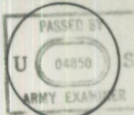


No.



Mr. & Mrs. J. H. VAN STRATEN  
839 High Avenue.  
REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA

PRE CLIFTON L. GALLUP  
SENDER'S NAME  
34th MACHINE REPAIRS UNIT  
SENDER'S ADDRESS  
APT 874, NEW YORK CITY

15 February 1944  
DATE

7 CENSORS STAMP

Dear Bro &amp; Sister,

England

Got your very welcome letter of Jan. 18 three days ago. I haven't been in much of a letter writing mood since then so didn't answer as quickly as usual. Little did you know that at the time you were writing that letter I was on a ship bound for England.

I have been ~~in~~ in the hospital here for a week today, but am ready to go back to work as soon as they will release me now. My cold seems to be cured but I still have a tickling sensation in my throat and a cough. Maybe they will keep me here awhile yet to cure the cough. I don't know.

Shirley sent me a small picture of Laura and when I opened the envelope and took it out you could have knocked me down with a feather. Laura is certainly a pretty little girl and that picture is already one of my most treasured possessions. I know that I am missing a great deal by being gone while my cute little daughter is growing up. That picture took me by surprise and my emotions got the best of me for a few minutes. I spend a good deal of time just gazing at that picture and dreaming of home, Shirley, Laura and all of you that I love. I live only for the day when I can come home to those I love, but homesickness is not one of my worries.

Write as often as you can and regularly. I am so glad to hear from you. I'll write whenever I can too. Lots of love and may God Bless you.

V-MAIL