rather an eventful one. As a result of the interview the four men in the unit went to last night, S/Sgt Novack, the Administration Supervisor was selected to be one of two men from the IX Corps to go to the United States on furlough for 30 days. Needless to say, he is really happy. Over the whole thing as he has been overseas almost three years.

Staff Sergeant Novack is my immediate boss, so while he is gone I may be a little busier, but I have some good help so it won't be too bad.

I hope and pray that the rest of us get to go home to stay long before any three years overseas. God only knows how long we will be fighting the Germans yet, let alone the Japs, and only time will tell.

Today I received your letters of Jan. 27th (two written the same day). Tell Mother C. that a combination birthday present for both our birthdays is ok with me and something for our future home is swell. Give her my thanks too, honey.

Thanks for the clipping telling of the seven Redlands boys meeting in Saipan. I knew
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five of the seven boys. That was quite a bit of news wasn't it?

Today has been rainy and a little cold, too. Even though we don't have any snow, we are getting plenty of rain.

I also got another letter today besides the two from you. It was from Grace in Idaho. She still mentions your visit and how cute Laura was.

Well, darling, that is about all the news tonight. My thoughts, my heart, and my prayers are with you always. I send both you and Laura my love and a kiss.

Your adoring husband,
Cliff

France
11 February 1945
Sunday Night

My Darling Wife,

Good evening, honey. Hope everything ~~is~~ is all right with you and Laura. I am ok but tired. I am about as tired as I have been in a good many weeks.

This afternoon I went out on pass right after noon chow. Eight of us in a group went to one of the Maginot line forts and walked our legs off through miles of tunnels, passages, and rooms. Although it was well worth the trip we are all dead tired tonight.

The size of the fort, the workmanship, and the complex layout complete with power plant, kitchens, showers, latrines, living quarters, telephones throughout, gun emplacements, etc. is something to behold and be amazed at. But as a defense against an invading foe, I can't understand how the fort (or vast numbers of them) could be worth the immense fortune they must have cost in materials & labor.

Honey, I was interrupted by a phone call and had to notify four men in the unit of a meeting they were ordered to attend. Then there was no driver readily available to take them up and bring them back, so I was relieved from C.Q. to take them. That was

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some job, too. It is pitch dark out and raining hard. A good portion of the trip (although only a short trip) was in blackout driving zone and I had to drive by the light of a flashlight. I waited and then drove the men back, and I am glad to have that trip over with. It wouldn't be so bad but it is such a miserable night and the windshield gets steamy on the inside, and it isn't much help to have a flashlight even.

To get back to my story. The fort was immense but I believe that bombs and heavy artillery could wreck it. Also, I wasn't too much impressed by the large armament still in it or that was evident to have been there at one time. Some large guns may have been removed, but most of the gun positions seemed to be equipped for machine guns or small guns, and even rifles must have been a major weapon for defense of the fort.

Honey, I am afraid that I had better sign off for tonight. I am terribly tired and am a little wet. I think I had better get out of my damp clothes, get to bed, and rest.

Good night, Shirley. I love you - more than you can ever know. Give Laura a kiss for me.

Your loving husband,

Cliff

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