

Starnberg, Germany
17 June 1945
Sunday

My Darling Wife,

Hello, honey. I hope and pray that both you and Laura are well and that everything is ok at home. I am feeling well again but did not get a chance to write last night.

Yesterday I went on a trip with Lt Turner out to the 20th Armored Division. We went from Starnberg through Munich and out on the Super Highway ~~xx~~ to a lake a little beyond Rosenheim named the Chien See. The 20th Armored was set up a short distance from the lake. It was 70 miles from our unit out to the division. It was a nice drive and we had a nice day for it except that it rained about a half hour last night when we were out at Rosenheim on the way back. We stopped there on the way back for chow last night and ate with one of the Finance units belonging to Corps.

When I got back to camp I found that a new promotion list had been posted while I was gone, and I am now a Staff Sergeant! Yippee! That is big news, isn't it honey? I am quite happy about the whole thing, too. The Captain told me a few nights ago that the promotion would be out in a day or two but it was sooner than I expected. We lost a Staff Sergeant and A Tec 5 on the 15th and the promotions came out on the 16th. The Captain also told me that if we did lose our Master Sergeant and Technical Sergeant that are way up in points for discharge, there would be another strip for me then. The job of Administration Supervisor, which is officially my job, now, calls for a Technical Sergeant. So, if we do lose those men who are eligible for discharge, I have high hopes of getting another promotion then.

In view of all this, plus the fact that I now expect more points to be added to my present 68 points, I believe that my chances of getting out of this Army in a short time are better as an enlisted man than as a Warrant Officer. If I am offered an appointment I believe that the situation has changed enough that I am positive about not wanting to accept an appointment.

As I told you before, we expect at least one additional battle star and possibly two (at five points each). Also, I was one of five men in the unit recommended for a Bronze Star Medal, which if approved would be another five points. One battle star and the Bronze Star would give me 78 points or two battle stars and the Bronze Star Medal would ~~give~~ give me a total of 83 points. In any event, as you can understand also, I believe that I have a lot better chance of getting out of this Army by not tying myself down to any agreement to stay in the Army for a year for an appointment as Warrant Officer. I might get out inside of a year otherwise. Maybe I will not hear anything from the Warrant Officer deal, anyway.

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This morning about eleven I left the unit in the jeep and took a sergeant with me to Third Army headquarters. We went from Starnberg to Bad Tolz (south and east about 30 miles) where the Forward Echelon of Third Army headquarters is located. We ate noon chow there. We ate in a beautiful dining hall with tablecloths on the tables, silver and plates to eat with instead of mess gear, and had the dessert served to us by table waiters. What a nice place they have there. They had swell chow, too.

After chow we took care of the business we were sent to attend to and took off again for Munich. At Munich we went to the Rear Echelon of Third Army headquarters but did not find the MRU there so had to go into town and get directions. We went out the the 39th MRU outside of Munich and took care of what business we could there and drove back to our ~~my~~ unit in time for chow tonight. For two days now I have done very little work at the ~~my~~ unit and have done a lot of travelling. That brings us up to date. I did not write last night as it was after nine when I got in last night.

Today we got the first bundle of personal mail in four or five days, but I was one of the few who did not get any mail. I haven't had a letter from you in a week now. Is it any of your fault or just the mail again? Honestly, darling, I am writing to you every night possible. I haven't missed a night without good reason ever since the last time I got one of your sad letters about not getting mail for so long even though I knew that I had been writing all the time covered by the delay in mail at home. Do your best, darling, that is all that I can ask.

Now, honey, I am officially the Administrative Supervisor and have the rank to get the things done that I must ask of the men working for me. I had the authority before but it was only by understanding and not by grade. I am quite proud of the new promotion. I was originally promised a Tec 4 rating as a Steno and that is the rating provided for a Stenographer in our unit. I got that rating ok, but this one I had to work for. I have had to really work, too. I am now the only man in this unit who has received four stripes in this unit. Most of the men with high rank came into the unit with high rank and were promoted one grade while in this unit. Only four men have received three stripes in this unit. From Private to Staff Sergeant in an MRU is a hard grind and lots of work--take it from me, even if I am patting myself on the back.

You can claim a lot of the credit, too, honey. You are my inspiration for wanting to get ahead. I want to better myself all that I can, learn what I can, and save and plan for the future. And I want you to be proud of me, too. Knowing that you are at home waiting for me, loving me, and praying for me helps me more than you can realize. It makes my life worth living--worth working for a future. Just always be mine--all mine, darling and always love me.

Take care of yourself, sweetheart, and take care of our little daughter. May God bless you both.

your loving husband,

Cliff

Starnberg, Germany
18 June 1945
Monday

Dearest Shirley,

Good evening, darling. I hope and pray that you and Laura are well and ok. All is well here.

I am enclosing the latest listing prepared by "Pete" showing the route we travelled from Amberg, Germany to Ried, Austria and from Ried, Austria to Starnberg, Germany. That will bring the list you now have right up to date. We will probably be here for some time to come so do not expect to have any more moving routes for you. I may take a trip from time to time as I have the last few days but will not be going through any new territory.

