

31 Dec 43

Friday

My Darling Wife,

Hello, honey. It has been a few days again since I have written to you, but my days have been pretty well occupied. We don't get too much spare time and I went to the show the night before last. I saw Kay Kyser in "Swing Fever" — pretty good but not too wonderful.

But the biggest news of the day is that I visited New York City yesterday and last night. We have been allowed a few passes a day for the last three days. I certainly couldn't pass up a chance to go to New York. That is why I wired for the money. I got the \$20⁰⁰ and have spent nearly all of it already. I had a wonderful time, though.

Three of us went into the big city together. One of the fellows knew a little (next sheet)

bit about New York and had been there a number of times, so he took the two of us from Calif. to see the sights.

First of all we ate in the Marine Grill and then we went to a souvenir store and got some souvenirs of New York to send to our respective homes.

You should get another pillow case about the time that you get this letter if not before, so you can add it to your collection. I also sent Mother a Mother pillow case and sent Mother C. a pretty lace hanky with New York on them.

Next we went to the RCA building or "Radio City." We paid admission and rode an elevator to the 65th floor and then changed elevators just as one would change trains. (next sheet)

We rode the second elevator to the 70th floor and then walked on up onto the deck on the roof top. Believe me, it is really something to be 70 stories high, and we really had a nice vantage point for looking out over town. However, as luck would have it there was a slight haze in the air and we could not see the Hudson River, East River, Statue of Liberty, nor any of the outlying sections of New York.

During my visit to New York I saw Radio City, Empire State Bldg at a distance, Jack Dempsey's Bar, the entrance to Madison Square Gardens, Broadway, 5th Ave, Central Park at a distance, Times Square, 10 or 15 famous hotels, restaurants, etc. and so many places that we have heard about that I couldn't begin to list them all.

(next sheet)

The greatest highlight of the evening was seeing a radio broadcast as the personal guest of Miss Diane Courtney, a radio and screen singing star. By coincidence we happened to get tickets to her program and when the one fellow I was with saw the name he said that he had known the girl for about ten years. So, he got the information desk clerk to get Miss Courtney on the phone. She told us to meet her a little later & then she took us up to the studio to see and hear the broadcast. The 3 of us sat in the observation room to the side of the studio, and we could see the stage, the show, and the audience very well. The program was very good and Miss Courtney was tops. She is now with a local blue network but she was formerly on the Campbell's Soup program and Prescott Presents. (next sheet)



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Maybe you have heard her sing on Prescott Presents as it was a daytime afternoon program on the Pacific Coast. Also, she was in the movie "In Old Oklahoma".

Miss Courtney certainly has a wonderful personality. She is about thirty, has pretty brown eyes, dark hair, a nice figure, and is good looking. She really seemed full of life, and she must be judging from all the shows she is in for service men as well as on the air.

What really got the other fellow from California and myself was that she wanted our home addresses and she said that she would drop a note to our wives telling you that she saw us and that we were at her show in New York. She said that she has written to a number of soldier's families. We certainly thought the idea swell and thought it a very nice gesture on her part. She also took us into the RCA building "Down-Under Bar" and bought us all a couple of drinks.

(next street)

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies" and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy" The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.



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Then, as she had another engagement, she got a cab and left after kissing us all three goodbye and wishing us well.

I am inclosing a little table napkin from the Down Under Cafe as another souvenir of my visit to the big city.

Wish that I could remember all the places that I saw to name them to you, but I saw so much in such a short time and had so much fun that I can't begin to remember all of the things I wanted to tell you about. Oh, yes, I was thru the Holland Tunnel under the Hudson River, I was in Pennsylvania Station (Penn Station), and walked down Broadway a few blocks. Broadway is really pretty. I also saw a few bars and had some good drinks. All in all we had a wonderful evening that I'll be a long time forgetting. I only wish that you might have been with me.

(next sheet)

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As you have undoubtedly guessed, we are on the East Coast awaiting shipment overseas in the not too distant future. We are not allowed to have white towels nor garrison caps. So, I packaged up my cap, towels, and garrison belt for shipment to you yesterday. You may already have them by ~~now~~ the time you get this.

When we leave here it may be quite some time before you get any mail from me, but don't let that worry you. I don't believe that we will be able to mail letters from the time we leave here until we reach our destination. Just remember that I will be thinking of you, praying for you, and loving you as always. You and Laura are in my thoughts and in my heart constantly - forever. I love you, darling, more than anything in the world. Let us hope and pray that

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(next
sheet)

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we may be reunited in the coming New year and that our little "one man's family" may again have its chance for happiness such as we once enjoyed. Take good care of yourself and Laura. Tell Laura that next to you daddy loves her best, and give her a sweet kiss for me. Just think, she will be a year old in a few days. In some ways it doesn't seem possible that it was nearly a year ago that I had the greatest thrill of my life — seeing our baby for the first time. And yet it seems like I have been in the Army and away from you for an awful long time.

I am neither afraid nor particularly unhappy about going overseas with this unit. I like the unit and the men in it so well that I am more than willing to go anywhere with them. Especially so when I think that actually I will be coming closer (next sheet)

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to the day when I can come back to you
and Laura again.

Well, darling, I seem to have written
quite a book. I believe that I had
better sign off for tonight and get a
little sleep. I don't think that I will
even be awake to see the New Year
come in. I lost quite a bit of sleep
last night and today was a busy
day, too. Also, we have to get up at
about 5:45 am tomorrow the same as
any other day. So, I wish you a
Happy New Year, sweetheart, and bid
you goodnight. I love you, Shirley, and
always will.

Your loving husband,

Cliff