

Starnberg, Germany
29 September 1945
Saturday

Dearest Shirley,

Hello, honey. How are you and Laura tonight? I am fine. Some of the nervous excitement of coming back to the unit and hearing rumors of my leaving the unit within the week has worn off since last night. I actually worked today.

As yet there is no confirmation of the rumor about the high point men from the unit leaving by the 5th of October, but we still are almost positive of leaving by the 10th. I still think I will be home by December first, but there is a lot of red tape between me and that discharge and there are a good many miles between me and the separation center. So, I will just keep hoping, praying, and dreaming for a little while yet.

It is all rather hard to believe yet, honey. Just think, I may be home for Thanksgiving, and I would bet good money that I will be home for Christmas.

Oh, yes, speaking of money, Monday is payday and I will have a little extra money. I have fifty dollars loaned out at present which I will get then and have some extra money on hand now that I will put with it when I get my pay. So, about Monday or Tuesday I will send you a money order for a hundred dollars. You might just cash it and put it away for that "honeymoon" we are to have when I get there. Ok? Swell.

I got a letter from you yesterday that told about you buying a new tire for the little brown Ford and told of the current status of the car. Sounds like you have done ok with our little brown car, honey. By the time I get there you should have it painted and it will look like new as well as run smoothly. It may have to last us a long while yet while we are buying our little home for this "one man's family" so take good care of it, honey. I am glad to hear that you have come to feel toward that car as I did. It really is a nice little car, isn't it?

Honey, after spending one week in Switzerland in soft beds, eating good food well prepared, and feeling free to go and do as I pleased, being able to choose what I wanted to wear, etc., I feel that I am now able to come back to being a civilian. The furlough was sorta like a preview of coming attractions. It made me long for you more than ever. But I am still at a loss as to how it will feel to be a father. I am eagerly looking forward to the meeting with little Laura and I can hardly wait for a big kiss from our little daughter, but everything about being Daddy is going to be new. I know that everything about being your husband will be wonderful. Even across the continent and across the sea it has been a comfort to me to know that you were waiting for me and loving me. To come back to you will be HEAVEN on earth. I love you so much, darling.

I can hardly wait to get started on my way. I have very little

(next sheet)

ambition left and practically no interest in the unit. All the old gang seems to be gone. There are only 15 of the original 38 men in the unit now. Of the 38 men who came overseas with the 38th MRU on Jan. 18th, 1943, only 15 remain in the unit today. Within the next two weeks there will be only three of those left. You can readily understand why the loyalty to the unit is practically nil now.

Still, I am one of the two top men now, (The other Tech. Sgt went home while I was on furlough to Switzerland.), and I have to do a great deal of cleaning up in the unit before it closes shop. I have been throwing out files ever since I got back. Every file has to be screened for Secret documents in order to close out the Secret document records, and nothing can be burned that will be required by the War Dept after the unit busts up. Also, we have some records to be turned over to the MRU which picks up the outfits we service now. All in all there is quite a bit of work to do but I do not want it to bother me. I do not want to start worrying about this unit again. I have little or no loyalty left for the lieutenant. He could have sent those of us ~~with~~ 80 points on our way before now, but he held us as being essential, and that made me be pretty sour toward him.

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Oh, yes, the Army came out with a directive granting every man in this theater who was overseas on VE Day an increase of eight points over his VE Day score. I had 73 points then so now have 81 points even though we thought I would get credit for only 80 based on a recount from the beginning of my military service. So, I do have 81 points, honey.

I am still here, yet, so 81 points is not getting me out of the Army yet. When I get home I hope that they discharge me and let me go home. I do not want to go home on furlough and have to go back to get my discharge. I just want out once and for all.

Well, darling, that is about all for tonight. And, I wrote a short note to Mr. Rhudy and a letter to Mother tonight as well. I cannot guarantee that I will write every night from now on, but can guarantee that I will write whenever I can.

Goodnight, sweetheart. Give Laura a goodnight kiss for me, too. Sweet dreams to both of you blue-eyed darlings.

Your loving husband,

Cliff
JK