

Starnberg, Germany  
1 July 1945

My Darling wife,

Good evening, honey. Hope that you are feeling well and ok. I am fine and am not so tired tonight. Work is still piling in, though. I am Charge of quarters tonight so may get a few letters written before I go to bed. I received a letter from Mother today and one from Mr. Rhudy, but none from you. I am enjoying the package I received from you yesterday, though. The caramels, toffee, and peanut brittle hit the spot. Thanks a million, honey, and send some more of the same whenever you can get it. Consider this a request for another box.

We were told today that we are to lose about four or five men who have high scores in the point system, but even though they may be transferred out of the unit in the immediate future they will work with us for a few months to come, in all probability. So, someone higher up realized that the MRU's are ~~x~~ really burdened down at present and cannot stand to lose any more men than they have to. So, the men will be dropped from our rolls and payroll but will still be attached to the unit. The ratings will be vacated and by all rights the men now in the unit should be given promotions to fill the ratings. There is some question as to just what will happen, though, inasmuch as the old men will still be working in the unit. Personally I hope that the ratings are filled even ~~if~~ <sup>if</sup> I do not get a promotion out of it. I should get another stripe, however, if the vacancies in the Tables of Organization are filled.

Lt Turner mentioned casually today that he was sweating out my appointment as Warrant Officer and halfway indicated that he thought we should be hearing something soon. I happen to know that the applications, complete with report of examinations and physical exams, were forwarded to Third Army headquarters last week so do not expect any word in the immediate future. I believe that Lt Turner would be disappointed if I did not accept the appointment after all he did to

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get my application through. I am confident that he feels I am capable of the job and really thinks that he is helping me. Maybe so, but I do not want to stay in the Army any longer than is absolutely necessary because of an appointment as Warrant Officer. It would be a good deal and would give me a sizable increase in pay even considering that I would have to pay your allotment and would have to buy my own clothing and meals, etc.

I am definitely going to have to stay in the Army a good length of time yet and do not expect to get to the States until sometime next Spring. But if I get the Bronze Star Medal and one battle star I will have 78 points and if I get credit for the other star it would give me a total of 83 points. So far we have not been given credit for the fourth star and there is some doubt as to whether we will ever be given credit for the fifth one. Even so 78 points will be getting pretty close to the critical score and I am rather dubious about accepting an appointment as Warrant Officer and being sorry later because I might have gotten out of the Army sooner. If the critical score should drop as low as 78 I might be discharged by June of next year. At least the Stars and Stripes say that present plans for demobilization indicate that the men to be released from the Army will be released by June 1946. I am sure that I would have to stay in the Army longer than that as a Warrant Officer. I may have to stay in longer than that as an enlisted man, but at least there is a ~~chance~~ chance of my getting out--and that is something--inasmuch as I am not having such a bad deal in an MRU and am pretty safe from harm. I have a lot of work to do, but as I said before, I may get another promotion and that would make my job even better. All in all, darling, I feel that it is best that I forget the Warrant Officer deal. What do you think? I may have already made a definite decision before your answer comes back, but at least you have the facts before you to see what will influence my decision. I feel that it is just too bad if Lt Turner and Captain Kuck feel badly about my not being all enthused over the idea now.

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Well, sweetheart, that is about all the news and chatter for tonight. I dream of you, think of you, pray for you and Laura, and you are ever in my heart. Sometimes I do not have much time to write, but I will honestly do my best to write a short note each day if only to let you know that I am ok and that I am thinking of you.

You mentioned in the letter from Laura that the doll arrived and was in good shape and that you were washing the dolls clothing, but you did not mention the fur jackets. What did you think of them? Are they going to be of any use or not? They are souvenirs if nothing else, though.

Oh, maybe you are wondering just what my present salary is and how much I will draw on payday, etc. You are entitled to know just as much as I want to know how the financial situation at home is going. Here is about the size of it:

Base pay (Staff Sergeant) -----	\$ 96.00
Overseas pay (20% additional) --	19.20
Govt share of allotment to you -	28.00
Govt allotment for Laura -	<u>30.00</u>
Total -----	\$ 173.20

Out of this total pay, you receive \$130.00 each month and I pay \$6.60 for insurance. That leaves me \$36.60 a month for each month beginning this month. I will receive my first pay as a Staff Sergeant on July 31st. I have been drawing an even \$15.00 each month so I got a raise of \$21.60.

I am not changing my allotment, though. When I return to the states I would have to stop the allotment or decrease it if I made it any more now because I would not draw any overseas pay. I will send you any extra money I may have, but frankly I intend to use some of it if and when we get passes to the Riviera and other recreational sites that have been opened since the cessation

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of hostilities. I do not want to have to send home for money again and am going to accumulate a little money in my pocket for a change. I have often been flat broke and have never had more than twenty-five or thirty dollars for more than a few weeks. There was little or no need for me to have any money accumulated so long as the War went on but I do not want to miss seeing some of the scenic beauties of Europe because of lack of a few dollars. I will undoubtedly never see it again and I want to see what I can in the next six months before we leave here.

I understand that Switzerland is to be opened to visitors in a short time and a number of lake resorts are being opened up. Do not get me wrong, honey, or misunderstand. I do not intend to spend much money. I doubt if I will get out on a pass more than once a month and I may spend only a few dollars, but I want to have a little more money in my pocket than I have had heretofore. I will send money home in a couple of months but want the next two paydays to be mine. Ok, honey?

That is all for tonight, sweetheart, except the familiar goodnight, sweetheart, and pleasant dreams. I will be seeing you in mine and will be thinking of you. I love you Shirley, and always will.

Yours forever,

Cliff

