

Somewhere in Germany
9 May 1945
Wednesday

My darling wife,

Good evening, honey. When I wrote the Blue Mail letter yesterday and mentioned that yesterday was VE Day I was a little bit in error inasmuch as today was officially declared as "Victory-in-Europe Day." So, today is VE Day instead of yesterday.

Today has been almost too nice a day. After the cold weather of only three or four days ago we suddenly find ourselves wringing wet with perspiration. It gets pretty hot in those all metal vans and it is particularly noticeable after having cold and rainy weather until just a few days ago.

At noon time today I had a picture taken of all of the fellows that work in the van where I work, and myself. The van should show up in the background. I hope that the picture turns out ok. There will be six of us in the picture. First, there is Tec 4 Philip W. (Porky) Rhein from Arkansas, who works in the same van but is a machine man and not part of the administration section. Second, is Tec 5 Max L. Nelson from the "Hoosier state." Max is typist and clerk and a good one. He is 22 years old and has been married almost three years even though he was still going to college when drafted. He plans to complete his college course in Accounting after the War. Max is a swell kid and typically "Joe College." He is devoted to his wife and behaves himself as a married man should. That is more than I can say for some of the married men I know.

Pfc James Ross Hindman is a typist and clerk also and comes from West Virginia. Jim works hard when watched and does a good job if someone checks up on him frequently and constantly. He causes me a lot of worry but is quite fast at his work when started off right. He is about a month older than I. He is ok at work but I do not chum around much with him outside.

The other two men are both new men in the unit and have not worked for me long enough ~~to~~ for me to know too much about them like ~~the~~ the other men. However, I believe them

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both to be swell fellows. Rex Malone is from the "Hoosier state" and is a young kid of 18. He spent his basic training days in Texas and picked up a beautiful Texas drawl which serves to give him no end of kidding from the rest of the fellows. He is practically a recruit in this man's Army, too. Ken Challenger is from Pennsylvania and is another rookie. He is 27 or 28 years old - is a stenoclerk and typist. He was in essential war work before being drafted, is married, and has a boy about a year and a half old.

All four of the clerks mentioned above work in the administration trailer under my supervision at present, but when Sgt Novack returns we will all be working for him even though I will still be somewhat in charge of the work that they do, being second non-com.

As acting administration supervisor I have general supervision of the rest of the administration personnel but am not directly responsible for the work that they do. The rest of the administration personnel work in the office away from the van. I am responsible only to see that certain instructions are passed on to men concerned in charge of the sections that work in the office. There are three complete sections working in the office that I have some connection with in a general way. It is not my job to do any of the work in the mail section, for instance, unless there is a rush shipment to be packaged or wrapped up but I must give the mail clerk instructions for shipment and keep him posted on the latest requirements for our regular shipments and details of handling special jobs.

My connection with the other two sections in the office is even more remote than my connection with the mail section, and there are sergeants in charge of each of the two sections.

That is about all I can tell you about my work that I have not told you before. I hope that when the pictures are developed that they turn out good so that I can send you not only the ones of me but also those of the fellows I work with. Then you can ~~read~~ read the bits about the fellows again as you look at the picture and somehow picture a little better the fellows I spend most of my time with. I will write more about more of the fellows later

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from time to time. You may have the list of the names and addresses of men in the unit that I sent to you some time ago when we were still in France. Since that time a few of the men listed on that list have left the unit and we have about four or five more men now than we had then in addition to replacements received for the men who left.

A Cpl Hyatt listed on the list I mailed you left the unit when we were in France and went to Infantry Officer's Candidate School. We just got word that he is now a 2d Lt.

Well, darling, that is about all the chatter for tonight. My thoughts are with you more than ever now that the War in Europe is over and we are wondering what is to become of us next. We wonder if we will get home to the States on furlough before doing duty in the CBI, if sent there, or if we are destined to stay in Europe for Army of Occupation. Only time can tell the answer to the millions of questions being asked.

My prayers, my thoughts, and my heart are with you, darling, and I send you and Laura my love and a kiss. Take good care of yourself, honey. Stay as sweet, as wonderful, as lovely for me as always, but most important - stay forever mine as I am yours.

Your adoring husband,

Cliff