

Starnberg, Germany  
24 August 1945  
Friday

My Darling Wife,

Hello, honey. I hope and pray that all is well at home. Everything is ok here. The major at the 39th MRU at Third Army headquarters called today and said that my papers are going thru channels now and that it should be only a matter of a few days now until my commission will come thru.

Captain Kuck went away on leave today to Switzerland and Lt Turner is now in Paris on a business trip. Lt Koloditzky is the only Officer present, but actually he is the only Officer of the three which is still a member of our unit. The other two are to stay with our unit until the end of the month and then go to the other unit with the nine men who are going.

It seems that the redeployment program has been changed a good deal. Although our unit is now scheduled to depart for the states in February we have high hopes that we may go home earlier. It would not be so bad to have to work awhile in the States even--if only we could get to the States.

When the time does come for us to go home I will have a pretty big job just as the other Officers will (providing that I get the commission) for when a unit is preparing to move the major portion of the work falls on the Officers and there is a lot of red tape to go thru. Some time ago I might have worried myself sick over a job such as I will get if I get the commission but I believe that I am conquering the weakness I had of worrying excessively over my work. Not that I do not do a good job, because I am confident that I do, but I do not let it worry me and I leave the work at the office when I go home at night. I can remember the time when I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown because I had a little responsibility, but I think I will have less worry even now and will have a pretty large burden of the responsibility in the unit. It will be darn good experience for me.

One thing that the CEPCo will not be able to hold against me when I return is that I am too young. I will be a good deal older than when they had that argument for not giving me more responsibility and pay. Also, my record in the Army should be a good recommendation for me. In 21 months I have come from Private to Technical Sergeant and now should be given a direct commission as 2d Lieutenant. I will not have to go to an Officer's Candidate School or wait at all. There were forms to be filled out, examination papers, a physical, and the recommendations of my commanding officer. Then, of course I had to pass an examining board. Now my papers are making the rounds for approval. From Private to 2d Lieutenant in the same outfit up thru the ranks would not be a bad record to take back home with me, do you think?

(next sheet)

Honey, I do not know what you will think about this whole deal of me trying to become an Officer, but in a matter of a month I will get your opinions back. I hope that you agree with me on my dēcision in the matter.

I got a letter from Mr. Rhudy yesterday, which I believe I mentioned in my letter last night. He is ready for me to come back and go into training to take over the job when he goes out of the picture and retires. I am ready, too, but as yet I have a job here, and I believe that my record in the job here will help convince some of the bigshots and vice-presidents in the Company that I am capable of handling a responsible job. There are a lot of angles to be considered in this Officer deal. I will get better living conditions while I am still in the Army, will get better food, better clothes (actually I will wear the same work clothes but will wear a tie and not have any dirty work to do and can keep my clothes pressed and neat), and in all ways will be able to act like a gentleman and be treated as such.

Guess that is about all the news for tonight. My thoughts are with you as always and I am looking for a letter. Have not had a letter since the 19th but got the Anniversary card with the note in it on the 22d.

Goodnight, honey, and sweet dreams. Give Laura a kiss for me. I love you, honey.

Your loving husband,

*Cliff*