

21 May 1944
Sunday

My Darling,

Hello, honey. Another day I missed writing to you. We went out on the rifle range yesterday to fire our own weapons for record. We spent the whole day on the range and then had to clean the dirty rifles last night for an hour or so. Also, I had not had a shower since we came back from the overnight bivouac due to the fact that I went back to work as soon as we got in from the bivouac and worked until 11:30 pm Friday night. Then yesterday we had no time to clean up until we came back from the range, so after I cleaned my rifle I took a shower and got all shaved again myself. By that time, I didn't feel like writing a letter but I will write a page or so now.

This morning we got up for chow and left on a 5 mile hike at 8:30. We really travelled, too. Now the hike is over and I was one of the eight men who was still in formation at the finish. That will give you some idea of how fast it was when only eight men actually finished in formation. However, about another dozen were only a few
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yards behind. Stragglers kept coming in for nearly 10 minutes, though.

I did better than average on the rifle range yesterday, too. Who knows, maybe I'll be a soldier yet. It seems that our primary job lately has become soldiering rather than machine records work. I got a score of 157 on the range yesterday with my rifle, and the time I fired for record in basic training I scored only 139. My score was some better with this rifle than with the other type rifle that I had in basic. I like this little rifle ok. It is really all right for ~~me~~ I got as a good a score with this little rifle as I can get with any rifle.

Soldiering is the latest news, except that the work is just piling up while we are out playing soldier. What happens next?

Well, honey, there is just too much commotion here to write now. Everyone in the barrack's is shouting & talking about the — — — hike.

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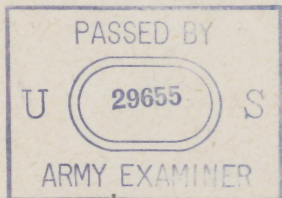
Hello again, my darling. Things have calmed down some now and I am somewhat rested since I started this letter. Also, I am a little happier in that I just got two V-Mails from you. One was dated Wed-May 3rd, and one was dated Sun-May 7th.

Darling, I have just about told you all the news and do not feel too much in a letter writing mood. We are all off the rest of the day and I should wash but believe I will finish reading the funny papers and go to bed early tonight.

I love you, Shirley, and am constantly with you in heart & in thoughts. Give Laura a kiss from Daddy.

All my love,
Cliff

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