



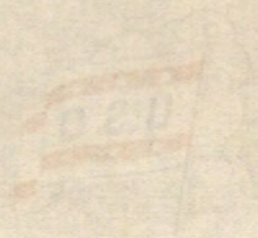
Friday 3-17-44

Florence, dearest:

Well, sweetheart the week on the firing range has come and gone, but many things have happened, and I think much has been added not only to my mental attitude but also to my understanding of my fellow men. Time does not permit me to relate personnel details, but as for myself I am positively amazed. Little did I believe I would ever fire a rifle or gun, but here in less than a week I have learned to fire a 30 Calibre rifle, a semi automatic carbine, a .22 Calibre rifle, and a 30 and 50 Calibre machine gun; and believe it or not I can set up and break down a heavy (50 cal) machine gun. Just imagine Florence dear, I who could not drive a nail 4 months ago can now assemble and dis-assemble a machine gun. Wonders will never cease, but I truly hope this mess is over.

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before I have to use my knowledge in combat. However I believe we are coming down to the end, so be hopeful and don't worry.

Received your Monday letter, and sure did enjoy every word of that long letter. I was sure tickled that Jimmy phoned, and I hope he visited you since. You probably will agree he's a swell fellow, but too much wife trouble. Jimmy sounds like he's coming along swell, and I am looking forward to seeing you both soon. I think everything is going to work out O.K., and as soon as I learn definitely where we are headed I will endeavor to advise you.

Also had a letter from Ann Resenbey and Gladys, who writes little of importance but who does want a picture of you, Jim and me. I expect I'll forward her one of your snapshots next week. Ann writes that Ken Syden leaves for the army next Saturday, so I guess he was accepted.

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Too bad, because he really isn't physically fit, but I guess everybody goes but the broken-down guys.

I'm very glad you are fixing up that picture album, and when I go to New Orleans upon our return to camp I'll have some new photos taken, and forward some to you. Did you ever make an enlargement of the snapshot I sent?

I feel better than ever, and only miss you and Jim, but I continue ever hopeful. Glad our stats are doing better, but since I haven't seen a paper for almost a week I cannot do much about this. Give my best to everyone, and I'll catch up on my post due mail beginning Sunday afternoon. Kiss Jim for daddy, and tell Jim to kiss you for me, and I'll kiss you both in mind, as ever

Boe.



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