

Starnberg, Germany  
25 June 1945  
Monday

My Sweetheart,

Hello, sweetheart. I hope that you and Laura are well and ok and that you are getting my mail. After 13 days without a letter I got a letter from you on Saturday which you had written on the 11th of June. Sunday I got a letter from Sgt John Maglio. Today I got a letter from you, one from Mother, and one from Relva. So I do not feel so lonely now and I have some letters to answer which can give me a little inspiration, too.

Saturday night we all put on fatigues and went out in the 2 1/2 Ton truck to two cottages along the lake frontage which were to become our new home. We have done so much bitching about the dirty hole we were in and the Captain raised so much stink about it that the Corps finally granted us some decent quarters. We got out here to clean up the two cottages (one small for the night shift crew and a large one for the day shift gang). Some colored boys from a medical collecting company had been in the places just before us and they were really dirty. We had a full evening of getting the places habitable. Last night we moved from town out here by truck. We had a full evening moving, too. Therefore I did not write either night. Now we are set up in new quarters along the lake frontage. As I set here typing this letter I can glance up out the window and get a view of the lake through the pines. Some class, eh what!

My room is on the bottom floor of a three story cottage. The bottom floor is partly below ground. The windows are hardly above the ground. I share a room with a man from Florida. His name is Fred Carter, 32, married, has two children--a girl almost five and a boy about a year or a year and a half. Fred is one of the ~~four~~ two auto maintenance men in our unit. He is a good clean cut guy in love with his wife and almost crazy about his kids. I believe that he lives and breathes for those kids--a good trait in any man.

We have bed lamps over our beds, a light over the wash basin and the mirror to shave by and a light in the center of the room, so it is very light in here in spite of the fact that we are almost in the basement. We have a writing desk under the window facing out on the lake (the only window), two chairs, a small cabinet like an end table, and I have a three-quarters maple bed. I did not trust the mattress, though so am using two thick pads and my extra blankets for a mattress. Then we have my radio which I acquired back in Amberg. We have a cozy little room. The whole place is as modern as can be and as up to date and neat as any mountain cabin or beach cottage at home. And you know how nice some of them can be--better than a home in town. Well, we like it very much.

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There are few inconveniences about living way out here, though. We have to ride to and from work and the mess hall in the truck. We are so far away from the office that we do not come back to the quarters during the lunch hour but spend the spare moments we have just loafing around at the unit. We will have a good distance to walk back from the shows on the show nights, too. But I for one am very much satisfied. We are going to be here so long that it is worth while to have nice quarters and enjoy life as much as we can.

The radio makes it swell to be in a nice room like this, too. I can sit and read or write letters and listen to the radio at the same time and really not feel too lonesome, but without the radio I get very blue and lonely.

Well, darling, up to here I have brought you up to date on the latest news that the whole family may be interested in, and just to save me writing all this to the folks, will you please read this part to all of them or let them read it. From here on I will write more to you. You can save me the trouble of writing the same to Mother & Dad, and to Relva & Joe if you will either read the first part of the letter to them or pass it on, though.

I got the clipping about 3rd and 7th Armies to be Army of Occupation in your letter of June 11th, and you asked a few questions about my views on the matter. Well, here goes for the best that I can answer them. First of all, there are a good many MRU's over here and there will be need for only a few in the Army of Occupation. Those few have already been picked out and our unit is not one of them. Our unit was one of the first to come overseas to the ETO when mass transfer of troops began. Therefore it is not scheduled to be one of the units to leave the ETO and go directly to the Pacific. Hooray again. Now, since we know that we do not stay here and we do not go directly to the Pacific, there are only two other things that could happen to our unit: 1. The unit could be returned to the U.S. and disbanded and the personnel transferred to other units or discharged. 2. The unit could go to the Pacific by way of the U.S. The unit is not being disbanded. Therefore, we are scheduled to return to the States and later go to the CBI, if still needed.

