

Starnberg, Germany
14 August 1945
Tuesday

My Dearest,

Hello, honey. Sorry that I missed writing the last two nights but will try to make up for it. Sunday when I got up at 5:15 am to take two of our men to catch an early truck to go to school in France it was cloudy and appeared to be a bad day for a trip to the mountains so I went back to bed and slept until noon and did not awaken the rest of the men.

By ten o'clock Sunday it was a lovely day and we all felt that a good day for an outing had been wasted. I went to the Red Cross Club and played ping pong with Max, Pete, and one of Max's buddies who is in the Signal Corps. We ate doughnuts, drank coffee and lemonade, and played ping pong. Sunday night we got some liquor ration at the EM club and had some fairly good wine. A good portion of our unit was there and in my case the wine and scotch did not mix at all. By the time I got home I was really sick and went right to bed. In fact, I did not feel very well all day Monday and lost my noonday meal. Breakfast stayed down ok and so did supper but the lunch did not agree with my stomach, so last night I took a good hot shower and went to bed early. Today I feel all fine and dandy again and have had quite an eventful day.

You will ~~xxxx~~ remember my mentioning that I worked on Sunday recently when all but five of us were off so I had a day coming to me and got it today. I slept until 10:00 am and then marked my dirty clothes for laundry tomorrow. I had all this done in time to go into town for lunch and this afternoon I put on my shorts and went out on the dock with a couple of magazines to read and absorb some nice sunshine (which I need badly by the way). I read and sunned myself for about an hour and half when three other fellows came down to take out a sailboat and I asked if I might go along.

We sailed rather slowly for awhile and then the wind became stronger and all was well for another half hour or so, but all at once we noticed a storm coming at the other end of the lake and clouds rolling in over the hills. The wind became so strong all at once that it was all we could do to get the sail down in time. Many boats did not get the sail down and the sail was torn to shreds. Several boats upset and their occupants went for a swim whether they wanted to or not. The waves washed up over the boat and we got wet and a little scared before we got the sail down and tied to the mast in our own boat. Things happened pretty fast--take it from me.

Well, there we were out in the middle of the lake about a half a mile from shore and about a mile from our boathouse and the waves chopping like all getout. The wind was blowing and the rain coming down. We began to wonder how we would ever get the boat in because those little paddles that go with sail boats are very

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inadequate in a heavy wind and against waves like that. In fact, we had our doubts as to whether we would get the boat in right side up. We all know how to swim so we were not afraid of drowning and three of us had on shorts but had on wrist watches.

About that time a large motor launch came out from shore and towed us in. Riding behind that launch the waves washed up over our boat and soaked us as if we were on a ship at sea and the waves were coming over the sides, but we were happy knowing that we were going to get to shore ok. We darn near froze to death in the waves, rain, and wind but got home ok except for being cold and wet. It was quite an experience and made the day off quite a thrilling one. I got a little bit of ~~rim~~ color in my cheeks, on my arms, and on my shoulders today, but it is a little soon yet to say whether I got too much. I needed the sun badly and hope to get more another day. This office tan is no good. Maybe I can get a tan before I come home, honey.

Thus ends my tale for today. I hope that when the boys come from work that I have some mail tonight. I haven't had a letter from you in five days but got a box of caramels yesterday. Thanks a lot, honey.

Well, honey, it is almost time to go to chow and I intend to go to the movie tonight, so I will continue this after the show tonight. Goodbye for now, darling. I love you, honey.

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Evening

Hello again, honey. How are you? I am looking at the world thru rose colored glasses or something cause my arms, shoulders and back are nice and rosy. I really needed the sun and I am not suffering (yet) with the sunburn as you have seen me do so many times. If I tan a bit from the exposure today I will be able to enjoy the sun on Sundays off without burning.

The show tonight was "Wonder Man" with Danny Kaye and I still like him no better than when I saw him in the first picture. The sound was poor tonight and half of the dialogue was fuzzy and that made it worse, but I do not think it was so hot anyway.

I got one letter from Mother but none from you yet. Maybe tomorrow will bring a letter, I hope. Tonight we are anxiously awaiting the news announcement from Washington and the other allied capitals of the reply from Japan in answer to the peace offer. Newscast at five pm stated that the answer should be forthcoming tonight and unless it was announced while we were at the show we should get it soon. I am lucky that I have a radio in my room and can leave it on even after I go to sleep so that I can wake up whenever the news comes on. Music does not bother my sleep much and when any announcements come on I wake up. One night I woke up in the middle of the night, though, and the radio was still

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on but the station had signed off and I had not heard the last news to know that the station signed off for the night.

I have the typewriter and the radio in my room so have things pretty nice. I am hoping that I can get both back to the States with me when I go, but I know better than to try to mail them. Frankly, I do not know how some fellows mailed home the miscellaneous stuff they have. I might be able to bring home the radio and typewriter with the unit, but that would be the only way I could get them to the States.

The typewriter is a swell job with all the gadgets and doodads. The radio is ok, too, especially since it is adjustable to 110 up to 240 volts current and has two wave bands and a pick-up for a phonograph attachment. Also, an extra speaker can be plugged in for an extension in another room. Hope that I can get it home even though it is not so nice as some other fellows have.

Well, darling, that about winds up the news for tonight and brings me to the point where I wish I could just take you in my arms and hold you ever so close to tell you how much I love you, how much I miss you, and how much I want to be with you--forever. Words are so inadequate to express the emotions that I feel thinking of you and dreaming of you, reliving memories, and planning for the future. Just remember, darling, that I do love you and that I am yours completely. You and Laura mean everything to me and always will. I love you so much, sweetheart, more than you can ever dream.

Goodnight darling and pleasant dreams. Give Laura a kiss for Daddy and tell her that Daddy loves her too. I pray that the day is not far off when I may see, hear, hold, and love the two blue-eyed darlings that are my reasons for living.

Your loving husband
and Daddy,

Cliff