

Starnberg, Germany
19 August 1945
Sunday evening.

My Dearest Shirley,

Sorry that I did not write to you last night but I have a darn good excuse. I went to the show and saw "The Southerner" with Zachary Scott and Betty Field and intended to write after the show as usual. But when I came by the office on the way home from the show I was told that the Captain and one lieutenant were trying to get in touch with me and ~~wanted~~ wanted me to call without fail.

So, I called the lieutenant and he wanted to see me at his quarters right away. I went up and he had quite a story to tell me about what is to happen to our unit during the rest of this month. We had quite a discussion and all of the story he told me was news--news which I cannot tell the other men as yet.

During the next few days we are to lose nine men and two Officers. Both Captain Kuck and Lt Turner are to go and Lt Koloditzky should become Commanding Officer. We will get nine new men from the other unit and will get one Officer. That would still leave us one Officer short and we either get an Officer that used to be a corporal in our unit or else one of the men in the unit would be made an Officer. At least that is the way it seems now. Lt Koloditzky asked me to consider accepting the Officer vacancy and become Administrative Officer for the unit if things go the way they seem to be going. He had to have a reply this morning so I asked him to let me sleep on it.

"Sleep on it?" Gosh, I couldn't get a bit of decent sleep thinking of all the arguments pro and con. If I were appointed an Officer in this unit I would still be with the unit when it comes home (I am almost positive of that and so is Lt K) so I would not be hurt there. But there would be some possibility that I would not be discharged within less than a year even if the unit broke up next March and I might have to stay in the Army until August. However, it appears at the present time as if our unit will go home to the States in February and do some work in the States for a few months before being busted up and the men discharged. If that is the case I would get out just as soon as an Officer as an enlisted man and would have a better deal in the meantime.

Being an Officer in this unit would be a better deal than a Warrant Officer in some other units because I already know my job here and know the men. I am not worried that I could not do the work ok. So, from that angle all is well.

If I do not accept the appointment it is likely that we will get the lieutenant who was once a corporal in our outfit and went to ~~the~~ Officer Candidate School and was appointed a lieutenant

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in the Infantry. I liked the kid personally but never could appreciate his work in the unit when he worked for me so I would not want to work for him. Also, I would still have to do the work because he has been out of MRU for so long that he would not know the procedures now. I would be better off doing the job for myself instead of him.

There is still the possibility that we may get a Captain and a Lieutenant to replace the two Officers we lose, and in that case I would not really have had to make a decision. But you can well imagine the arguments that were going thru my mind last night. I could not ask you or talk it over with you, honey, and could not even tell you about it until the decision was made.

I told the lieutenant that I would accept the appointment if it were open. I believe that I made the right decision, honey, and hope that I did.

The Officers and men will be transferred out within the next few days so far as the records go but they will work with the unit thru the end of the month in order the month's operations will not be upset. The first part of September they will actually leave the unit and we will get in the new men. The changes in the unit are going to be drastic even if I do not become an officer. We may be pretty busy for awhile teaching new men again. One never knows from one day to the next what is going to happen. I am still quite excited about the whole thing. As yet the men do not know what is to take place. When they hear that we are losing our two best Officers of the three there is going to be some bitching.

Oh, honey, I might point out that with my 73 points that I definitely would not be left in the Army of Occupation even as an Officer, so if I had to stay in the Army until my year was up it would be in the States for the few months after the unit comes home. If we come home in February and should not be assigned a job in the States for a few months but bust up, I might have to complete a year as an Officer, but that would not be so bad in the States. I could easily afford to send for you. Well, darling, I hope that you feel I have made the right decision. In a few days we will know whether there will be a vacancy and I will keep you posted on what happens. I hope that your letters arrive in sequence for a change so that you can keep the story straight.

Received your letter of August 9th today and you had already received the two small photos. I am glad that you like them. The large ones should be there shortly. Yes, darling, I know how much pictures can mean for I treasure mine very dearly. I have pictures of you and Laura on one wall in my room, the individual big pictures of each of you on another wall, and have others over my desk at the office. They bring a part of you close to me and create a certain mood of satisfaction.

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