At present we are still working on redeployment data and other survey information. Our job here will last three months or more, probably as much as six months. By that time a sufficient number of troops will have left the ETO for a few MRU's to leave in addition to those that are leaving now to go to CBI direct. Until that time the MRU's left here will be carrying an additional load of work because they have to absorb the work formerly done by the units leaving for CBI.

Well, when it comes time for some MRU's to leave for the CBI by way of the States we should be one of the first. By that time there will only be a few of the old timers over here in

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the ETO (old MRU's I mean). So there will be only the Army of Occupation MRU's and those which are to go thru the States to CBI. All of us will not be able to leave at once as the Army of Occupation MRU's will not be able to absorb the work all at once. As troops leave and MRU will leave. When some more troops leave another MRU can leave, and so on. I have found out that the first MRU to leave will not leave before the end of the year and it stands to reason that only about one a month will leave each month from then on. By my own calculations we should be leaving for the States right after the first of the year. I may be a month or two wrong but not too far off.

Now, when we get to the States we will get a furlough of 21 to 30 days (Oh boy!!!), and then if still needed in the Pacific we will take another boat ride. If not needed in the Pacific we will become reserve in the States or assigned a job there. A lot can happen in six to eight months, so we may never have to go to CBI, I hope.

I hope that this answers all your many questions, honey. That is all that I know myself. I am afraid that I cannot help you further. If you have any other questions, ask them though, as I may know more later.

You asked about the battle stars I was expecting. Well, as yet official notice has not come out on them. The story is this: Originally we were awarded a campaign star known as Germany No. 1. That campaign was done away with and the Germany campaigns designated as Rhineland, Ardennes, and something else meaning Central Germany. So, we lost one star which we already had. In its place we know that we get the one for Rhineland and Central Germany, but there is still no word as to whether we get credit for the Ardennes. We were not actually close enough to the fighting in the bulge even though some of the troops we were servicing fought in the bulge. So far we know that we will be awarded four battle stars in all and still have hopes of getting the fifth one. More later on that score. It is about time that I heard from my personal citation, too. It takes a month to six weeks for approval, official orders, etc. on an award of that kind, so it should be soon now. I do not expect it to be turned down, but one never knows.

So Laura sorta put you on the spot about the baby brother idea, did she? Well, all I can say is that I am ready, willing, and able to "catch" that baby brother for Laura as soon as the Army will let me, but I guess she will have to wait awhile yet. You and I have to wait, so I know that it can't hurt Laura.

You mentioned that you mailed me a box of caramels, mints, etc. Thanks, darling. Anytime that you can fix me up a box, do so, honey.

Honey, the picture in the paper that you thought was me was not. I was out to the Buchenwald concentration camp along about

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the time that the picture you mentioned was taken but not that same day.

Hey, honey, better get my address right. After all, I am ~~am~~ a Staff Sergeant now. Ha, ha. About now you should be getting my letter telling of the promotion. My first pay as a Staff Sergeant will not come through until the 31st of July, though as the payroll had already been prepared and signed when my promotion came out. I get an increase of 21.60 a month so long as I am overseas. ~~XX~~ When I go back to the States I will draw only a couple of dollars more than I am drawing now so I am not going to change my allotment again. I have been drawing 15 dollars a month as a Tec 4 and would draw 17.40 in the States as a Staff without the overseas pay. When we leave from ETO I would have to change my allotment if I increased it now so I am going to leave ~~him~~ alone. I will send you any extra money I have or deposit in Finance, though.

Well, sweetheart, there is not much news left. I can only say I love you, dearest, and long so to be with you--more than you can ever know. I really ache for your love and tenderness, but can wait a little longer I guess. I would wait forever, if needs be, but know that we are not meant to be apart much longer. We were meant to be together--forever. I am yours, darling, and always will be.

Your loving husband,

*Cliff*

Dear Laura,

Daddy sends you his love and a kiss, too. Take good care of mama and be a good girl. Tell Nana that someday next year Daddy is going come home and claim his cute little daughter and his sweet blue-eyed wife, too. Lots of Love.

*Daddy*