Up until tonight we had been allowed to go down to the lake or up through the town or out into the country without a pass. Before we moved to this place we were not allowed out of camp at all, so it was quite a change. Tonight we got orders that we can leave the area only on pass and only a limited few may have passes. That does not bother me except to go to the movie twice a week which is held in the local theater about three blocks from here. I went out one night since we have been here to get a view of the lake as I told you about before. I might like to take a boat ride on the lake when we get allotted boats, but I have no desire to roam around otherwise.

We are forbidden to have anything to do with Germans (even if we wanted to) and cannot go to their shops, taverns, etc. Again, that does not bother me. I am pretty much of a home-body and have gotten used to it. Back in the States I was not eligible for passes in my basic training camp as at many of the camps and I got used to staying in. Then I never had enough money to go out more than once or twice a month, anyway. In England I went out a little but not a third as much as the average G.I. The money angle entered into it a little there, too. In France, I had long since gotten used to staying in and was not encouraged to go out among people that I could not talk to. I did go out enough to learn a little about the people and the country and the customs. I would have been foolish not to. But even then I went comparatively few times. Three-fourths of the fellows went out more than I did. I did enjoy going on the trolley from Thionville to Hayange to movies, though.

Some of the boys really did some tall moaning and complaining when we entered Germany and had to stay in camp or quarters and were not allowed outside the area. Well, some went out anyway. There are severe penalties for fraternizing with the Germans. Well, some are visiting Germans, talking with them, bargaining with them for laundry, fishing tackle, etc. And, there are more than a few that are sneaking out with German girls.

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One would think that the fellows would not want to have anything to do with the girls for the simple reason that they are Germans and were Nazis, whether they claim to have been or not. Then, also, if the G.I.'s get caught with a German girl it can mean a court-martial and a prison sentence. Some men have already been imprisoned on sentences of two to three years plus a dishonorable discharge. It is serious business. Also, there is always the item of disease. I cannot understand it myself. With such risks, I cannot see why a G.I. would want anything to do with a decent girl, let alone a Nazi.

These German girls and women are not beautiful. Some are fairly pretty. But they are shapely except that many are too big busted. Flat-busted women are few and far between. There are few or no men in any of the towns in Germany. All the able-bodied men were in the German armies and are now in Prisoner of War camps. The women and girls are a problem to the American and Allied military government (which you have undoubtedly read in the papers at home). These women have been away from men as long or longer than the G.I.'s have been away from women. But, I still say that it is just an animal-like relationship that these soldiers and the German women have. The Germans can speak some English but most G.I.'s cannot speak German. Any relationships they have with each other cannot be anything but a physical satisfaction. The whole thing is the crudest and most unappealing idea I have heard of. Thank God that not all men and women are so crude, animal-like, and uncivilized.

When I tell of all this, do not get the idea that any majority ~~unappreciating~~ of G.I.'s are fraternizing, but there are a few in every outfit. Most of the fellows would like to go out fishing, hiking around the lake, swimming, boating, etc. and have little or no desire to have anything to do with the Germans except to get some woman to do some laundry. Our G.I. laundry is sometimes not so hot. I do stay in camp more than most, but I am no exception to the rule of not wanting ~~unappreciating~~ anything to do with Germans. The fellows who visit the German girls are the exception to the rule. But the Army gets its bad name from the few bad men. Those men are wearing the uniform just as the rest of us.

Enough of that, though. How about a letter, honey? Eight days now without a letter from you. I am patient, but sometimes my patience is a little strained between letters.

Have you received the large doll I sent Laura and the fur coats it was packed in? How is Laura nowadays? I haven't had a letter all about Laura in ages. Gosh, I long to get home and see you both. I am more than anxious to get the dope on the demobilization critical score. As yet we do not know whether or not we are to get credit for one additional battle star or two and I have not heard whether or not I am to be awarded the Bronze Star Medal or not. At present I am quite sure that I am way too low on points, but the awards might put me up pretty close. Hope and pray for the best, darling. So far, all we know is that ~~we~~ our unit is slated for shipment from the ETO but do not know whether to the CBI or the USA and do not know when. Our job here is pretty well outlined for us for about three months, but

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another unit could relieve us before that time is up. Personally, I believe we will be here that long. Only God knows, though, and only time can tell. At least we have hopes of being shipped through the States if we are sent to CBI.

Sorry that I cannot tell you more, darling, but I do not know any more about the plans for the future of our unit than what I have told you. I feel a lot more optimistic about the whole thing than I did even two months ago, though. I believe that my chances or getting out of the Army in the next year may be pretty good, but until the critical score is announced and until the final dope comes out on these battle stars I do not know any more.

Write to me, honey, and tell me all the news. All my love, Shirley, to both you and Laura. Take good care of yourselves and always be mine.

Yours forever,

Cliff

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